

K7LED

RELAY

Volume 30, Issue 5

Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club - Seattle, Washington

May 2002



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Vice President

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#2 Barry Wolborsky KC7YB

#3 Steven Cook KD7IQL

#4 Mitch Gill K7TUT

#5 Alan Hughes KB7SVU

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Michael Dinkelman, N7WA
22222 148th Ave SE
Kent, WA 98042
or
mwdink@eskimo.com

The Prez Sez

Club President Jack Grimmett, N7IHS



The Club's next major event will be 'Field Day 2002'. This year's event will again be chaired by Alan Hughes (KB7SVU). Steve Cook (KD7IQL) and Brendan Burget (KD7IKV) have volunteered to assist Alan. Field Day will be held the last full weekend in June.

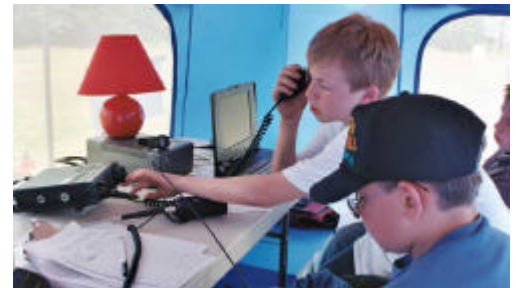
Last year we did fairly well. As I remember, we took 5th or 6th place but we had problems with the 20-meter beam and lacked operators during the middle of the night. Alan has repaired the 20-meter beam and cleaned the other antennas. An effort is under way to check all of the rotors and repair those that don't work properly. So, we should not have any hardware problems this year (knock-on-wood).

I have asked Alan to provide a briefing to the membership on how the final score is calculated so we all can understand what is necessary for us to raise our score.

There are some members that are currently trying to gather scoring information over the last few years so we can get a handle on how many contacts that each station should make and to provide a guide on how we are doing during the course of the contest.

Finally, Alan did a great job of organizing the event last year and with Steve and Brendan helping, this year should be even better. The most important part of Field Day is the Club members that attend, the fun we have, and the great food at the potlucks. There will be more in next month's Relay.

FD 2001



Activities & Programs

Submitted by Michael, N7WA



This month's program will be a slide show by local members of a DXpedition to the North Cooks islands. This show was shown at the Flea market back in March but many of us didn't get a chance to see it then. Roger Huntley, K7VV will be the presenter. It should be an interesting talk about a far-away part of the word and radios.

Next month, the program will be about Field Day. Our co-chairs Steve

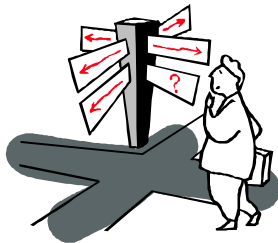
Cook and Alan Hughes will be catching us up on the latest details and it'll be a chance to ask those last minute question.

Other activities in the pipe include the Annual Picnic. Dawn Humphrey is the chair and, I expect, planning quite the party.

I am afraid the Baseball Night did not come about. Did you ever think that April would be too late to buy tickets for an August ball game? That's today's reality. Maybe I can come up with something else. Anybody want to go bowling or to a movie? Let me know if interested.

Finding Direction For Our Club

Submitted by Chairman of the Board, Brendan Burget, KD7IKV



It's spring again, and for us at the Mike & Key, that means we have a new board of directors. While you're thinking about things like spring-cleaning, that yard project you want to get done, and how the M's are going to do this year; let's also consider this as a time for the club to explore what direction it wants to go.

I would like you to think about what you would like to see the club do. How can we excite the members we have, retrieve the old ones who've drifted away, and get new people to join. I think one way we can do that is by offering fun and interesting club activities. We are already involved in a number of activities like public service and education. While these are wonderful activities that many of us participate in and get enjoyment from, they may not be your cup of tea. What other kind of activities or projects do you as members want to see the club provide?

There are so many possibilities that I can't even begin to think of them all. However, let me give you some food for thought. With a simple subject like "Fox" or

"Bunny" hunting I can think of at least 3 programs we could have. First, we'd need to have a program telling us about ARDF. What it is, how does it work, and what equipment can be used. Then, of course, we could have a workshop to build an antenna for said activity. Finally there would be the opportunity to use all this information and home brewing by having our own foxhunt. Like at field day or after a club meeting. Heck, we could even make it an ongoing event.

Anyhow, That's just one fanciful dream I have. What are you interested in? I'll list a few more just in case your imagination, like mine, needs a good kick in the pants to get it going. Building projects, emergency exercises, contesting, digital communications, Antennas, HF mobile, how to use your antenna tuner or amp, jamboree on the air, and repeaters (how do they really work?).....

So please, let me or any of the board members know what you think.



Let the April Foolishness Begin

Submitted by Jo Hallstrom, KB7UFM

It all started , for the most part at the annual Awards Banquet on April 13th. What an enjoyable, crazy and surprising evening it was for Nils and me. Thank you, Jack for the plaque you awarded me for DX activity from a no code Tech to Extra in two years. It's a lot of fun and you always learn something new from each foreign contact.

Thank you Mike Dinkelman, a true gentleman, for the Rag-Chew Award. Did I really talk that much? The Award will go on a special place on the wall if Nils will make room! Another thanks to Mark KD7KUN for the passing of the Vice-Presidential 40 meter dipole headdress to my head, eyes and nose. I couldn't see a thing which is probably just as well! The bruises on my shoulders where he "tapped" me with a tall wood pepper mill are all healed now.

A very special thanks to my OM Nils who didn't know he was to be MC until the day before the Banquet. He did great but I bet he didn't know how well off he was before he married Jo McHale! Thank you, Mike and Key for putting up with my antics at the April 20th General Meeting. I'll get the procedure down straight by this time next year.

Education Committee Report

Submitted by Mary and Harry Lewis



Sponsored by the Boeing BEARS and Mike and Key, a Technician class was held at the Boeing Activities Center in Kent on April 17th. Seventeen aspirants passed the Technician examination with two more scheduled to take exams May 11th.

Facilities were arranged by Jim, KD7BAT with Media set up by Phil, WB7AEI of >the BEARS. Assisting as instructor Carolyn, WV7Q. A non-club sponsored VE team administered the examinations.

The next class will be for General and is scheduled for the weekend of June 8/9 — also at the Activities Center. Are you interested in assisting?

An assist was given to the Snohomish VE team in administering 25 examinations on May 7th to members of the Edmonds Emergency Services Coordinating Agency. The city of Issaquah will be sponsoring a Technician class for city employees in June with assist from the Issaquah club.

Wagon Wheel and Barracks Reservations

Submitted by Club President, Jack Grimm, N7IHS

We need to get started getting reservations in for the Wagon Wheel camping and the Barracks. The Club pays for both areas.

There is a related article in this issue of the Relay concerning the Barracks and how to contact Rita Danielson for reservations. I understand that they are filling up fast so you should contact Rita ASAP if you want to stay in the Barracks.

The Wagon Wheel is a little more flexible, we have a lot of spaces available but we need to know who is coming and where they want to camp. I will try to have a sign-up sheet available at the next two meetings for those who want a space. Those who want a specific space should contact me at n7ihs@aol.com or 425-271-7955.

This information, along with Rita's reservations and the CW Beach people, is important so that Wayne Heath (KC7ORB) can plan for the food. So please contact Rita or me ASAP so we can plan our activities.

Lighthouses on the Air?

From Fred Roberts, W6TKV

(Club Member Fred/W6KTV down in California passed along this idea. Anybody want to run with it? - ed)

In August of each year, there is an event titled "Lighthouses on the Air". I have been interested in participating in such an event - a combination of Field Day

and a Special Event Station.

I have no idea where lighthouses are in Washington, except for two on the southwest corner of the state, near Ilwaco. If there is one close to Seattle, maybe you would be interested in developing this as a Mike & Key Club event. If so, count me in.



Barracks Call!!

Submitted by Rita Danielson KD7CNU



Field Day is fast approaching. The barracks is filling up fast. The Wagon Wheel is on a first come first served space available basis. Don't wait for the last minute to make arrangements. If you would like a room in the barracks, please notify me, Rita Danielson (KD7CNU) as soon as possible. My email is gamatoad@aol.com. We will have a waiting list if needed. Breakfast is provided for those staying in the barracks. There are showers available to all in the club, but those staying in

220 Machine Update Submitted by Hal Goodell, N7NW

The Mike and Key ARC 220 repeater is back on the air as of May 4th. It is located at Tiger Mountain and has a pretty good coverage. However, the current coverage is limited as the antenna bracket has bent and the antenna is leaning at about a 45 degree angle. So, I have another planned trip to the hill at the end of the month to replace the bracket and remount the antenna. Possibly Memorial day weekend.

We were unable to drive to the top of the hill due to snow. There is a stretch about 60 feet long of 10" packed snow before the summit and I was unable to get my 4X4 pickup through it. So, we had to hike the last 3/4 mile. It was also snowing as we walked to the top, but not too badly. The repeater has really good audio, but, as I said, the coverage is not back up to par yet. I can get to it from my shack on Fox Island with a small whip, but not with a hand held rubber ducky. The frequency for those who are new to the Club is 224.12 output and 222.52 input. No tones required. The repeater runs 8.5 watts out of the duplexer to the antenna. I have some bracket construction to do, but nothing complicated. Hopefully, the antenna should be remounted and the snow patch will be gone by Memorial Day.

K7LED 220 Site
(w/o snow)



My Most Treasured QSL

Submitted by Mitch Gill, K7TUT

I know what you are thinking. This is just another Brag Tape from "your" King but it's not..... really! I can look back and review all the cards I have collected since 1970 and I have to be honest with you. I cherish many of the cards I have received from rare DX to famous people but the card I treasure most I have not even received. Its in the mail and I expect to have it before this is even published. I am excited and can't wait. Now don't laugh as the card is from Texas. No, its not a special event station at the Alamo and it's not from NASA or any astronaut. As a matter of fact, the person is probably only known by a small circle of Hams.

So now that I have piqued your interests, I will tell you that his name is Tex and his call sign is W5BQU (Big Quick and Ugly as he likes to be called). We talked and passed jokes to each other for over a half an hour. It was a lot of fun but no more than many QSO's I have had. So what's the big deal? The big deal is that Tex has been licensed for over 70 years and he got his license late in life. He is now 101 years old now and I suspect he is

probably in a fairly elite group of people. We don't see many people over 100 who are as lucid, intelligent and funny as Tex is. And a Ham? While talking to him, I just kept thinking of the history he has seen. Two World Wars, the automobile, and the space race to mention but a fraction of his life. He told me that he still had his QSL's from 1930. Again, my imagination swept me along thinking of the DXCC countries that he might have worked that have disappeared. I wonder who has talked to over the years. I look forward to talking to him again.

I will treasure this card as I do not know if I will ever hear him again but I do know that I will never forget him. The real point is that we have a lot of Hams in our club who have participated in, touched, or were witnesses to much history. Many have served their country and we don't even know it. And when they become Silent Keys, we will all be amazed at who they were and what they had done. Take the time to talk with some of our older Hams as I know you will be surprised.

At the end of the conversation, I said farewell to Tex. His final to me was, "May you live as long as you want and may you never want as long as you live". That would be my wish for all of you.

2002 DX Convention

If you are one of the truly deserving, a DXer or Contester, than you don't want to miss the Northwest DX Convention in August. This convention travels between the three northwest DX Clubs (British Columbia, Western Washington, and Willamette Valley) and will be held in Portland for 2002. Here is the latest news.

2002 Pacific Northwest DX Convention

Hosted by the Willamette Valley DX Club
August 2 - 4, Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, Oregon
(just minutes from downtown Portland)
12566 SE 93rd Ave.
Clackamas, OR 97015
(800) 492-8700 or (503) 652-1515
<http://monarchhotel.citysearch.com>

The DX convention rate is available until July 12th.

RAFFLE DRAWING GRAND PRIZE:
\$1000 Ham Radio Outlet gift certificate
Speakers include:

Ward, N0AX - WTRC-2002
Lew, W7EW - VP8GEO, South Georgia, and VP8THU,
South Sandwich
Rudy, N6LF - Sloping antennas for 160m
Dick, N6FF - PW0T, Trinidad
Rob, W7NX - Technical presentation (tentative)
ARRL Forum

Schedule of Events:

Friday, August 2 1700 - 2000: Registration open
1900 - 2400: Hospitality Suite
Saturday, August 3 0830: Registration open
0900: Program begins
1900: Banquet dinner
2100 - 2400: Hospitality Suite
Sunday, August 4 0800: Breakfast buffet
0900: Breakfast speaker

Visit the web site for the latest news, sponsors, prizes, and attendees: <http://www.wvdx.org/convention.htm>
Questions? Contact Convention Chairman, Al Rovner, K7AR, at k7ar@arrl.net or (360) 256-7437.

Silent Key

From Chuck Stroehrer, WA7EBH

It's with deep regret that we pass along the news that Herschal Whitting, WS7K, a former member of the Mike and Key ARC, became a silent key on Saturday evening April 13th, 2002. A memorial service was held on Saturday April 20th at Evergreen Washelli Cemetery in Seattle.

Public Service Committee Minutes April 20

Submitted by Dick Radford

Meeting called to order by Barry.

In attendance: Steve, Brendan, Kim, Barry, Mike, Ted, Pam, Dan, Mark, and Dick, visitor Charles Cooper.

Old Business:

Minutes from last month were approved.

Putting together a packet for new club members introducing them to club activities, events and services. First draft of the descriptions of the various committee functions was presented. Draft of first page will be supplied after the meeting to be distributed to members via email. Ted and Dave.

We will invite Gene Underwood to put on a presentation regarding public service event coordination at an upcoming meeting, Barry to coordinate between Gene and Mike Dinkelman. We have July, August, and October available. Ted and Mark are coordinating with Gene on his presentation.

J.O.T.A. update from Rhett, Brendan, David, and Gary. Brendan has received numerous emails, and will begin answering them early next week.

Ted will be greeter at the next meeting. Looking into having sticker badges made for visitors so we can identify them during the meeting. Also, Dan will look into making a special "Greeter" badge for the greeter to wear.

Place list of upcoming P.S. events on tables at meetings. This will begin next month. Pam.

Patch Sales at meeting. None sold this month, Barry

An interest survey for the general members regarding specific public service event interests being prepared by Dick, and Brendan. The Board wants one combined survey from all committees with the exception of the Long Range Planning committee, which requires anonymity to be effective. First method of distributing the survey will be with the Relay. Brendan will set up an email account for responses. There was discussion of adding a question to the survey regarding sharing of database information. 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.

Public service event coordination report. Mark

New Business:

Election of Chairperson.

Discussion of the duties followed. Answer any emails that come in. Review the minutes prior to the meeting. Prepare the agenda for the next meeting, and invite everyone to the next meeting. Mike K7OV will accept the position for the time being. Meeting adjourned at 1331.

How To Start an Antenna Business. or....

Why I should never play with fire.

Submitted by Mitch Gill, K7TUT

I should have learned my lesson from a year and half ago. I am one of those people who can't draw a straight line without a ruler. Even then, I sometimes get it wrong. Last year I got the bright idea to build a 2 element 2 meter beam for Tyler. I thought I followed all of the directions from the QST rather well. However, after Mike, K7JML, came over with his antenna analyzer, I found out that the only thing the antenna would have been good for is a roost for the pigeons. At that point, I decided that antenna building should be left to the more adept.

Now I would have just given up except for the fact that all of the kids from Russell Ridge were invited to a special antenna building meeting for another club. As their Elmer and teacher, I knew I had to attend. The antenna they were building, which one of the kids won in a raffle, was a copper J Pole for 2 and 440. The instructions were simple enough (so I thought) and as I watched it being put together, I imagined a part time business

could be made as the parts were less than 15 dollars and the only other item I needed to buy was a small torch for soldering the copper pipes. I was amazed at how easily and quickly it was put together. I figured that I could build them and sell them for \$30 dollars as a comparable manufactured antenna sells for over a hundred dollars.

With sugar plums dancing through my head, I decided to approach the idea with my banker (my wife) as being unemployed I would be taking it out of savings. To say that I had to beg is an understatement. Just to attempt to do this I had to agree to take down all the antennas on the roof and locate them somewhere less obtrusive. That was her way of saying, "Hide 'em or lose 'em!" I also had to listen to a 30 minute lecture on the success of my last brilliant money making idea; buying garage sale items and reselling them on E-bay. My garage is still full of junk! As for Tyler, when I told him my idea, he just could not stop laughing. In my mind, I looked at all this money I could save when I got back to work. I could buy the 817 for Tyler, the 706mkiig for the car, a Mark V for the ham shack, the tower, the rotor and lots of yagis!

With the emotional support of my family, I set out with the

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

intention to show them both! I was going to be smart this time. Instead of buying the pipe and attempting to cut it, I just asked the people at the hardware if they would. And they did. I was relieved as that was over 75 per cent of the work. I then bought a torch and even though I have never welded nor soldered pipe, I knew that I could do it as I had watched at the club when they let the kids do it.

I drove home from the store, excited. I had seen the antenna work and I had heard the reports of others. They had worked people from the Maple Valley area to Tacoma to Seattle on simplex. I was now ready to begin and I drooled over the prospects of making lots of money!

The first lesson I learned is that copper, when heated by a torch, tends to get very hot. So hot, that it will blister any finger that touches it. I then learned that even though you can bandage the blister, if you are dumb enough to touch it again, when the pipe is hot, it will melt the bandage to the blister thus creating a larger blister. It also tends to break the blister when you attempt to pull the melted bandage off your finger. At this point I decided that gloves were in order. To my utter amazement, I could touch the pipe and it did not burn me. The only problem was that I had little use of one of my fingers. However, I refused to quit even when Tyler fell over laughing as I grimaced every time I touched the pipe.

I proceeded with even more vigor and more determination. That was when I learned the second lesson. That lesson, boys and girls, is to never have anything flammable or that can be melted or burned near the work area. I learned this lesson as I was soldering. There came an odor that was not just the solder. I had smelled it before but just could not place it, so I kept on working. It was a few seconds later when I noticed the smoke. The pipe was touching the plastic encased radio on my workbench and had melted the clock portion of the radio to the point that I can now only see the minutes and not the hour. Lesson number two. Keep everything away from the pipe besides the obvious which I learned in lesson one.

The third lesson took me awhile to learn. As I proceeded to solder each section of the pipe I noticed a

pool of solder was being created next to the vise where I held the pieces. I was concerned and decided to check the joints that I had soldered. Lesson three. Copper pipes remain hot for a lot longer than you imagine. Luckily, I only received what was comparable to a severe sunburn on my good finger. After grabbing the gloves, I then found that the joints were not attached.

Lesson number four. If solder is pooling under the area you are soldering, you are probably wasting solder. In addition, you are not soldering anything!

Lesson five. Flux is a good thing to have. So I went and bought some. You just have to remember to wipe it off your hands as it tends to make things hotter as I found out when, in my exuberance, I forget lesson one. Now I have three bandages.

Lesson number six was the most important. When you become frustrated, its time to take a break. Otherwise you tend to leave the pretty blue flame on the pipe too long and that tends to create holes.

At this point, Tyler had been laughing for so long that I began to dream of gathering up all of Tyler's rigs and demonstrating what that pretty blue flame can do to the word ICOM or SWAN.

It was now time for me to review my work and decide what to do. I placed the antenna up against the wall (lesson three flashed in my head and I put it on the concrete floor praying that concrete does not melt) and left it there. It remains there to this day — incomplete. Even though my wayward son breaks into hysterics every time he sees the copper on the floor in the garage, I have decided to be a man about it all and I only put pins through his coax (just wait until he loads his Swan up next time....pooooof goes the finals!).

Lesson number seven and my final lesson. Whenever you doubt your skills, try to build something bigger as I am now making plans for an 80 meter beam. I have to get a welding torch as that little dinky one isn't going to do the job. I could make it for about 150 dollars and sell them for 300 dollars. Just think of all the money I could make if my wife would stop hitting me with the broom and Tyler would stop laughing.

Test your Talents?

Submitted by Michael, N7WA

In the past year, I've had a lot of fun doing this newsletter (no this isn't a resignation letter). However, over the past fifteen years, I can probably count, on one hand, the number of people who have done this job. A couple of us have even taken multiple tours. Personally, I don't think that's all good. I feel a bit of mentoring and distribution of the knowledge (and the fun) are in order.

My proposal is to take an occasional vacation over the next year—particularly during some major contests which seem to occur during this week several times a year. If someone out there would like to try their hand at producing the Relay, you would be welcome to do so. I'd be happy to provide all the help and guidance you desire—if any. You can choose your own program, template, and style... or I can provide you with mine. For sure, you should be fairly competent with some sort of word processor or publishing program.

Interested? Feeling adventurous? Talk to me.

General Meeting Minutes, May 20, 2002

Officers present:

President – Jack Grimmer (N7IHS);
 Vice President – Jo Hallstrom (KB7UFM);
 Secretary – Kim Wolborsky (KD7FYD);
 Treasurer – Jim Etzwiler (KD7BAT);
 Activity Manager & Relay Editor – Mike Dinkelman (N7WA);
 Radio Officer - Ken Rau (K7YR)

Trustees Present:

Trustee #1 & COB– Brendan Burget (KD7IKV);
 Trustee #2 – Barry Wolborsky (KC7YB);
 Trustee #3 – Steve Cook (KD7IQL);
 Trustee #4 – Mitch Gill (K7TUT);

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 Nils (W7RUJ) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the Relay. The motion was approved.

Officer Reports

President: Jack (N7IHS): The banquet was great! Thanks to Nils and Mike for a great job.

Vice President: Jo (KB7UFM): We have a quorum. Applications are approved for Lloyd Kelly and Dan Stevens. Neither was in attendance.

Secretary: Kim Wolborsky (KD7FYD): We have the Logger's Bark flyer from the Radio Club of Tacoma.

Treasurer: Jim (KD7BAT): The equipment (field day trailer) title paperwork has been turned over to the Radio officer. Jim passed out financial report for previous year at the last board meeting. Current expenses for banquet, Relay, web access and 220 repeater site. Income from dues \$294. Balance sheet for flea market for 2002 shows made about 7000, normally 9000 so must watch expenses this year.

Activity Manager & Relay: Mike (N7WA): Thanks to all who came from banquet. Today's program is a video and presentation from Leif Skaar (LA7OO) from Norway. Next month slide show on the North Cooks, following month field day. Next relay due date May 10th. Mike is taking applications for August 10th? Mariner's night out.

Radio Officer: Ken Rau (K7YR): Working on the trailer license, the repeater is operating at a spare site. Tone is 100Hz, will interfere with main repeater, but ok to test if no one is on the main repeater.

Chairman of the Board: Let's keep the general meetings fun, without acrimony.

Standing Committee Reports

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

Facilities: Steve Cook (KD7IQL): No report for this month.

Strategic Planning: Barry (KC7YB): No report for this month.

Technical: Mitch Gill (K7TUT): Will give a briefing at the next meeting.

Public Service Committee: Barry (KC7YB): Will meet after the general meeting at Yankee Grill, 12:15-12:30. Will be electing a replacement chair today. Patches are for sale at \$3.00 each (Communications Amateur Radio Service), profit goes to Public Service Committee.

Education: Mitch (K7TUT): 14 people interested in Technician class,

10 signed up 27th and 28th, VEs are signed up. Request for more co-instructors, thanks to Carolyn for helping. June 8th and 9th is General class, please grab a flyer and distribute to Radio stores etc.

Field Day: Steve Cook (KD7IQL): Looking for volunteers to move equipment, band chairmen (75 & 40 meters, and 'Novice 'Get on the air station, all bands'). Also, Steve is taking money for field day pins @ \$5.00 each. Rita is taking reservations for barracks. Those who had rooms in the past have priority.

Awards: Carolyn (WV7Q): Carolyn gave out Banquet awards to those not at banquet: President's award went to Jack Grimmer, Field day MVP to Mitch Gill K7TUT. 2nd MVP to Scott Parton KK7DU. A special field day service award went to Rick and Rita Danielson. Flea market MVP went to Gil. Special service award to Dick Bridges N7YOB. 25 year life membership to Tim Schneebeck K7QMI. Also noted awards handed out at the banquet. A special service award went to Brendan for the public service committee, to Dan and Dawn Humphries for continuous service. The Ken Jackson Elmer award went to Mike Dinkelman. The Pop Brown award went to Wayne Heath, our chef extraordinaire.

Jo also handed out certificates for years of service to those who didn't attend the banquet.

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 or call Gary at 253-661-7882.

Mike Ross needs people for special Olympics relay, contact mross@heart.org, phone 206-248-2295 June 1st & 2nd. You must sign up ahead of time.

Dick is well set for Crew races May 4th 146.58, but feel free to come and watch. Colleen is looking for help for Seafair events. Her phone number is in the blue Public Service book.

Alligator Award: Dean (N7NKO): Dean timed out the repeater last night, so he has it again.

Old Business

Nils checked out the rotor. We have 3 rotor systems not functioning properly. Nils suggests we contact the ham in Renton who repairs these. Steve Cook will get together with Nils on this.

New Business

Sam (N7RHE), Nils (W7RUJ), and Jack Burrell (N7ZS) volunteered for the audit committee for this year.

Sam gave the audit report. It went well, everything was in order. The facilities committee audited the tents, trailer etc. and forwarded their report to the Audit Committee.

The board meeting is Wednesday the 24th, at 7:00 pm.

Good of the Order

Jim suggested we look at getting a free ambulance and fitting it. The board will look at this and report back at the next General Meeting.

Suggestion from Carolyn (WV7Q): Let members make ARRL donations via club. Jim (KD7BAT) thinks this is possible.

There being no further business Barry (KC7YB) moved to adjourn and Brendan (KD7IKV), seconded the motion, Jack (N7IHS) closed the meeting at 10:45 AM.

Attested:
 Kim Wolborsky, KD7FYD
 Secretary

Electronic Relay

Submitted by Michael, N7WA

Have you considered getting your copy of the Relay via the Internet.? There are a number advantages.

First, you receive your copy as soon as it's done. I mail it out before I even have stamps on the hard copy version. No more tattered newsletters or threat of contamination. If you must have a hard copy, print it out at home.

Then, it comes in color. All those pictures and graphics look a lot better when they don't go through the photocopy machine. I send them out in PDF format for which a free reader program is available. Save it on the hard drive and you won't have to search for that missing issue the next time you want to remember something you read in the Relay.

Getting old? Need the reading glasses a bit more these days? On the computer you can blow up the text and the pictures.

It saves the Club money—lots of it. Fifty seven cents for postage (sixty starting next month), envelopes, printing — I figure, conservatively, at least a buck an issue a month. Twelve bucks a year. Gee you say, I spend

more than that on a case of beer. Fine, then let's bump the dues up a bit... No? Don't blame you. Save it for the beer. There is real money being saved by those getting the electronic issue. Multiply that twelve dollars by the forty people now taking the electronic version and you have almost \$500 a year in savings. By the way, we are going to be short in the budgeted income department this year so that may be the very \$500 we have to spend on extras like Frequency Defense.

Finally, a couple of personal notes. I work hard to make this a visually interesting newsletter. Graphics, pictures and formatting all take time. You're missing half the fun if you look at it in black and white. Also, Diane and I devote one Saturday night a month to printing envelopes, stuffing, and sealing, and stamping. It's a labor of love and part of the job—but it's really been nice not have to do it 40 more times each month.

I can't make it any easier. It drops into your electronic mail box almost a week before the Club meeting. I can even provide a FTP site for those who hate big attachments and would rather get their own. (However, we did do an experiment last month and NO one currently seems to prefer that.)

Check out previous copies of the E-Relay out on the Club Web Page. If you would like to try a month of the E-Relay. Let me know.



Getting Jazzed about Field Day



Flotsam

- For Sale. The Club owns a motorcycle trailer that is surplus to our needs. \$100 or make an offer.
- Field Day pins will NOT be given away this year. However, you may purchase one (or even a T-shirt) by contacting the Field Day Chairs.

FCC PROPOSES TWO NEW AMATEUR BANDS!

ARRL Letter

The FCC has proposed going along with the ARRL's request for a new domestic (US-only), secondary HF allocation at 5.25 to 5.4 MHz. The FCC also is ready to permit operation on a 136-kHz "sliver band" in the low-frequency (LF) region. And, in response to a third ARRL request, the FCC has proposed elevating Amateur Radio to primary status at 2400 to 2402 MHz.

The FCC voted unanimously May 2 to adopt the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in ET Docket 02-98. The Commission released a Public Notice May 9, and the NPRM is expected to be released soon. A comment deadline will be announced as soon as it's available.

The League said its successful WA2XSY experiments

demonstrated that amateurs can coexist with current users and that the band is very suitable for US-to-Caribbean paths. In comparisons with 80 and 40 meters, the WA2XSY operation also showed the 60-meter band to be the most reliable of the three. The ARRL also argued that a new 150-kHz allocation at 5 MHz could relieve periodic overcrowding on 80 and 40.

The ARRL asked the FCC for two LF allocations in October 1998--135.7 to 137.8 kHz and 160 to 190 kHz. Several countries in Europe and elsewhere already have 36-kHz amateur allocations. The first amateur transatlantic contact on the band was recorded in February 2001.

The FCC said its proposal to upgrade the Amateur Service allocation at 2400 to 2402 MHz to primary "seeks to protect current amateur use of this band." Hams have shared their other 2.4 GHz spectrum on a secondary basis with government users.

Picnic Plans

Dawn, KC7YYB and Picnic Chair, has begun her work on the annual Mike & Key Picnic. Like last year, it'll be following the August regular Club meeting. The location has changed. While still in Renton, it'll be a park between Renton Stadium and Boeing and along the river. There are climbing toys for the kids. This spot is limited in tables and chairs so you may want to bring your own.

Dawn is looking for some kind of contest ideas like the Banner contest so if you have anything interesting in mind—give her a yell.

**This spot Reserved for YOUR next article,
Officer, or Committee Report.**

It's your Hobby, your Club, and your Relay.

Write about it.

Please.



More 2002 Banquet
Photo's
Thanks, Jack, N7ZS



2001 Pop Brown
Award Winner
Wayne Heath, KC7ORB

CW Beach Rises Again!

Submitted by Michael, N7WA

As the days get longer and the temperature rises, the urge to fly north to Fort Flagler becomes intense. Tents billowing in the wind, tower's and antennas growing high into the fresh salt breeze, and the cramps from Little John's chili all say it's Field Day!

Of course, we (the CW Ops) don't have your garden variety Field Day operation. We have the experience known as CW Beach. (As Jimmy says — are YOU experienced.) It's better than using mind altering substances, it's better than that first kiss from your junior high sweet heart, it's better than... well, it ain't better than that but it's close.

What is CW Beach? Well, the past few years it's been two tents, all bands, and the majority of the points produced by the Mike & Key ARC Field Day effort. One tent we reserve for experienced CW operators - the other is open to all that want to give it a try. We start early on Friday and usually have operational stations before the potluck. In fact, we usually go down after the potluck and make a few Q's just for fun. We don't have individual bands like the Silly Side Banders. The main station grabs the high rate band for maximum efficiency and the secondary station takes what's left.

Operating slots are not reserved by signing a sheet of paper but determined onsite as circumstances dictate. (Rest assured though, if you want to work 1AM to 5AM—it yours!)

This year, we are planning to do things a bit different. Thanks to GPS technology, we have found out we can move south, down the beach, a fair distance. We're tired of being in gun sights of the cliff dwellers so maybe we can attenuate those broadband noises from the back seat a bit by moving. It's worth a try. It'll complicate setup a bit as we won't have a nice pier to attach our tower too but we're up to the challenge. Are you?

Do you have the stuff that separates the men from the boys? Are you one of the truly deserving? Then consider coming down to CW Beach. Forget the yahoo's on the hill. Anybody can press a mike button and say "Loving Every Day". But can you spell it out on a key, with the mosquitoes buzzing around your head, a cramp in your stomach, a Cheeto in your ear, and with only 3 hours sleep? We just don't operate Field Day — we live it and your welcome to try it too. See me if you think you got the stuff.

So....What do you do with a phone operator, what do you do with a phone operator, what do you do with a phone operator when they come to Field Day?

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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Field Day Chair	Alan Hughes	KB7SVU	kb7svu@juno.com	253-840-4947

May—June 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
12 RN	13	14 DA	15	16	17 Leif Erikson Nordic Days N7LEX 425-488-0905	18 Club Meeting 10AM MKN
19 RN	20	21 DA	22	23 PSN	24 WPX—CW	25 WPX—CW
26 RN WPX—CW	27 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ MEMORIAL DAY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	28 DA	29 Board Meeting 7:15 PM	30 PSN	31	1 Special Olympics Fort Lewis N7LEX 425-488-0905
2 RN Special Olympics	3	4 DA	5	6 PSN	7 Relay Deadline	8 Sound to Narrows Foot Race, Tacoma KB7SVU 253- 840-4947
9 RN	10	11	12	13 PSN	14	15 Club Meeting 10AM MKN Strawberry Festival, Mrysville N7LEX

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

