



**President**

Jack Grimmet N7IHS

**Vice President**

Mark Whitaker KD7KUN

**Secretary**

Curtis Hanner N7MWC

**Treasurer/Webmaster**

Jim Eztwiler KD7BAT

**Activity Mng'r/ Newsletter**

Michael Dinkelman N7WA

**Radio Officer**

Harry Lewis W7JWJ

**Trustees**

- #1 Brendan Burget KD7IKV
- #2 Steven Kaney N7MUT
- #3 Steven Cook KD7IQL
- #4 Mary Lewis W7QGP
- #5 Alan Hughes KB7SVU

**Web Page**

[www.mikeandkey.com](http://www.mikeandkey.com)

**e-mail**

[info@mikeandkey.com](mailto:info@mikeandkey.com)

**Reflector**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/mkarc>

**Send Dues to:**

Jim Eztwiler, KD7BAT  
3935 Interlake Ave North  
Seattle, WA 98103

**Send Relay input to:**

Michael Dinkelman, N7WA  
22222 148th Ave SE  
Kent, WA 98042  
or  
[mwdink@eskimo.com](mailto:mwdink@eskimo.com)

## The Prez Sez

Club President Jack Grimmett, N7IHS



The February business meeting of the Mike & Key ARC was packed to the rafters. I counted 81 people in attendance. The primary business of the meeting was to conduct the first round of nominations. There were a large number of members nominated (see related article).

Elections will be held at the March business meeting for the positions of President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Activities Manager, Trustee #2, and Trustee #4. Each candidate should consider the commitment that he/she has to make to the Club. That is, to attend the two meetings each month, the business meeting (third Saturday) and the Executive Board meeting (last Wednesday) and to perform the duties of the office

as stated in the by-laws.

The Executive Board meeting, held in February, also had good attendance. All of the current board members were present and 11 visitors attended. The primary business of the Executive Board was to appoint a new Radio Officer to replace Harry Lewis who resigned last month.

Two candidates for Radio Officer presented themselves to the Board. They were Ken Rau (K7YR) and Paul Roth (N7DOH). There was considerable discussion concerning the candidate's qualifications and the location of the 2-meter repeater. After the discussion, the Board appointed Ken Rau as the Club's Radio Officer. Paul offered his assistance to Ken in setting-up and installing the new repeater as well as moving the current repeater to another site where it can be used as back-up to the primary repeater.

## Activities & Programs

Submitted by Michael, N7WA



Wow!, talk about activity. If you missed the 2002 Mike & Key Electronics Show and Fleamarket—you missed the biggest activity of them all and probably the largest Ham event in the Pacific Northwest. Have no fear though; the next edition is only 364 days away. Maybe, by then, I'll have use of my muscles again.

What's next? The March program is devoted to elections. Your input is needed and the candidates require your

support. Remember—you must be current on your dues to run or vote.

The April program is tentatively scheduled as a slide presentation of a DXpedition to the North Cooks islands by Roger Huntley. This was the first program at our Flea Market yesterday. Since I couldn't manage the time to watch it there, I am looking forward to it myself.

The annual Club Banquet is April 13th—more inside on that. I am also starting another Club's Mariners Night Out. Looks like the tickets are going hot, early on, so I am organizing it a bit earlier this year to give us a chance—details inside.

# Executive Board Meeting Change

Submitted by Chairman of the Board Alan Hughes (KB7SVU)

Remember, the Executive Board changed the March Board meeting the last Tuesday of the month. This is rather important because this is the meeting the new officers will be transitioned in. All 2001 and 2002 officers are expected to be there and a new Chairman of the Board will be elected at the end of the meeting. The meeting will start at 7:15 PM and will be held at the Salvation Army HQ in Renton. All are welcome.

## Nominations

Submitted by Club President, Jack Grimmert, N7IHS

The first round of nominations for the Mike & Key ARC officers and Trustees were held at the February business meeting. The following is a list of those nominations.

President: Jack Grimmert (N7IHS), Brendan Burget (KD7IKV), and Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q).

Vice-President: Jo Hallstrom (KB7UFM), Tressie Hughes (KC7BAL), and Chuck Benefiel (N7STR).

Secretary: Sam Sullivan (N7RHE) and Curtis Hanner (N7MWC).

Treasurer: Jack Burrell (N7ZS), Jim Etwiler (KD7BAT), and Chuck Benefiel (N7STR).

Activities Manager: Mike Dinkelman (N7WA).

Trustees: Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q), Berry Wolbersky (KC7YB), Mitch Gil (K7TUT), Scott Parton (KK7DU), Loren Parton (KD7IHH), Mary Lewis (W7QGP), and Dick Radford (WA7NIW).

Nominations will again be opened at the March business meeting and elections will follow. All candidates have to have their dues current.

Addendum by the Editor: Because of it's sensitive position, Treasurer candidates must be pre-approved at the Board meeting held in February. Jack Burrell (N7ZS) withdrew as a Treasurer candidate at the Board meeting. Three new candidates applied for and received Board approval—Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q), Mark Whitaker (KD7KUN) and Jack Grimmert (N7IHS). As current Treasurer, Jim Etwiler (KD7BAT) was approved. The three candidates for Treasurer (unless they withdraw) will be limited to Carolyn, Jack, Mark and Jim. This information is in the Board minutes but I just wanted to distill it and make sure it was understood.

## 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.

Online registration should be available by mid February at [www.academy2002.org](http://www.academy2002.org). Thanks, hope to see all of you there on March 23

Marina Zuetell, N7LSL  
 DEC W. WA Medical Services Team  
 Program Chair, Communications Academy 2002  
 n7lsl@arri.net 206-901-6566w 206-524-6567h

### Topic & Proposed Schedule Suggested Times

Topic	Suggested Times
Welcome & Introductory Remarks	8:30-8:45
Keynote Speaker Tom Carrubba, KA2D	8:30 - 9:45
Intro to Emerg Comm Course	9:45-10:00
Emergency Management Operations	10:15-12:00

Digital Communications	10:15-12:00
Emergency Communications Course Review	10:15-12:15
Lunch	12:15-13:15
Bioterrorism - The World Since Sept 11	13:30-15:00
Identifying & Mitigating Malicious/Random RFI	13:30-15:00
Emergency Communications Course Review	13:30-15:30
Skywarn program & tour of Weather Center	15:15-17:00
Practical Navigation with Map and GPS	15:15-17:00
Marine response & rescue	15:15-17:00

### Sunday March 24

Terrorism Response - in the Wake of Sept 11	8:30-9:45
NVIS antennas - uses in regional emerg comm.	8:30-9:45
NIFC & E.WA Fire Response	8:30-9:45
Earthquake - Feb. 28 and beyond	10:00-12:00
APRS - more interactive - hands on	10:00-12:00
Emergency Communications Course Review	10:00-12:00

Lunch 12:15-13:15

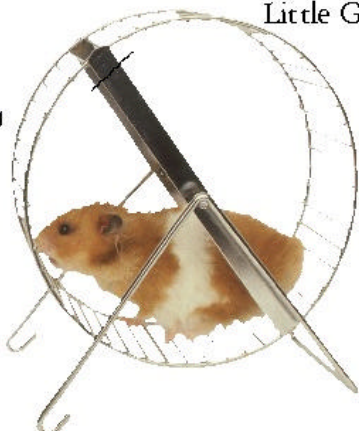
Practical Do's & Don'ts for Comm Responders	13:30-15:30
Field Communications	13:30-16:00
Emergency Communications Course Exam	13:30-16:00

# To QRP or Not to QRP... that is the question!

Submitted by Mitch Gill, K7TUT

## K7TUT

Mitch Gill  
29838 SE 285th Place  
Ravensdale, WA 98051  
CN97



Watch Out for us  
Little Guys!

Running 2 Watts

I have worked stations on 100 and 500 watts and even had good success at 25 watts but I was a little intimidated at 2 watts as I only had vertical up about 8 feet. I figured, what the heck! So I took my ICOM 735 and turned the power all the way down (which reads about 2 watts out) and went to 10 meters.

I first tried CW and was pleasantly rewarded with several contacts here in the US but had no luck with calling any DX stations. I then tried SSB and again was surprised that I was getting good reports. However, nothing compared to the rush when a station from Japan came back to me and the next day European stations were added to the log. I even got Algeria on CW.

I was hooked and began going mobile QRP and again I was getting through to stations all over. Now I was really hooked and began to brag to Tyler all the time and tell him that his 500 watt Swan was no better than my 2 watts! I bragged to Tyler just to intimidate him into studying the code. Ok, I was just bragging! I continued to brag to anyone who would listen. I was proud of what I was accomplishing as I was getting through almost as good as the professional DXers who ran full power.

Well, it seems that whenever I get too full of myself, the good Lord humbles me in some way. It began as a normal day as I worked several Japan stations. I then heard a station in Siberia calling CQ and no one was responding (so I thought). I called him immediately, sat back and waited for him to respond as I knew he would. Funny thing is, he didn't call me but called WL7APV. His name is George and is located in Anchorage. I thought to myself as he was booming into my receiver, just another "Kilowatt

Klown"! I decided to listen to the QSO and that's when I got hit between the eyes as he told the Siberian station that he was running 1 milliwatt! Did I hear that right? He repeated it and I ran out of the shack and almost tripped over the door (If you remember from my contesting article....the door is still on the floor!)! I paced back and forth trying to figure out how he could do that.

I returned to the shack, tuned around and found George calling CQ so I responded. I gave him a 59 report and I got a 57 in return (57?). He had to have some 500db secret military antenna or something but no, he has a beam on a 75 foot tower in Anchorage. He had only been running a milliwatt for about as long as I had been running QRP and he had twice as many contacts as I did. He seemed like a real nice guy and we had several QSO's over the past week and he has beaten me to every station so far except one.

I know had a decision to make as I had been humbled by this QRPPP station. I could listen to the message above and get off my lofty perch that I created or I could....hmmmm. I know what I could do. I could get Tyler's Swan and run some power down his throat. Better yet, get a linear and run full power. I'll get a quad and have the clubs "tower rat" help me get a 200 foot tower up with stacked beams! Or maybe a Rhombic as well. I'll show him what it's like to be an ant in the path of an elephant!

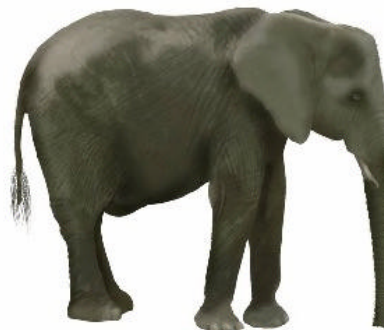
Ok, Ok.... I need to be dignified, humble and respectful. What accomplishments this Ham has made with so little power. How could I not respect that? Besides, I am still unemployed and couldn't even buy any of that stuff if I wanted to. So what, if he can get the DX before I can and he is only running power that would not even light a flashlight bulb? What's important is that I have my dignity and that I remain humble right now.....

But..... when I get back to work, I am going to get all of that stuff and **SQUASH HIM LIKE A BUG!**

## K7TUT

The DX Monster

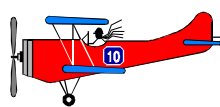
Mitch Gill  
29838 SE 285th Pl.  
Ravensdale, WA  
98051 CN97



You're  
Next!

1.5 KW  
200 Foot Tower  
Stacked Beams

Ex QRP



## DXing—East of the Airport

Submitted by Jo Hallstrom, KB7UFGM

Do you remember my talking about Kate (Katya) in Siberia? We have been writing letters, emails and sending pictures of each other, Seattle, and Omsk. I received a Christmas present from her in February. It was a pair of slippers or sandals like the ones worn indoors in her native Siberia. They are flat-soled and have an open heel made from bast (hemp).

I showed the slippers to Nina from the Philippines and she immediately recognized them as the same type of slippers her countrymen wear. The only difference is that the Filipino sandals are made from palm leaves. It makes you wonder how two totally different cultures came up with the same type of shoes.

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Did you know there are two special awards given out by the Mike and Key ARC? One is the friendship award and the second one is the DX Rag Chew award.

The Friendship award is to encourage on-the-air

contacts between members in the club and between members and other Ham operators in the USA or elsewhere. To qualify, you need 10 contacts. Only 5 contacts can be made via the repeater. Each contact must be a different station. To apply for the award, submit a copy of your log information

to the recently appointed awards manager—Mike/N7WA. See how easy it can be and it will keep N7WA busy. hihi. (As if he needs to keep busy).

The Rag Chew Award is an effort to recognize Amateur Operators who seeks extended contacts with DX stations in an attempt to learn more about the hams contacted. The Rag Chew DX award, suitable for framing, will be awarded when a Ham makes 10 different contacts of at least 15 minutes in length with 3 different countries. There are endorsements for 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 contacts. With 400 different contacts in 100 different countries, you qualify for membership in the Rag Chew Century Club. The following modes of operation are acceptable, CW, SSB, AM, FM, RTTY, SSTV, and OSCAR.

So—if you really want to keep N7WA occupied (*gee whiz—what the heck is going on here?—wa.*) and busy. Check your radio logs ---and the times of each QSO. 73—Jo

## A discourse.....

Submitted by Jan Van Allen K7YH

Hi Guys...Its me again

I started this a week ago with a discourse on digital communications, and after I bagged it I saw something that piqued my sense of humor. Yes, you have experienced the ludicrous, Jan's humor. I will digress back to the original subject in a few lines.

You have all heard comments by various people, i.e. someone drops a cup and saucer, and some smart-alec will pipe up and say something resembling, "Wow, gravity, what a concept"! Everyone dutifully laughs at the hapless one that dropped the cup. OK says I, there has to be a reason for these instances and then, reading an article the other day, I saw it. Wish I could claim to be the originator, but I cannot. Welcome to your world the 'REALITY FAIRY". The little gnome-like being that waves a magic wand over your head and "Poiit" you see the light, understand the reason, become enlightened to the concept through your own deductive reasoning. Think of Tinker

Bell with a sense of the outrageous. Keep that thought in mind.



So, back to the subject of digital communications. I know many of you have computers, and I also

know that a lot of you have 2M and HF. Some of you have delved into the realm of packet, APRES and even may have dabbled with AMTOR and PACTOR. You have heard of RTTY, PSK31 and MT63. There is a relatively new device on the market that you may have seen advertised and, no, I am not a salesman. Called the Rigblaster, it is a soundcard interface for HF and VHF digital communications. Somewhat, but not entirely plug and play, it is a neat way to get into digital.

I have been reluctant for many years, concerning the attachment of a computer to my radio. If I desired, I rationalized, to communicate, all I had to do was press the button and *speak!* But then my MARS group decided to use MT63 for the purpose of passing written messages to the group. So I bought a Rigblaster, for MT63. Along with the device came a CD-ROM with a bunch of other programs that allow other forms of digital. There is Hamscope, PSK31, WinPSK31, Heilschriber, Digipan, RTTY, and a couple of others. The commonality of the programs is that each has a window that shows several items, primarily a receive, transmit, and a cascade or waterfall. The waterfall allows you to tune to different signals in a 3 kHz spread.

At first, I assumed it was like packet, receive a

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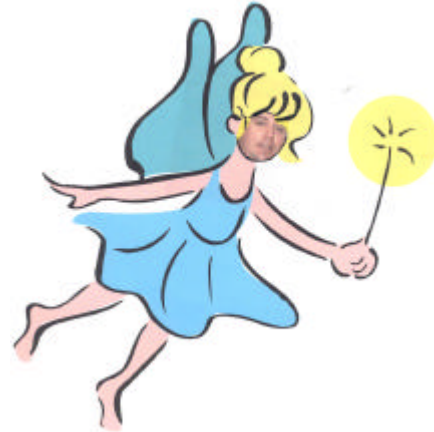
frame, type save, and transmit a frame. No, the programs are interactive, like phone, or like writing this article. When you receive and DE IT8BLY shows on the receive window, you punch transmit, and type. As you type, the transmit screen shows what you are sending. If you make a mistake, you can backspace and correct the error. **POIT!** This is fun! And better yet, you use lower output. I have worked Italy on 40 watts. Other advantages; you will find from ten to twenty QSOs in the 3 kHz segment of the waterfall. This is narrow; so many stations are heard in a relatively narrow frequency range. It is not very expensive. I did see a few Rigblasters for sale at the flea market. MFJ also makes one and I am sure there will be more on the market sooner or later.



Oh good grief, I just had a horrible thought, mayhap the *Reality Fairy* is "Dink" in disguise. If he shows up at the meeting in a tutu with wings and ballet slippers, I'm leaving. I mean I can handle "Tink" flying around spreading pixie dust with a magic wand, but visualize Dink waving his CW key. That thought is TUTU much.

So long for now, its 4:30AM and the flea market is over for another year, and maybe I can go to sleep now, besides I have to dream something up for the April edition

Disclaimer: Dink, no other implication is intended or implied— Jan (*none taken but if you think I'm gonna waste pixie dust on this group , you're outta luck - dink*)



BTW, if any of the subjects Jan mentioned got you interested, here a only a few of the myriad of sites available on the Web. Those reading the electronic version only need to jump over to your browser and type 'em in.

<http://www.westmountainradio.com/>

<http://www.digipan.net/>

<http://www.qsl.net/zl1bpu/MT63/MT63.html>

<http://users.mesatop.com/~ghansen/>

## Fleamarket Wrap up

By Michael Dinkelman, N7WA



I hope the day finds you recovering well. (I might be able to walk by tomorrow.) This year's event was interesting for a number of reasons and I'll probably ramble a bit as I run through my review.

First off, it really started off slow this year from a registration point of view. Usually, by the first of December, we have the first floor solidly sold out. This year, it held off to the end of December and was still slow until, **bam!**, things got frantic for about the last six weeks. We sold out just about the end of February. Then a few tables came back, then we sold out. Some more tables, we sold out, another table, we sold out, and on and on for about 7 iterations. On Friday, we sold out twice. A single table became available (because of weather) at 7AM. I resold it at 8:30AM via the cell phone as we traveled down for setup. It came back at 10AM and we sold it the last time about 11AM. Whew!

Commercial booths did sell out early—another oddity—and we could have sold more.

It must have been the year for light fingers too. We had a telephone stolen from the Gold Gate. It hadn't been out there for more than an hour. FluidMotion, one our vendors had their hand truck ripped off right in front of

their eyes. One moment, it was there and the next, it was gone. At this point, it looks like I might have lost out too as one of my slide carousels seems to be missing from the program room. Unfortunately, I had borrowed it so I need to replace that.

Speaking of programs, we had the first ever. Two slide shows and a QRP lecture. The two slides shows had between 15-20 in attendance each but the QRP backpacking show looked like standing room only. It neat with a tent hanging from the ceiling plus hands and ears interactive displays. I could have promoted the programs better with signs. I guess many of members didn't even know about the room where the program were held.

This year we controlled the crowd out at the Gold gate and left the doors all open. Worked good. We forgot to deal with VE exams (you can't charge someone to attend an event when all they want is the VE exams) but that was a minor issue.

We decided, this year, to move the ticket drawing up stairs to the Country store to relieve the crowd from the PA booth. We also tried to take and deposit the drawing tickets instead of having the customers do so. There were some glitches in the new system and we need to improve a couple things but overall it worked out well.

Security was a big problem this year. The fair-

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grounds has many rules about vehicles on the grounds but hasn't pushed them much. Following 9/11, the rules were in full effect. Special passes from the Fairgrounds were required to park on grounds. We had to record vehicle license numbers and time stamp vendor entry. In the week prior to the event, there was so much confusion, we actually sent out a letter to vendors warning them to be prepared for a variety of scenarios. In the end, the effects were relatively benign but we did have some hot moments.

Finally, we almost had that disaster we always warn about when people want to know why we have such a large reserve in the bank. Had that snow storm moved just a few hours later or a few miles south, we may have been sitting with an empty building this year and the bills would have still come in. We dodged a bullet this year and it was close.

Hope you didn't miss out on the Chinese food. Diane and I walked out stuffed. The variety was fantastic

and the food and service have really been good ever since that restaurant changed hands.

I'm sure I am missing other good anecdotes that'll come to me later. Maybe you have some. Yes, we did have a couple disgruntled customers this year but they were vastly outweighed by the many who were extremely satisfied. When you get told repeatedly that you run the best event of this type around, it isn't coincidence. That reflects back on you because this is a TEAM event and it takes all of our efforts to make it come off well. Each of us that plays a part, no matter how small, you can be proud of your work.

I don't want to forget my fellow committee members. These are the people who, six months ago, committed to organizing this event, went to meetings, sweated the details, and made it come off. They did jobs that some people get paid professionally to do. In September, we will begin this process again—maybe you'll want to join in yourself. This isn't an exclusive group—you're more than welcome.



## **General Meeting Minutes, February 16, 2002**

**Officers present:** President – Jack Grimmer (N7IHS); Vice President – Mark Whitaker (KD7KUN); Secretary – Curtis Hanner (N7MWC); Radio Officer – Harry Lewis (W7JWJ)

**Trustees Present:** Trustee #1 – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV); Trustee #2 – Steve Kaney (K7MUT); Trustee #4 – Mary Lewis (W7QGP); Trustee #5 & COB – Alan Hughes (KB7SVU)

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 are 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 Frank (K7VMG) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the Relay. The motion was approved.

### **Officer Reports**

**Vice President:** Mark (KD7KUN): Communication Academy coming soon with a focus this year on terrorism. The cost is a \$5 donation at the door, but you are required to pre-register, for more information see [www.academy2002.org](http://www.academy2002.org). Several new members were presented Don Reed, Alan, Russell Foster and Peter Owen. There were all voted in unanimously.

**Treasurer:** Jim (KD7BAT): Jack filling in for Jim (N7ZS): Appears that hard copies of the ledger have not been printed and filed on a regular basis. The situation will be resolved soon.

**Activity Manage & Relay:** Mike (N7WA): Diane filling in: Need a chairman for the banquet. Have badges and sign up sheet for the flea market.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

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

**Facilities:** Mary (W7QGP): We have one key that is still missing and on antenna analyzer that is still missing.

**Public Service Committee:** Barry Wolborsky (KC7YB): The Public Service Pamphlet has been finalized and sent to the printer. The committee is still working on many exciting things. Meeting at Renton Yankee Dinner at 12:30 PM Today.

**Education:** Mary (W7QGP): Technician meeting in April at Boeing in the recreation center. The second weekend in June there will also be a class. These classes will be book only. Morse code studies will need to be done on your own.

**Public Service Events:** Gary (KG7KU): 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:** Dick (WA7NIW): Awarded the alligator award to Mike (K7JML)

### **New Business**

Nils: Point of order, he would appreciate if the president would read part of Article 2 of the by-laws. The section states that those members who have not paid dues cannot vote and cannot run for office.

### **Good of the Order**

Some discussion about a Ham Tower Bill in Olympia and some discussion about other ham related bills.

### **Nominations for officers**

The following nominations were made:

President: Jack (N7IHS), Brendan (KD7IKV), Carolyn (WV7Q)

Vice President: Jo H. (KB7UFM), Tressie (KC7BAL), Chuck (N7STR)

Secretary: Steve (N7MUT). Curtis (N7MWC). Sam (N7RHE)

Treasurer: Jack (N7ZS), Jim (KD7BAT), Chuck (N7STR)

Activity Manager: Mike (N7WA)

Trustee #2 and #4: Dick (WA7NIW), Barry (KC7YB), Mitch (K7TUT), Mary (W7QGP), Scott Parton (KK7DU), Loren (KD7IHH), Ken Rau (K7YR), Carolyn (WV7Q)

There being no further business Harry (W7JWJ) moved to adjourn and Brendan (KD7IKV), seconded the motion, Jack (N7IHS) closed the meeting at 10:45 AM. Attested: Curtis Hanner, N7MWC, Secretary

## **Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting Minutes, February 26, 2002**

**Officers present:** President Jack Grimmer (N7IHS); Vice President – Mark Whitaker (KD7KUN); Secretary – Curtis Hanner (N7MWC); Treasurer - Jim Etwiler (KD7BAT); Activity Manager – Mike Dinkelman (N7WA); Radio Officer - Harry Lewis (W7JWJ)

**Trustees Present:** Trustee #1 – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV); Trustee #2 - Steve Kaney (N7MUT); Trustee #3 – Steve Cook (KD7IQL); Trustee #4 - Mary (W7QGP); Trustee #5 & COB – Alan Hughes (KB7SVU).

**Visitors:** Ken Rau (K7YR); Nils Hallstrom (W7RUJ); Jo Hallstrom (KB7UFM); Chuck (N7BV); Jack Burrell (N7ZS); Carolyn's daughter; Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q); Paul; Mitch Gill (K7TUT); Guest; Dawn Humphrey (KC7YYB), Dan Humphrey (N7QHC)

The chairman, Alan (KB7SVU), called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

The minutes for the January meeting were not available for approval. Both the January and February Board meeting minutes will be printed in the next Relay.

### **Officer Reports**

**COB:** Alan Hughes (KB7SVU): The tower trailer will be at an Evergreen Storage facility for the next couple of weeks while his house is being worked on.

**President:** Jack Grimmer (N7IHS): Nothing to report.

**Vice President:** Mark Whitaker (KD7KUN): One new membership application for David Lord (KA7IHB) was approved unanimously by the board.

**Secretary:** Curtis Hanner (N7MWC): Was not at the last board meeting and the minutes have not yet been completed. He expects to get a tape soon of the January meeting and should have the minutes completed for the next Relay.

**Treasurer:** Jim Etwiler (KD7BAT): Thanked Jack for filling in for him at the last meeting. Sam Sullivan has taken over chairmanship of the audit committee and is getting things organized.

**Activities Manager:** Mike Dinkelman (N7WA): Relay is due March 8<sup>th</sup> and is the setup day for the Flea Market. Relay probably won't be done until March 10<sup>th</sup>. March program is elections. April program is on a DX Expedition to the North Cook Islands. Looking into doing Mariners tick-

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ets again this year, but they are a hot item.

**Flea Market:** Mike (N7WA) All tables are sold at this time and final details are being worked out in preparation for March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Banquet:** Diane and Mike are running the banquet. It will be \$16 a head on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Committees Liaison Reports**

**Technical:** Steve Kaney (N7MUT): Had a meeting last week and progress is being made.

**Public Service:** Brendan Burget (KD7IKV): Public Service pamphlet is at the printer and the books will be ready at or before the flea market. Moving forward with the public service survey, details are still being worked out.

**Education:** Steve Cook (KD7IQL): Met a couple weeks ago and have two classes April 27 and 28<sup>th</sup> technician class at Boeing. Another General class is scheduled for June. Will be having meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> so all the instructors can get on the same page.

**Facilities:** Mary Lewis (W7QGP): The remaining antenna analyzer will be painted pink in an effort to avoid it disappearing.

**New Business**

Jack (N7IHS) presented a By-Laws change for the election and term of the radio officer position. Much discussion followed. Jack will consult with Mike Hansen before submitting the By-Laws change to the membership.

Jack (N7IHS) made a motion that the board recommends for approval the proposed By-Laws change. Steve Cook (KD7IQL) seconds the motion. The motion passes.

Next item is the approval of Treasurer candidates by the board. Jack (N7ZS) withdrew his name for consideration. The following members were considered for approval: Carolyn (WV7Q); Jack (N7IHS); Mark (KD7KUN); Jack (N7ZS); Jim (KD7BAT); and Chuck (N7STR)

The board approved Jim Etwiler (KD7BAT); Jack Grimmett (N7IHS); Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q); and Mark Whitaker (KD7KUN) as treasurer candidates.

Radio Officer nomination: Responsibilities include holder of the K7LED license, Trustee of all the club equipment, responsible for the operation of the club repeaters (220MHz and 2M). We are considering Paul (N7DOH) and Ken (K7YR) for nomination. Much discussion followed and each nominee gave a statement. Ken Rau (K7YR) was appointed as the new Radio Officer.

There being no further business, a motion by Steve (KD7IQL) seconded by Brendan (KD7IKV) to adjourn was made, and the chairman closed the meeting at 9:15 PM. Attested: Curtis Hanner, N7MWC, Secretary

## 2002 Annual Banquet

By Michael, N7WA

It's that time! The Fleamarket is over, newly elected Officers will be contemplating their sanity, and there are members that deserve some well earned recognition or roasting. Diane and I will be your hosts. This year, we are moving back to Barnaby's Steak and Ale in Tukwila. The address for Barnaby's is 16401 West Valley Hwy. It's just southwest of the of the old Longacres Race-track (see map).

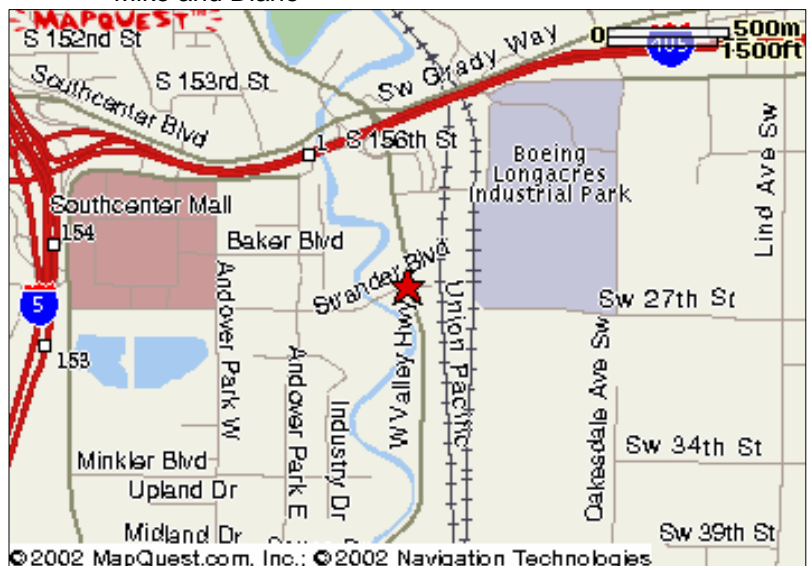
It'll be Saturday, April 13th. The no host bar and hospitality session starts 6PM and dinner will be at 7PM. The cost is \$16 a head (a bargain because the Club is subsidizing the real cost) . There are 6 entrée choices: Prime Rib, New York Steak, Marinated Chicken, King Salmon, Vegetable Fettuccini Alfredo, and a tossed Mandarin Chicken Salad. This includes a 29 item salad bar coffee, tea, or milk beverage.

Dawn Humphrey is already spending money on the non-Ham door prizes. I'll be doing the Ham prizes unless there is a volunteer out there who would like to spend the money.

We have had excellent Banquets at Barnaby's in the past. Many of you have already e-mailed me with your reservations and sent payment. I'll be taken reservations and payment at the next Club meeting as well. If money is tight, I can wait until the night of the banquet if necessary for payment. Right now, I need to limit the attendance to 70 for now (and that may be tight).

Still, it may be possible to squeeze a few more in as we get closer.

In concert with the Banquet, I am trying to come up some a bit of entertainment. I am looking for photographs, preferably digital, but hardcopies are OK if you'll let me borrow them for scanning. Someone has the Club archive—can you contact me as well? I would love pictures of members, old and new, funny and touching, interesting and... more interesting. Anything from Pop Brown to yesterday's Fleamarket. Field Day's, Banquets, Flea-markets, Club Meetings, Picnics, stations, anything Club related. I am also looking for a better quality LCD projector that can be used that night with my laptop. I have an older version I can borrow from work but the quality isn't quite what I want (uses an overhead to provide the light). I'm willing to trade dinner in return. Hope you'll join us—Mike and Diane





## Mariner's Club Night Out

Submitted by Michael N7WA



As mentioned that month, I am looking to organize another night out at the Mariner's. The Western Washington DX Club is interested as well. I didn't get any feedback on dates so Ward (my WWDXC counterpart) and I got together and picked the one we liked—August 30th against Kansas City.

It's a Friday night, which will be nice for those who work weekdays and is far enough away that, possi-

bly, we can get our seats all together. It's the only "Group" night available in August. By then, the Mariner's should be gunning for the playoff's and your tickets will be worth gold. Or, they'll be in the basement and you won't mind giving your tickets to the kids.

Ticket costs have gone up. Last year, we got our tickets for \$7 each. The Mariners want \$10 this year for each group ticket—still a bargain for a nights entertainment. I'll do this the same way we did it last year. Ward and I will take a list and then I will make the buy. You can then pay me for the tickets. Some of you missed out last year. Don't let that happen this time. I'll be taking reservations through April 14th.

## Public Service Committee

Submitted by Barry Wolborsky, KC7YB

The Public Service Committee runs on a funny fiscal year. Ours begins and ends at the Flea Market as that is when our Public Service booklet is released. Again, this year's booklet was very well received at the Flea Market, getting numerous kudos.

Hence, now begins a brand new year for our committee. Although we have projects and ideas left over from last year, we are ready for a new ideas and would

certainly like some new members.

If you are interested in public events, promoting ham radio, promoting the Mike and Key Club, emergency services or any other way of reaching amateur radio out to the public, then please join us for our 'New Year' meeting this Saturday.

We meet at the Yankee Grill at 1230 Hrs. right after the Mike and Key meeting. The Yankee Grill is at Rainier and Grady Way in Renton at the Holiday Inn.

## Public Service Committee Minutes 2/16/02

Meeting called to order by Brendan

In attendance: Ted, Kim, Dawn, Dan, Mark, Dave, Brendan, Dick, Carolyn, Steve,

Old Business:

The status report on this year's Public Service Booklet is done, and at the printer. The printer, who is going into the custom QSL card business, took the last ad space.

Putting together a packet for new club members introducing them to club activities, events, and services. This will include a list of committees and activities where they can contribute and participate. This could also include officer contacts, and some of the information that is included in the By Laws section of the membership booklet. Each committee could provide a blurb on why the new member should join them. This could also be a general information sheet that could be used at parades, Field Day, etc.

An interest survey for the general members regarding specific public service event interests is being prepared. Dick and Brendan. The Board wants one combined survey from all committees with the exception of the Long Range Planning committee, which requires ano-

nymity to be effective. Discussion regarding how long we are going to wait for input from the other committees, and how to utilize this information. What are we going to actually do with this information once we get it? Discussion about email contact for events as needed.

The Snow Dog Super Mush - our involvement? None. The local ARES group is going to use it as a training exercise.

Public service event coordination is being worked on by Mark and Gene Underwood.

Monthly events list to post at meeting. Mark will bring in the easel.

New Business:

The Sundown Center on Beacon Hill is looking for some kind of Ham Radio activity to get started there. This is a Teen Activities center and they are interested in having a station located there. Steve suggested that we table this item until we know more about what the activity will be and also until we have more time for committee activities.

The next meeting will be 3/16/02.

## EXTRA EXTRA, Read All About it!

Submitted by Mitch Gil, K7TUT

There are certain dreams I had as a young Ham growing up. Having a nice shack was one but what I dreamed of the most was obtaining the epitome of Ham Radio; the Amateur Extra. A very lofty goal for a kid who just got his Novice license but it was a goal that I had hoped to reach. Unfortunately, times changed for me as I did not pass the General theory (code was never a problem) and girls became more interesting than studying for the test. I was in college as well.

The Novice, at that time, was 4 years and non-renewable and the test were given in downtown Miami, I never went again for the General until I joined the USAF. I was stationed in Germany and the tests were once a year. I studied and got my General but the Extra license was way up there in the lofty clouds and another year away. I could see it but it was so high and so far that I never gave it another thought. I loved having the General license but another turn of events changed my direction as Tyler was born in 1989. I had only been married to Jan for 2 years and again, Ham Radio was low on my priority lists and non-existent in my wife's.

You all know the story, I won't repeat it here, but Tyler is the reason I dropped out of radio and Tyler is the reason I returned to it. This last year has been a blast, but I was talking about the Extra class, wasn't I? Six months ago I bought the book and began to study but the math and trying to memorize over 600 questions was just too much. It wasn't until Alan, KB7SVU, told me that he had just passed his Extra that I began to think of it again. He told me that he took Jerry Seligman's class (W7BUN). He stated that it was a great class and that he really taught the theory and the math. He said that I should email Jerry as he had classes all the time. I did just that and Jerry emailed me back with dates, times and directions.

It's a long trip as it takes over an hour from my house to get to South Hill (Puyallup) during rush hour but it was worth it. At first, I felt a little overwhelmed but Jerry explained that it was normal and to stick it out. He has an impressive record over the many years and has managed a 90% passing rate with his students! The class was 9 weeks and by the 7th week I was ready and itching to test. As I am writing this now, it is the eighth week and I tested yesterday and passed. I am now K7TUT/AE. If not for W7BUN, I would not have passed and I owe him a debt of gratitude for helping me to reach for the clouds and obtain that dream a boy had so many years ago.

But do you know what made it even more special? I tested with some of the kids from my class and now there are 10 more new Hams joining our ranks. I am proud of all these kids as some have really struggled. One I was particularly concerned about actually had several nose bleeds during the test from the stress. You see, his older brother passed with no problem but he took over an hour. I kept praying that he would pass as I knew that if he did not, he never would go after it again. He is extremely sensitive and very shy. So, when you hear these kids on, be patient with some and draw them out of their shell. I have already seen Laura (KD7QBS), Amy (KD7QBT) and Max (KD7PPJ) change. I see it not only on the radio but I see it when they are in school. In just a few weeks, these shy kids are now more confident in themselves. The gift we give these kids is not just Ham Radio, its a new world and an opportunity to help some past those awkward years of shyness. You can contribute to that just by talking to them. I now have several parents and kids begging me to teach another Tech class. I have had several Hams and potential Hams want me to teach the Morse code as well as some of the kids and the General theory. Let me just say that I am considering all of them but it is important to note that I am not anywhere near the caliber of Jerry.

Thanks to Jerry for taking the time to teach the classes. He also teaches the General class and I may take that sometime just to help me in teaching the kids who want to move up to General or to send them to Jerry. Trust me that you can pass the General and the Extra with his class.

Just think about it for a moment. If a tower rat (KC7SVU) can do it, you can do it. If a middle aged man who proclaims himself King (K7TUT) can do it, you can do it. If a man with a funny east coast accent who drives a camouflaged truck (K7JML) can do it, you can do it. Don't let the license intimidate you. If W7BUN can get us three to pass, then it should be a breeze for you. Email him, he is on QRZ.com and tell him we sent you. The only cost is the book, a scientific calculator, and your time. It is well worth the investment.

Remember that all goals are achievable if you just believe in yourself. Having a great teacher like Jerry does nothing but make what you thought was unattainable, now obtainable. Go for it! Just remember to stay off my frequencies or I will squash you like a bug, but that's another story. Heh heh.

End note: Tyler is close. He seems to have that same natural ear for CW and I know he will be testing sometime after the flea market. Oh Lord, now I know I will never get in my shack! And Jan, is studying hard for her Tech. I am in BIG trouble!

## From the Writer's Block

Submitted by the Editor



This is my 12th Relay since jumping back into the Editor's seat. I don't know how you feel about it but I feel that I have been truly blessed during the past year. When I took the Relay back on, I feared a return to old ways—a need to fill 10-12 pages without much help. I've been heartened and helped by the fact that a bunch of our members have made it a habit to send me material that reflect personal interest and experiences in radio and/or this Club.

Whether it's the adventures of the Gill family, DXing vicariously with Jo, or the eccentric rambling's of Jan; it really makes this newsletter come together when the

members express themselves through it. (There have been others throughout the year - these just come to mind from this month's edition.)

Yes, there is a risk when you do this. You expose yourself to ridicule from those who are more constrained for whatever reason. Yet, in the end, it makes this rag a lot more interesting and this Club more like a group of friends rather than a bunch of impersonal rocks. I can get all the Ham news I want from the ARRL Letter. Myself, I would rather read about hemp sandals in SeaTac, that broken door in Ravensdale, or the Reality Fairy. Thanks to all for making it a fun year.

P.S. My apologies to the Technical Committee. I lost Steve's (N7MUT) meeting minutes when my PDA crashed last week. Live by tech—die by tech.

## Microwave Symposium

The 50th annual International Symposium is being held in Seattle, June 2nd through 7th. Over 10,000 engineers from all over the world will be attending at the Convention Center. There will be a Historical Exhibit showing many > items of historic interest related to the RF and microwave technology. Since we are also com-

memorating 2002 as the Centennial of the first long distant transmission of an RF signal by Marconi, we are seeking to show at the historical exhibit some early radio equipment. Can you organization help us find such radio antiques?

Please contact me locally at 206-574-0900 or email HRutstein@aol.com. Best regards, Harry Rutstein,

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

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<b>Banquet</b>	Mike and Diane Dinkelman		mwdink@eskimo.com	253-631-3756

# March – April 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10 RN	11	12	13	14 PSN	15	16 Club Meeting 10AM  Elections MKN
17 RN Comm Academy  	18	19 DA	20  	21 PSN	22	23 Comm Academy
24 RN	25	26 Board Meeting 7:15 PM DA	27	28 PSN  	29 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	30 WPX
31 RN WPX  	1	2 DA	3	4 PSN	5	6
7 RN Daylight Savings Time begins	8	9	10	11 PSN	12 Relay Deadline	13 Banquet 6PM

**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**

