

K7LED

RELAY

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Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club - Seattle, Washington

July 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

Web Page

www.mikeandkey.com

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info@mikeandkey.com

Reflector

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

Send Dues to:

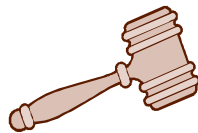
Jim Eztwiler, KD7BAT
3935 Interlake Ave North
Seattle, WA 98103

Send Relay input to:

Michael Dinkelman, N7WA
22222 148th Ave SE
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The Prez Sez

Submitted by Club President, Jack Grimmett, N7IHS



We have had another very successful Field Day activity. The success of this year's activity was due to the organization and preparation by Alan Hughes (KB7SVU), who served as chairman for the second year in a row, and the co-chairmen Steve Cook (KD7IQL) and Brendan Burget (KD7IKV).

The attendance was down from last year but the contacts made were up. We may have set Club records for a number of stations. Dean Holtan (N7NKO) set a personal best at Field Day and probably a Club record with 707 contacts on 40-meters. Dean personally worked the band for nearly 24 hours straight. Dean used his new ICOM IC-756PRO transceiver with a 6-element yagi.

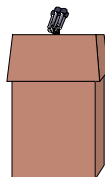
Wayne Heath (KC7ORB), last year's "Pop Brown" award winner, along with his wife Diane and the "Big Unit" provided great food as always. Wayne and Diane

had a ham on Friday night and turkey on Saturday night along with the usual hamburgers and hotdogs. The number of pot-luck side dishes was down this year but the quality wasn't. I tried nearly every one and they were all excellent.



Steve Cook (KD7IQL) has volunteered to be next year's Field Day Chairman. Steve was on the go from the time that we started to set-up until the teardown activity was completed. In addition he did a lot of the preparation work for Alan prior to Field Day. Steve is a good organizer and has excellent people skills and I believe he will to an excellent job as Field Day chairman. I officially appointed Steve to this position at the Executive Board meeting held in June of this year.

July Program and Club Events



Ahhhh! Summer has arrived. Blue skies, long days, and lousy propagation. Well, we can still get our fix of radio down at the July Club meeting. This month's speaker will be Gene Underwood. I haven't received indication on just exactly what Gene is coming to talk about but since his appearance is being sponsored by the Public Service Committee, I assume it's related to that subject. Gene and his wife Fran are active

in local public service events and emergency preparedness so it should be a good talk for these queasy times.

In August, there will be no program at the Club meeting. Instead, the Club will retire to a local Renton Park and enjoy it's annual Summer Picnic. Look for upcoming details from Picnic Chairperson Dawn Humphrey.

As always, I am on the lookout for interesting Club programs. Got an interesting idea? Know a speaker that can keep the group spellbound for 30-40 minutes?

Let me know.

GIANT MOVING SALE - Radio Link and Riverton Radio.

Electronic parts, ham radio gear, old radios, two way radios and components, transmitters, antennas, cavities, work benches, test equipment, speakers, mikes, etc.

Thousands of items at garage sale prices.

July 19, 20, and 21, 8AM to 4PM.

980 Industry Dr., Tukwila.

2 blocks north of Southcenter Costco. Follow the signs.

For information call 206-575-4642 during business hours.

The New and Improved Strategic Planning Committee Needs You!!

Submitted by Barry, KC7YB

The strategic planning committee is a standing committee of the club that is currently in absentia. A number of individuals have suggested that the club would profit from a number of activities that are the responsibility of this committee.

It has been suggested that we conduct a survey to find out why we are not keeping long term members and also how we could encourage more members to attend our general meetings.

It has also been suggested that we look into some by-laws changes to make the by-laws conform to how the club operates today and also to include some of

what we have learned in the years since the by-laws were written.

In order to carry out these projects we need a committee of at least 5 or 6 members (minimum). Currently I have had one member voice an interest. If you are interested in these (and other) projects for the strategic planning committee, please e-mail me at KC7YB@arll.net. I will get in touch with you and we will schedule an organizational meeting.

If you are interested in seeing these projects accomplished please join the committee else we will have to postpone them indefinitely.



(Uncle Barry wants you!)

From Barracks Momma

Submitted by Rita KD7CNU

I want to thank the club for allowing me to serve as "Barracks Mom" again this year. I had a lot of fun and I think those staying in the barracks did, too. The weather cooperated and the company was great. "Mom's Kitchen" was open for breakfast both Saturday and Sunday. After breakfast, the beading team came in and set up shop. We had a puzzle going all weekend and with more than 6 people working on it, we still didn't get it finished. I finished it after I got it home.

We had only one surprise and he came up on Sunday. Larry, AB7FJ, was unable to attend Field Day this year due to out of town visitors, but being the master floor mopper that he is, he showed up in time to mop the

barracks. Rachele was thrilled to see her joke victim, or I should say cohort. She had been saving up all year and let him have it as soon as she saw him coming.

Being unable to walk very well due to a recent foot surgery, I was unable to get up to the bluff or down to the beach. But I had a wonderful time in the barracks with everyone there.

I'm already looking forward to next year. 73

MOM
Barracks

A Funny Thing Happened

Submitted by Fred W6TKV

Well, this isn't a ham radio story at all, but I thought you might find it interesting.

In the latter part of May, I drove over to my bank here in southern California to deposit a check into my checking account. This bank is located opposite a large mall (Tyler Mall), in a shopping area along with two large stores. I got out of my car and was walking toward the bank entrance, when I noticed women were running out of the bank - the way they might if it was on fire or filled with smoke.

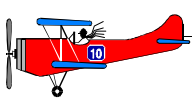
My first thought was to wonder what on earth had happened when one woman shouted, "Don't go into the bank - there's a robbery in progress!" Needless to say, I turned on my heel and returned to my car. I used the cell phone to call 911 and report the robbery taking place. The operator queried me on the exact location. Then I

was asked if the Police car had arrived. I said no, but then a minute or so later it did, and they hung up after thanking me for my call. There were an appreciable number of people running from the bank, and I observed one whom I later realized had to have been the bank robber. He carried a small paper bag and rushed to his car which happened to be what appeared to be a brand-new bright-red pickup truck - talk about being unobtrusive.

Who he was, only dawned on me when the arriving Police car was redirected by a woman who had seen the guy inside the bank and who had run out of the bank. The Police car went racing toward the rear of the stores where the escaping robber had driven.

As noted initially, this wasn't a ham radio tale, but an interesting tale nonetheless. By the way, they locked the bank so I couldn't make my deposit. Bummer.

(We're just happy you're safe Fred — ed)



DXing-East of the Airport

Submitted by Jo, KB7UFM

The much anticipated visit of Victor/ZK1CG came to pass on June 8th. Nils and I met Victor at Sea-Tac Airport. I drove the truck as Nils got in the back holding a huge sign with: ZK1CG DE W7RUJ Nils. The police officer nearest the truck scowled a bit then smiled. There are all sorts of nuts at the airport, you know.

There must have been a bunch of hams right there as they started laughing and gave Nils a "thumbs up" when they saw the sign. Saw Victor right away with his VK1USA cap. We then went to Denny's for a light supper as it had been years since he had been to one and there no Denny's or McDonalds on the Cook Islands. With a population of 7,000 they are truly blessed! Hi.

From Denny's, we came back home and gabbed some more and Victor was able to contact his friend Jim in South Cook on 15 and 20 meters. The next day would

be busy with our Ham-a-que. Of course he stayed the night. What? You don't know what a Ham-a-que is? It's a get-together of a bunch of hams and they "roast" each other. This occurred in our back yard on June 9th. We only had three days to set things in motion and try to get as many DX hams together as possible to welcome {roast} Victor.



Victor was going to Wenatchee for daughter Heather's graduation from high school and it was to be a big surprise for her as Wenatchee is a long way from South Cook Islands! On Sunday morning Victor and I went up to Safeway to pickup more food and Victor was truly amazed at the changes in the store. Just about everyone I had been able to contact arrived and we had eyeball QSO's with several other DXers and in general gave Victor a bad time. All in all it was fun afternoon and the weather was great but too soon it was time for the train for Wenatchee. Nils contacted Judy--ka7zna on the Columbia Basin Net and she knew Victor's family and got a Ham-a-que going in Wenatchee!

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Where's the apron Nils?

(Continued from page 3) **DXing**

By the 21st he had to leave for Los Angeles for a few days visit with some more relatives and then

back to South Cook. Had a great visit but sorry it was so short. Victor is a member of the WWDX Club and likes it very much because, as a DX member, there is no "secret hand shake" and no dues. Who could ask for more and live on a South Sea Island?



For Sale

- 3 10' sections of Rohn Tower (type unknown)
 - 2 Meter Beam, 8 elements
 - 25' Single Pole Mast
 - 5' Tripod
 - 3' Tripod
 - Transmatch, Wanzer Z4M, 160-6meters
 - Hammurland HQ120X
 - Swam Microphone
 - Refurbished upright piano - \$150
 - Roll of Coaxial Cable – RG8U (length unknown)
 - Hustler 4BTV Trapped Vertical Antenna
- Call Steve, WB7VHH 253 852 8691 206 853 6183

Northwest DX Convention

Submitted by Michael, N7WA

If you are one of the deserving (a DXer or a Contester), your Hamfest is coming up soon in Portland. Sponsored, this year, by the Willamette Valley DX Club, the convention will be held at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas the weekend of August 2-4.

Schedules, programs, and prices have already been recounted in past issues of the Relay but just in case you need some reminders, the info you need is sitting up on the Web at www.wvdx.org. This is a good chance to hobnob with locals in the DX and Contesting communities and the first personal reports from the WRTC in Finland. Heck, I've even found out (from past DX Conventions) that they put their pants on one leg at a time – just like me. (I still can't help falling prostrate on the ground when some walk by but I'm getting better.)

If you can't make the entire weekend, Saturday makes a good day trip and you can catch most of the programs.

QSL's Everywhere

Submitted by Michael, N7WA

Like many Ham's, I make use of the incoming QSL bureau. Usually, once a month, I get an envelope with a dozen or two cards—the natural result of being a contester. Last month I got a 4 pound package from the Bureau. I really don't know what happened. Did a dam break somewhere? Did a mailbag get lost in some post office? Anyway, the result is shown below. I've just finished processing the JA's—about 60% of the pile. Thank goodness for electronic logging software.



General Meeting Minutes, 06-15-2002**Officers present:**

President – Jack Grimm (N7IHS); Vice President – Jo Hallstrom (KB7UUFM); Secretary – Kim Wolborsky (KD7FYD); Treasurer – Jim Etwiler (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); Trustee #5 – Alan Hughes (KB7SVU);

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 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 N7HKO Jim and seconded by W7RUJ Nils to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the Relay. The motion was approved.

Officer Reports

President: Jack (N7IHS):

Vice President: Jo (KB7UUFM): New members to approve: Art Tiller, Terry Dettman, Lloyd Kelly not present. Daniel Stevens voted in as member. Certificates for active membership in the club given to Ryan Martin 10 years, Steve Keany, 10 years.

Secretary: Kim (KD7FYD): Nothing to report.

Treasurer: Jim (KD7BAT): Thanks to Jack Burrell N7ZS for acting as treasurer. Money in for dues, field day pins, disbursed for Relay and pins. Certificate of deposit will be due in 5 days, will be rolled over.

Activity Manager & Relay: Mike (N7WA): Field day next weekend, program will be on Field Day. Next relay deadline July 12th, please submit early if possible. Today is Kid's Day for amateur radio.

Radio Officer: Ken Rau (K7YR) Hauled tower trailer close to Port Townsend. Repeater will go up to Field day on 100 hz tone, in conjunction with regular repeater. When get close to Port Townsend, put receive tone on 100, send on 200 and won't hear downtown repeater.

Chairman of the Board: Brendan Burgett, please let him know what you would like to do at the meetings. He has not received responses to this question yet.

Standing Committee Reports

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

Facilities: Steve Cook (KD7IQL): The three lost plaques have been found in closet.

Strategic Planning: Barry (KC7YB): Projects: Survey of long-term membership involvement, by-laws changes for smoother running. Needs members for committee, please sign up.

Technical: Jack (N7IHS): Nothing to report.

Public Service Committee: Brendan (KD7IKV): Meeting after this meeting at Yankee Diner at 12:00.

Education: Harry Lewis: Gave report to the Treasurer. 12 people took General class, 11 passed, 4 additional took upgrade exams.

Picnic: Dawn Humphrey (KC7YYB): Do we want to have an ice cream social after the picnic? Think about it.

Field Day: Alan (KB7SVU): Will present at program.

Awards: Michael (KG7MX):

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. Parade in Marysville at 6 pm tonight. Pam: List of events from between today and the next meeting. Tour de Pierce is on June 23rd, incorrect on sheet.

Alligator Award: Dean (N7NKO): Calvin has the alligator.

Old Business

None

New Business

N7HKO: HR4720 would make local communities negotiate with the HAM operator about the height of the antenna.

Good of the Order

Mark KD7KUN announced 7:00 am before this meeting next month- test at Safeco field for propagation. Meeting at southwest corner of the field. (Outside on the sidewalk)

King County needs an Emergency Coordinator. If interested contact Mark, kd7kun@arrl.net

Dan and Dawn attended Kootenay County amateur radio club swap meet; they have created a booklet similar to ours.

Nils: Our club lobbied city of SeaTac to allow towers up to 200 feet.

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

Board Meeting Minutes, June 26, 2002

Officers present: President Jack Grimm (N7IHS); Vice President – Jo Hallstrom (KB7UUFM); Secretary – Kim Wolborsky (KD7FYD); Treasurer - Jim Etwiler (KD7BAT); Activity Manager – 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); Alan Hughes (KB7SVU); Mitch Gill (K7TUT)

Visitors:

Jack Burrell (N7ZS), Dawn Humphrey (KC7YYB), Dan Humphrey (N7QHC), Nils Hallstrom (W7RUJ), Chuck (N7BV)

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Motion made by Barry (KD7FYD) to approve the minutes as amended (picnic will be on August 17th, not June 17th; Mitch Gill was not attending) and seconded by Jo (KB7UUFM). The motion passes.

Officer Reports

COB: Brendan Burget (KD7IKV): Field day went well.

President: Jack Grimm (N7IHS): Agreed field day went well; more was done with fewer people.

Vice President: Jo Hallstrom (KB7UUFM): Nothing to report. Gave Jim a

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membership check from Jim and Kathleen Smith, so they are up to date.

Secretary: Kim Wolborsky (KD7FYD): Nothing to report.

Treasurer: Jim Etwiler (KD7BAT): David Lord and Lloyd M. Kelly-applications are beyond 60 days and are being returned along with their checks.

Handed out transactions from 1/1/2002 through 6/25/2002. Some items haven't had spending yet, so aren't on the report. Dues is over half of year budget. So on track. Income from education committee was not budgeted. Interest income is low, budgeted \$50.00 not including CD. Banquet was under budget; public service pamphlet was on budget. Facilities is on track, time for a quarterly payment. Field day will probably come in under budget. Insurance was paid twice, the insurance company says they have sent a refund but not received. Jim will follow up on that.

Jim read the account balances to the board. Total assets 40,760. Total liabilities 0, but some field day expenses such as gasoline and food are not in. CD was rolled over at 3%, will mature Dec 17th.

Activities Manager: Mike Dinkelman (N7WA): Hat is off to field day chairs. July 12 next relay due date. Early submissions would be appreciated. Early Good response on having a class on ham software, so may try to do that.

Radio Officer: Ken Rau (K7YR): Both trailers are at the water tank. Need to go up and inventory the contents. Jim has the tarps for the antenna trailer. One of the tie down grommets on the antenna trailer broke and needs to be replaced. The repeater worked well at field day. Ken plans to get an amplifier for about \$400 plus next week. The voice recorder works, can be programmed remotely to announce club functions at a particular time. The timer is set at 30 seconds.

220 repeater: Mike hasn't been on it for a couple of weeks, but as far as he knows is receiver is up to speed. The antenna mount is vertical, proposal from Hal to make it a gateway.

Got new license for the utility trailer. Would like to get registration for the generator trailer, Alan will look for it. Ken has the title for the tower trailer, will have the title for the utility trailer.

Kim will check in the Secretary's files for the title for the generator trailer.

Needs to go to the FCC for registration for license. Will do that soon.

Committees Liaison Reports

Technical: Jack Grimmett (N7IHS): Nothing to report.

Public Service: Brendan Burget (KD7IKV): Mike Eakins will continue to chair. Will work on finalizing survey, plan to participate in JOTA.

Education: Mitch Gill (K7TUT): Doesn't have results from last month's general class yet. Jim E (KD7BAT) reported: 12 showed up, 11 passed, 4 additional people showed up to test. Mitch will put an article in the Relay

Strategic Planning: Barry Wolborsky (KC7YB): Barry will put an article for the newsletter asking anyone interested in being on the SP committee to email him, then he will set up a meeting. Thanks to field day committee for good weather.

Facilities: Steve Cook (KD7IQL): Inventory at field day didn't happen. Ken and Steve will set up a time to inventory, order and replace supplies.

Field Day: Alan Hughes (KB7SVU): Went well. Out in good time on Sunday. Steve (KD7IQL) gave rough estimate of points to Alan, not including possible bonuses. Roughly 11,000 points, up about 1000 from last year. Alan has some suggestions for work to be done on tower trailer. No ratchet on crank, needs new winch and cable. A couple bolts need to be ground down so doesn't catch. Pacific Iron & Metal, heavy D rings needed for side of trailer, 3 or 4 on each side for tie down straps. Ken may have something. 20 meter rotor was working ok, control head stops at 20 degrees east. Ken says this is a problem with a resistor in the rotor itself. Would like to see oil drained and new oil put in generator trailer. Also clean or replace filter. It ran well. Suggests club buys water cooler for water on site. Also one or two 2 1/2 gallon rechargeable water fire extinguishers. Alan will make up a laundry list. Thanks to Steve and Brendan for all their help. Safety officer did an excellent job. Jack appointed Steve (KD7IQL) chair for next year, will reiterate at next general meeting. We should make repairs this fall if we have residual budget to cover it. Chuck suggested Steve list opportunities for improvement in contesting. Need to get 20 meter beam matching element inside a piece of PVC pipe. Ken would like to get a newer duping program, but our computers have limited memory and only handle DOS. Perhaps we can request other PCs. Alan, Steve and Brendan will meet to critique, please send suggestions to one of them. Jim got one email from a family that came up and visited, they sent a thank you email, explicitly for the cookies.

Thanks to Dan and Dawn, 31 visitors recorded and we missed some at first.

Picnic: Dawn Humphrey (KC7YYB): Dawn will still be picnic chair, and will be here.

Old Business

None

New Business

Nils: In past years the park staff has been invited to Saturday night dinner at field day.

Jim: Bruce Miller, ARES public information officer requested information via list server, but we didn't receive until after the deadline. Jim has now subscribed to Bruce's list server.

Jim: Received an email from Mike Shea about a large older AT&T tower & site in Orting that could be used for repeater 1435 feet, unobstructed views from Seattle to Enumclaw. Not sure if for rent or free. Requested more information. Will give information to Ken.

Jim: Our web page was hacked. Jim replaced the page. Proposes that toward the end of the year when our lease runs out we look for another host site.

Mike: Passed out flea market budgets. Attendance of 2300 people is about steady, a bit lower. All tables sold out this year. Will try to increase attendance, but pricing will stay the same this year, net will be close.

Brendan: ARES really needs applicants for the King County ARES emergency coordinator.

There being no further business a motion by Jack (N7IHS) seconded by Barry (KC7YB) to adjourn was made, and the chairman closed the meeting at 9:47 pm.

Attested:
Kim Wolborsky, KD7FYD
Secretary

Epilogue – CW Beach 2002

Submitted by Michael, N7WA

Wow, that was fun. It was an interesting adventure down on CW Beach this year.

A new antenna: Chuck, N7BV just bought a brand new StepIR antenna from Fluid Motion. In case you've been in a cave the last year, this antenna is a monoband yagi from 14MHz to 50MHz. How can that be you say? Well, the elements are continuously variable through the use of motor driven elements. Each element is a copper allow strap that can be driven longer or shorter by a small micro-controller. You want 20Meters, then elements adjust for your specific frequency. Want a higher band? The elements shrink up. Want to reverse your direction 180 degrees? Just hit reverse and the director and reflector swap in matter of seconds. They all travel inside fiberglass tubes (like a fishing pole) and while we couldn't see the elements move, you could hear them. It was neat to push the reverse buttons and see a strong signal drop way down. The long term verdict is still out but the reports from other users and our experience on the beach make this look like a winner. Better yet, it's a local company – out in the wilds of May Valley near Issaquah.

A new site: This year, we moved DOWN the beach to the south. We were looking to put a few more feet between us and the bluff to get out of the firing range. This seemed to work well for 20Meters as I cannot remember one instance of interference from the SSB guys. Fifteen wasn't quite so successful as we had to put the that antenna further back north and back in the line of fire. Haven't heard whether the reduced interference was reciprocal. We were a bit more cramped in our new location but maybe we can come up with a bit more room with some rearrangements for 2003.

Great weather: Hmmm....., is that my face falling off? Sure looks like it. Note for 2003, bring sun block fac-

tor 50. Other than that, how could you fault the weather? Beautiful warm days, not so cold nights with the full moon out over the water. Watched a Cruise ship glide by at 3AM all lit up. Just like a small city floating by out in the darkness. Even the threatened change in weather for Sunday never really happened. For the first time, I took Monday off (old age). Another note for 2003 – take Monday off next year too.

Disappointments: Four guys are the absolute minimum for running CW Beach. Thankfully we had extra support in setup on Friday. If we shrink anymore (we lost Atsushi which was a big loss), we'll be running CW as class 1D from home. After about 6 hours, we made the decision that we could only support the main run station and set a hard and fast schedule. If anybody wanted to come down and play on station #2, fine but we didn't have the reserve to guarantee support. Possibly, GOTA took some of our newbie candidates. Others just couldn't make it. Right now, the idea is to continue supporting a secondary station so people can play with CW in a non-pressure format but it's not going to be worth setting up two stations if only one is used.

We've jawed a lot between us on how to expand interest in CW. I feel we have made the Beach the most fun radio site at Fort Flagler. It's the most organized, we have the best snacks (you can actually drink and chew while sending CW), best view, coolest antennas, and make more points per capita than any other station. Year after year, we hear, "Wow!, we're coming down to join you guys next year" and then... nada. You tell ME what it'll take to get you on CW Beach. We can't make it any easier unless we work 'em for you.

All that aside, CW Beach is ready to go. Give us 24 hours notice and we can be setup and ready to run. Are you ready? By the way, Field Day will be the last weekend in June for 2003. I think some people were thrown by the five weekends we had in June this year. Mark your calendars now – June 27-29, 2003. See you there.

Holiday Party

Submitted by Activity Mngr N7WA

Gee whiz, it's only July. The sun doesn't set until after 9PM, you can fry an egg on the sidewalk, and I'm still trying to figure out what to do with the gift I got last year. Non-the-less, it's getting time to think about our annual Holiday party in December.

Believe me, it goes a lot easier when you are not too rushed. I'd really like to have a volunteer by August. September by the latest. This can be a group effort too – it doesn't have to be a one person or one couple job and it actually goes easier when there are more. Diane and I had lots of help last year and it was a blast. You are free to run the activity the way you want and where you want and the budget is pretty liberal. Advice is freely given when requested. It's a great way to get to know your fellow Club members. Please contact me or the President to volunteer.

(Oh, one piece of advice right now. If you decide to use the Salvation Army and their ovens — put your turkey in two hours earlier.)

Looking for Volunteers

Submitted by Mark KD7KUN

Do you wake up with a feeling of anticipation on the third Saturday of each month just dying to get up out of bed and start the day by going to the Mike & Key General Meeting? Do you say that you can't decide what to do from the time you get up till the meeting starts? Welllll...have I got a proposal for YOU!!

On July 20th you are invited to help with a small project that Ted and I have going with the Seattle Mariner's. I would like to get together a group of volunteers to

do some radio testing in and around Safeco field and document the results for future events. Now, I can just hear you saying, "Gee, this sounds like a lot of fun. I wonder how I can get in on this?" Well, let me tell you how!

Let me know by July 15th and I will reserve your place on this team (I would like to have about ten people helping out with this so we can quickly accomplish the testing). We will need to meet at Safeco Field at 0700 and should have the testing completed in plenty of time to caravan down to Renton for the general meeting. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Flea Market 2003

Submitted by Michael, N7WA

This is even worse than the organizing the Holiday party in December. It's only been 4 months since the last M&K ARC Fleamarket and we'll be starting efforts to organize the 2003 events in the next couple months.

Normally, September is the traditional kickoff month for the Fleamarket but we are going to push that back a month to October. One, the activity level in September is greatest at Registration and Publicity and those roles are filled with experienced Chairs for which the meeting is just a checkpoint. Two, we have the Fleamarket reflector for enhanced communications between meetings. Three, several of the Chairs already have multiple duties within the Club and it would be nice to cut out a meeting.

All that said, we need the Chairs that are willing to stand up and continue their roles to reaffirm their commitments and would like to encourage others in the Club to join in. Even if a Chairmanship isn't open in the area you would like to work in, I don't think any Chair would refuse help. Mentoring is important in an event like this and we need new blood and new ideas. The day we (the Chairs) think we have it all figured out is the day this event starts to die. In particular, I would really like to see someone else come on Board and take over publicity (even if you don't want to be called a Chairperson). Registration is becoming a year-round job. From November to

March, it's a one and a half person job. I find more of my time going to assist Diane. I would be happy to mentor a publicity candidate. There may be other positions opening up as last year's Chairs decide whether or not to continue.

One more thing. Hal (as Administrative Chair) and I (as Publicity) have been talking about Marketing. I am sure we have some Club members that either have or know someone in Marketing that might be able to advise us on how to better market ourselves. We have seen a slow decrease in attendance for the past several years. Granted, we may just be following the general decline in Amateur Radio that is affecting the entire population but then maybe we just need to market ourselves better? We can't pay for a professional but maybe we are missing some cheap and effective alternatives as to how we publicize ourselves or adapt ourselves to a wider range of customer.

It's been said many times but I would like to reiterate the following fact. This Club has the cheapest dues around for a group of it's activity level. I pay \$25 to the WWDXC for a year's dues. I understand the Radio Club of Tacoma is near the \$30 a year range, Federal Way dues are \$20, and the cheapest dues I could find in my short search were Maple Valley's at \$16. This is only possible because of the hours you invest in the Fleamarket. You also get to boast that you are an integral part of one of the most popular Ham events in the Pacific Northwest. So reserve March 7th and 8th on your 2003 calendar and make a date to support the Mike and Key Fleamarket.

Software Classes

From the results of my straw poll last Club Meeting, it would appear that many members are very interested in having some kind of classes or demonstrations in popular Amateur Radio related software. Logging, Antenna, and Propagation software seems to hold high interest.

I am going to try and arrange for a session consisting of three 30 minute classes for a night in September. Keep a watch in the Relay and on the Reflector for

details. What I need now are some teachers. Is there anybody out there who would feel comfortable in spending 30 minutes describing their experiences and the basics of setting up and operating one of the following programs? EZNEC3, DX4WIN, WINCAP or VOACAP, Writelog, one of the new Digital mode programs, or something else that might be interesting to the group.

In the meantime, I will see if I can line up a date, a location, a projector, and some refreshments.

WinCAP3—a review

Submitted by Michael, N7WA

Despite the ever advancing technology of the age, some things are still beyond our ability to predict—including the weather, the stock market, the pennant, and propagation. Still, there has been progress in propagation prediction. One of the better packages out there is something we paid for—VOACAP and it's derivatives (ITSHF, ICE). These were developed by USA governmental agencies and are freely available on the Web. Unfortunately, like most government developments, the programs are not easy to use.

WinCAP3 acts as an interface for VOACAP/ITSHF). It allows you to use familiar windows type dialogs to set parameters and produces readable charts and reports. This is the 3rd generation of this software as produced by Jim Tabor KU5S. The first was a DOS based product and WinCAP2 was a 16 bit Windows program. Mind you, this software does NOT do any of the calculating, it only acts as an interface to the program that does and then interprets the numeric output. You can do the same for free just by running VOACAP itself.

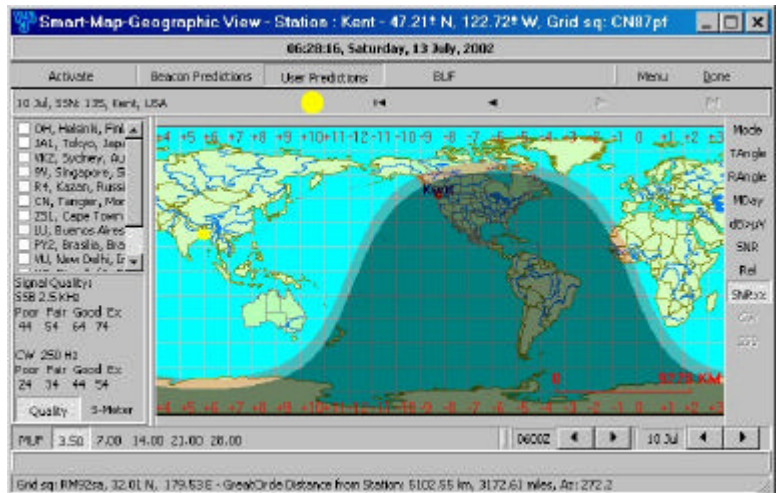
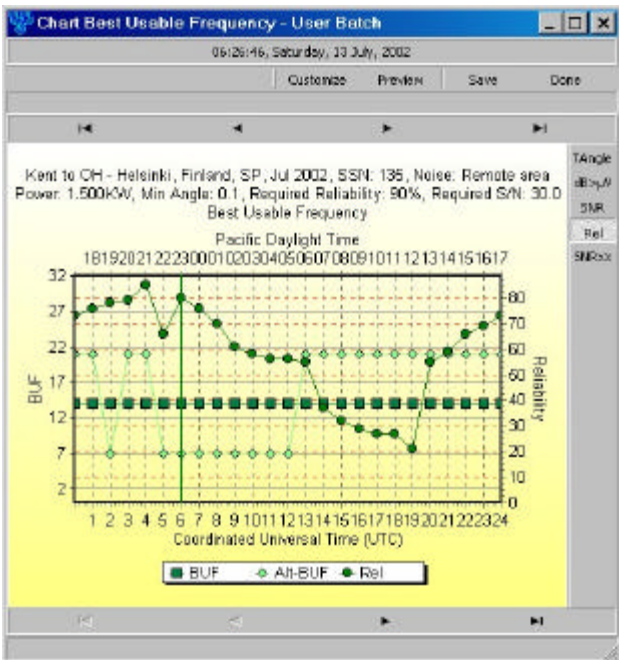
I purchased WinCAP3 just before the CQWW WPX contest at the end of May. I spent a great deal of time playing with the program during the test itself. I found the program to be quite useful but it became more useful as I modified the parameters to suite my station (antennas, power, desired signal levels). VOACAP was designed by the Voice of America for their use and the prediction parameters are skewed as such. I found it conservative—finding openings that were not predicted. Increasing the allowable parameters brought the predictions into closer alignment with what I was hearing. Still, remember, this is just a prediction model for propagation and like the weather, there can be misfires in the predic-

tions. (It also assumes relatively quiet geomagnetic conditions).

Where WinCAP3 shines is allowing you to set up the VOACAP engine. You can set up batch runs for various locations on the planet, reverse the path, and do long path. You can set various antenna types for specific frequency ranges. You can pick your report types and charts for output. There is a world map that can be displayed with a number of options. The program is still not as intuitive as I would expect from a normal windows program but it's a lot more fun than using raw VOACAP. For fun, I have been comparing the predictions with a another Tabor Software product called Beacon Time Wizard. It syncs your computer up with the internet and displays the NCDX beacon stations as they come on the air. Using a radio and the program, you can easily check propagation on 20, 17, 15, and 10meters by verifying each beacon as they come on. It only takes 10 minutes to listen to them all around the world. Checking the strength of each station on the radio versus it predicted availability using WinCAP3, I have been impressed (realizing the limitations of predicting propagation).

For support there is a reflector and Jim has been responsive every time I have asked a question. He has already made a couple of improvements to the interface since I bought it. There is a FREE 30 day demo. The download is big as it includes the VOACAP/ITSFH program as well. If and when you buy, the license is keyed to the one computer you register it on based on a machine ID value.

To check out the software (and other offerings which also have 30 day demos) go to www.taborsoft.com. I would be happy to help anybody set it up and reduce that learning curve.



Sample Dialogs from WinCAP3



**Pictures by
Jack Burrell
and
Ilona Kellison-Bullard**

Thanks!





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.

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July—August 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
14 RN	15	16 DA	17	18	19	20 Club Meeting 10AM White Center Hi U N7LEX 425-488-0905
21 RN International District Parade N7LEX 425-488-0905	22	23 DA	24 Greenwood Parade N7LEX 425-488-0905	25 PSN Ramrod N7FWZ 425-226-4115	26 Mt Lake Terrace Parade N7LEX 425-488-0905	27 TORCHLIGHT N7LEX Renton River Days N7LEX 425-488-0905
28 RN Des Moines Parade N7LEX 425-488-0905	29	30 DA	31 Board Meeting 7:15 PM	1 PSN	2	3 NW DX Convention Lake City Parade N7LEX
4 RN	5	6 DA	7	8 PSN	9	10 Auburn Good Old Days N7LEX
11 RN	12	13	14	15 PSN	16 Relay Deadline	17 Shoreline 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

