

K7LED

RELAY

Volume 30, Issue 8

Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club - Seattle, Washington

August 2002



President

Jack Grimmet N7IHS

Vice President

Jo Hallstrom KB7UFM

Secretary

Kim Wolborsky KD7FYD

Treasurer/Webmaster

Jim Eztwiler KD7BAT

Activity Mngr/ Newsletter

Michael Dinkelman N7WA

Radio Officer

Ken Rau K7YR

Trustees

#1/Chairman of the Board

Brendan Burget KD7IKV

#2 Barry Wolborsky KC7YB

#3 Steven Cook KD7IQL

#4 Mitch Gill K7TUT

#5 Alan Hughes KB7SVU

Web Page

www.mikeandkey.com

e-mail

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

Club Picnic

Submitted by Dawn Humphrey KC7YYB



Howdee! This is your intrepid Picnic Chair here! Our "special" doin's this year will be a prize for the best home-made ice cream! For some of you this will mean prompting your spouses to hunt up that family favorite recipe, and forgetting about the "diet" with all of the "no-nos" and splurge on the best ingredients that you can afford. However: If you have an especially good non-sugar, and tasty low-cal recipe that you can fool even the most astute palates with, feel free to take on the challenge and bring 'er on!

The next item of business will be the attire for the day. BRING or WEAR clothes that it won't matter if they get wet!!! We wouldn't want someone's brand new Sunday go-to-meetin' outfit gettin' ruind on a count a gettin' all WET! In fact it might be a good idea to bring a towel or terry robe to dry off with just in case.

Now, the over 50 (those who'll admit it!) crowd will be exempt from this falderal (if they really want to be). This is supposed to be fun and games for the WHOLE family, so providing the sun

smiles upon us like last year, or even better, we'll have ourselves a good old-fashioned picnic with our trusty camp cook and co-chef, Wayne and Diane, serving up the meats and the rest of you providing the trimmings that every good picnic needs.

Remember to bring something to sit on, maybe hats and umbrellas, and sunscreen, because we don't want sunburns to spoil the memories of an otherwise great day.

The club provides the utensils, plates, sodas, and meat, and mustard, anything extra in the condiment line you can bring as your contribution in addition to a side dish. AND Don't forget the HOMEMADE ICECREAM for dessert!!!

Where and when will all this happen? The date is August 17th, the day of our regular August Club meeting. The time is right after the business meeting as there is no scheduled program. This usually by 11AM. The place is Renton's Riverfront Park about 1/2 mile to the north and west of the Salvation Army. You may caravan along with others, if you can't find your way and also keep in touch with people going via simplex. The general directions are; north of the stadium towards Boeing on the left next to the river.

Club Events

Submitted by Activity Manager Michael, N7WA

Obviously, the big event for August will be the Club Picnic. This is always fun and you don't want to miss out on the fun events Dawn has planned or the appearance of the "Big Unit"

Next month, the Club program will be presented by former Club President, Rick Beatty, NU7Z. He will be talking to us about the local UHF/VHF scene. You may

have seen Rick's setup at Field Day and wonder what he was up to. September is your chance to find out.

I am still looking for a Christmas Party Chairman. Please contact me or one of the Board members if you are interested.

Enjoy what is left of summer. There is just barely time to get those antenna projects finished before Fall.

Tyler Gets His Tower and the XYL now has a Permanent Headache

By "King" 7 "TUT"

I have been sleeping on the couch for the past week and wondering if it was worth it. It started rather innocently as I overheard Allen, KB7SVU, discussing a TV tower that he was getting rid of. I immediately opened my big mouth and was mentally unaware that I was moving rapidly towards the couch. Tyler was not around so I can't totally blame him except that I knew it was his dream and he had been hounding me since he first got his license. Allen was happy to give the tower to Tyler and even offered to help put it up.

As the conversation went on, I took that last step to the couch by telling Allen we really needed 2 towers and since he had some to sell I would be interested when I got back to work. Allen rubbed his chin, thought for a second and changed the subject by stating that he needed some help taking down some towers and could Tyler and I help. I immediately agreed as I have no problem helping other Hams, I could learn about towers but it was Allen's kindness that really made the difference. We scheduled it for a few weeks out and I drove home from the Board meeting with a smile and a song on my lips. I was so happy, as a father, to help his son get something he has dreamed of. About half way home I realized that I was a great Dad but soon to be a dead husband.

I now had to make a crucial decision. Would I be a man and just state to my wife that the tower was necessary and would go up or, would I take the coward's way out, tell Tyler, and let him work Mom until she gives in. Being the typical Ham husband with a Ham for a son, I chose the coward's way out. I waited until the next morning and told Tyler that he had a tower and that we were going to help Allen take down some more as well. I also told him that we had to convince Mom. Tyler, being Tyler, was excited and stated, "Leave it to me Dad". I was relieved as we all know how well Tyler can convince Jan or I of the "need" for anything. Tyler and I were discussing where to put the tower when Jan came home from work. Tyler sprung into action like a lion jumping on its prey.

"Mom, guess what? Dad got me a tower", Tyler stated boldly while looking me straight in the eye. The smile began to creep across his face as he knew he got me, I was the prey. It's not that Tyler was trying to get me in trouble, he just has this quirky sense of humor and I have no idea where he got it from.

As for Jan, I watched with terror as that heavenly face I have loved for 15 years began to change into something I have never seen before. Her smile turned into something that can only be described as looking like a monkey when it's mad — really mad. I could even imagine the sharp angular teeth as I waited for the scream. Her eyes bulged, her skin turned red, and her

hair stood up on end. I was in BIG trouble and I had better talk fast.

"Well Honey," I sheepishly said, "Remember that I took down the antennas from the roof as I promised and we really need some place to put them and we can hide the tower in the trees. I will even paint it brown or green or whatever color you want." I was shocked as I saw her face return to her normal self. I was also relieved as she agreed since it would be in the trees. I believe Jan realized that it was Tyler's dream and she also knew that a hidden tower was better than seeing us put up antennas everywhere in the yard, even if it was just for a day. Little did I know what the future held.

Feeling confident again, Tyler and I met Allen and followed him to the location. There were two towers, a 40 foot Rohn 25, a 70 foot crankup tower and antennas all over. Tyler was enthralled with the dual 2 meter vertically polarized beams and asked a lot of questions. Allen answered them all and we began to go to work. If you have never helped Allen take down antennas and towers, you have to do come out and help sometime. It is a lot of work but very interesting to watch and participate in. I learned much. After stripping the coax and connectors from the 40 foot tower, Allen came down and pulled me over to the side. "Mitch, I always ask a parent privately but if Tyler wants to, can he climb the tower". I immediately agreed as I knew how safe Allen was and I figured that, in the worst case, I would own Tyler's FT 817! Now I know that sounds cruel but you have to understand that Tyler almost had me in the doghouse with his Mom and I was still feeling a bit testy. With a smile on my face I asked Tyler if he wanted to climb the tower. He readily agreed.

Allen strapped him into the safety harness and began to explain the rules. Then step by step he climbed the tower above Allen. He reached the top and Allen had



a camera and I got some great shots. But Allen did not stop there as he had Tyler help him take the antennas off and take the tower down piece by piece. Then he took Tyler up on the crank up tower that we had lowered to about 30 feet. I also had the chance to climb and help out and gave Tyler's poor feet a chance to recover. I asked Allen how his feet could stand on these towers so long

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

and he laughed and replied, "What feet?"

The first day we got the one tower down and some of the antennas. Tyler was now officially a junior Tower Rat. As we said our good byes, Allen looked at Tyler and said, "Don't forget your tower". Tyler looked at him with a kind of an odd look and then a huge smile came across his face. "Your Dad said you needed a second tower so I am going to give you this one". Being confident that I now had Jan in my back pocket, I agreed and we went home. While driving home I told Tyler not to mention a second tower as we had not picked up the first one that was still at Allen's house.

The second day we came out and worked on the big tower. That was the one that held the 2 meter antenna. Again, we brought down coax, antennas, cleaned the area and disassembled the antennas on the ground. We again said our goodbyes and again Allen shocked us, "Tyler, you were a great help and worked hard so I want you to take the 2 meter antenna". Now Tyler was as close to heaven as possible but he didn't stop there, not Tyler. "Dad, I am going to need a rotor". Allen again looked at Tyler and said, "Tyler, I am not going to give you a rotor but if you are willing to come over my house for a few days and work in my yard, I will trade you labor for a rotor". When Tyler wants something, he works hard to get it and he readily agreed.

When we got home we did some yard work and then put the antenna together as I did not want it to get damaged. Tyler called all his friends to tell him about climbing the tower and asked me if we could help Allen more often. I was suspicious that Tyler had other antennas or towers in mind but he reassured me that the only reason was that Allen had been so nice to him and he knew that he needed the help. Having raised Tyler, I know when he is sincere and when he is making plans and this was one of those sincere times. I have to give Tyler credit as he can be very giving and generous. He has helped keep all the kids interested in ham radio, given antennas and coax away, assisted me in presentations on different aspects of ham radio and volunteers his time to help others. Don't get me wrong, he is still devious, can be very lazy at times, and will negotiate for anything but I am proud of the young man he is turning in to.

Anyway, I digress. We have a 30 foot telescoping pole and mounted the antenna and tied it to the deck above the garage. Tyler hit repeaters in Canada and was really having fun until Mom got home. I was in my Ham Shack (the one that has a new door). All I heard as I hid in the shack was, "You have got to be kidding. This is a joke right? **MMMMM**itch!!!!!!!"

Tyler was so excited that he told his Mom that the antenna was temporary until we put up the second tower. We decided that since the beam is so big we have to put the tower out in the open away from the trees and

Tyler explained that to Mom with that smile I have come to fear. With those words Jan's face changed back to that thing I saw earlier. I waited for the scream but she said nothing. She merely went into the bedroom, came downstairs and handed me the pillow and sheets. She began to cook dinner and just kept mumbling something about having a permanent headache.

"Dad, I know what a headache is but what's a permanent headache?"

"Wait until you are married Tyler and then you will understand", I said.

"But Dad, I am never going to get married!"

"Why not Tyler", I asked out of curiosity.

"Because I want a lot of antennas and towers!"

"Why not marry a Ham Tyler?" I asked trying my best to beat him at his game.

"Oh Dad" he sighed with that look like I don't understand anything, "It's like you and me".

Now I was really curious, "What do you mean?"

"Dad, why do we need two towers? Because we have to have 2 sets of antennas right?"

"Right", I waited as I knew he had thought this out for a long time.

"Well Dad, first, it would cheaper if I don't have to get a second set of antennas which means more for me and besides that, there are only a few girls who are Hams!"

"Now I have a headache Tyler"

"Is it a permanent headache Dad?"

"No Tyler but it will probably last until you are 21!"

Authors Note: In all fairness to Jan, my XYL, she is actually learning to accept that Ham radio is a part of our lives but if Tyler was not a Ham, I would be lucky if I had a dipole in the attic!

SAY GOODNIGHT STRATEGIC PLANNING

Well we have had lots of interest but still only one person sign up for the Strategic Planning Committee. As the board year is almost half over, it seems we will be putting this idea to bed for another year. If anyone has strong enough feelings on this issue to wish to resurrect it and has 4 or 5 friends who feel the same way, please email me. Otherwise we will consider it dead for this year. Barry Wolborsky, KC7YB, liaison to the Ghost Committee

Geography and History

Submitted by Jo, KB7UFM



DXing-East of the Airport

DXing is a lesson in history as well as geography "in progress". So many of the countries that we learned about in school are no more. The land is still there, of course, and only the names are changed -- not necessarily to protect the innocent.

Where is Rhodesia? Yes, it's still in Africa but now it's Zambia, Malawi, and Zimbabwe — at least for now. Botswana was Bechuanaland until 1966. Botswana is definitely easier to pronounce than the latter. Tanzania is now Tanzania and the new country includes Zanzibar Island.

Speaking of Africa, Henry -- ZS6GH is on his way north on a trek of 9 African countries, ending in Ethiopia. This is his third try on this venture as the first two left

Henry robbed of his truck, radio gear, food and in the hospital for a while. No, he's not going through Somalia. We have heard how things are there.

Another country that is no more is Burma. Now it is called Myanmar. Rangoon is now called by the native name of Yangon. The city of Mandalay is still Mandalay, for now.

Mitch K7TUT and I both got Myanmar on August 4 about 1500 UTC with a nice pile-up on 14.245. We spoke to Yani XY5T in Yangon and he'll be there until the 9th and on all bands. From the 9th until the 22nd, Yani and eight other operators will be QRV from Ngapal. Hope to get Myanmar on 15 and 10 meters.

Uganda 5X, Azerbaijan 4J, Nepal 9N and the Democratic Republic of Congo 9Q will all be on the air for one to three weeks. On one map I have 9Q land as Zaire, so I guess we just have to depend on what QRZ.COM tells us as we surely can't depend on many of the maps. 73 Jo

North Kitsap ARC Hamfest

Dear Folks; It is time again to send out our invitations to this year's Hamfest on Saturday, October 12, 2002 at the Kitsap County Fair Grounds in Bremerton, Washington. We hope that you will be able to join us again.

We have sent out many notices via email, but may also send you one by "snail mail". Our flyer is enclosed with the specific information and it >includes a registration form for your use. >You can mail back your form and check to the address above. We still have our email address (nkarc@yahoo.com) and our website (www.silverlink.net/nkarc) so please feel free to contact us at either of those addresses. Reservations may be sent to us electronically, but please drop the check in the mail before September 30th to get the lower rate! After the 30th non-commercial tables will be \$20.00.

If electricity is needed please let us know; there is a small fee to offset the charge for the outlets and other equipment. Also, let us know if you want a certain hall area or table configuration and we will do our best to make it happen.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact us at the above address or telephone number. You can also contact us at our new email and website.

Thanks for your support of our Hamfest. See you in October!

2002 Hamfest Committee
Russ Swank KI7PG, (russwank@juno.com)
North Kitsap Amateur Radio Club

SCHOOL SCIENCE - CIRCA 2002

submitted by Fred Roberts W6TKV

The following are actual answers on a series of quizzes, tests and essays. Hmmm.

"Nitrogen is not found in Ireland because it is not found in a free state."

"H2O is hot water, and CO2 is cold water."

"To collect fumes of sulfur, hold a deacon over a flame in a test tube."

"When you smell an odorless gas, it is probably carbon

monoxide."

"Water is composed of two gins, Oxygen and Hydrogin. Oxygen is pure gin. Hydrogin is gin and water."

"Three kinds of blood vessels are arteries, vanes, and caterpillars."

"The body consists of three parts - the branium, the borax, and the abominable cavity. The branium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abominable cavity contains the bowels, of which there are five - a, e, i, o, and u."

I'MMMMM BAAAAAAAAACCCCKKKKK!

Submitted by Jan K7YH

Now I know you missed me last month, I had one ready to go and dumped it accidentally, so it saved you space in the Relay for something worthwhile. **POIT!**



I would like to address something that is new to some, ignored by many, followed by a few, and cursed by most: **PROPAGATION:** \prap-a-ga-shan\ n.: the act or action of propagating as: increase (as of a kind of organism) in numbers. B. Regions: dissemination. c: enlargement or extension (as in a crack) in a solid body. {Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary}. Kudos to Dink for sharing the forecasts thru the reflector!

Not in the dictionary is the relative ability for high frequency radio waves to reflect on the f1, f2, and f3 layers of the ionosphere. and there by be detectable by a receiver over a distance beyond ground wave effects. **POIT!** Associative words: Aurora, Sunspots, Solar Wind, Magnetosphere, Fade-outs, QRN, CME (Coronal Mass Ejection) and for youse who don't like long words- Darn Noise.

So what you say, why should I care? Well, I can think of many reasons. Interference on your satellite TV, warm beer (because the power is out), and can't do any DX or even close-in QSOs. What would happen if we had a big quake right now? **POIT!** No long-range radio, no MARS, No SHARES, no phones, and no help.

The cause of this lack of function in your radio, TV and a lot of other stuff is our Star. Yes, old Sol. Every 11 years or so, Sol becomes very active. As the solar cycle builds, Sunspots grow, caused by increased magnetic activity these anomalies, governed by the sun's magnetosphere develop, and when the time and conditions are present, the sun releases several million tons of material. A CME! Erupts in and from the magnetic field with such force it overcomes the sun's immense gravity. Comprised of protons, ions and neutrons the earth is initially bombarded with radiation. This burst of X-rays and Neutrons does little to the inhabitants of Terra, but the rest of the material does. The earth's magnetosphere protects us from the onrush of particles, which arrive in our orbit 48 to 72 hours. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS THE FLY IN THE SOUP. The interaction of the earth's magnetic fields, in defending us from this onslaught of particles, triggers geomagnetic chaos. This causes Aurora, geomagnetic storms, and difficulty in communications of all kinds. We experience noise; we have blackouts that may become severe. The Van Allen* Radiation Belts down to the F1 layer become loaded with matter from the sun, the solar wind that is comprised of these particles bend and distort the magnetic field, thus reducing the depth of the protective layer the magnetic field provides. This reduces the ability of the ionosphere to reflect radio emissions and

propagation is said to be poor. And the strange light in the sky, the aurora shines. No, wait a minute you say, the earths tilt illuminates the pole at this time of the year. Nea verily the aurora may occur right over your head, literally. When you see reports that people in Florida saw the Northern Lights last night, guess where it was? Look straight up!

So what causes the radio to scratch, squawk, and moan and not receive? As the onslaught of solar wind charges the upper atmosphere, it thins and stretches, distorts and looses its ability to reflect RF. The billion-watt RF generator we never hear because of the f layers begins to be (screech, groan) heard. And propagation is said to be yuckie!

I have tried to simplify this process into common terms. I am not trying to dazzle you with brilliance, nor baffle you with bovine excrement. What I am trying to do is spur your interest. How can you improve your knowledge? Well there are several excellent sites on the Internet. Solar flux measurements can be found at <drao.nrc.ca/icarus/www/sol_home.shtml> The Dominion Observatory, Penticton BC, The Solar Terrestrial Dispatch page, University of Lethbridge, Toronto <spacew.com> is excellent. Right here in the Pacific North west is the most outstanding site I have found <hfradio.org/propagation.html>. NOAA and the NASA sites are outstanding. If you want to watch the solar wind and read the latest, try <sec.noaa.gov/swn/> Written briefs on what is happening can be found in <spaceweather.com> anf there are neat things in their archives at the bottom of the page. Australia has a super site too, and they give forecasts for North America. You'll find their homepage at <ips.gov.au>. There is some very interesting stuff there, and on all of the pages I have listed. I encourage all of you to at least give it a cursory examination. You may very well become another propagation guru. Who knows you may become the next Tad Cook, K7VVV, of Seattle, the ARRL's prognosticator.

No humor this month but * James A. Van Allen PhD, Iowa U. more famed for developing the micro miniature instruments that enabled him to discover the Radiation Belts was my cousin. That's why, occasionally, I put the TV controller down and read a book, or get on the science sites on the Internet. **POIT!** Learning is a process that should never end, nor be neglected. It somewhat runs in the family, but then so does psychosis. Keep reading...you will be surprised what it will do for your mind.

Ching ching ching ching on my Banjo. Bo Diddley looking fer it...aaaahh found it. Chingaling. An I keep hearing those voices...I'm a Hershey bar, bite me; Snickers here, come gobble me up, Threee musketeers here, no calories, no sugar! Yaaaaaaa~!

(HMMMM, me thinks Jan has maybe eaten too much sugar today—ed.)

POIT!



Satellite Fever

Submitted by Mitch, K7TUT

If you have a 2 meter/70 cm FM rig, you can work Oscar 14. You can do it with just your handheld antenna but I don't recommend it. The simple solution is to build a quagi cut to 435.070 for receiving as your handheld antenna will work fine for transmitting. Now some of you may ask what a quagi is. It's simply a yagi and quad combined.

Now let's be serious here. All of you remember my 2 meter beam which ended up being resonant at 175 Mhz. And, of course, you remember my experience with the J pole when I almost burned down the house. So, I should not have been surprised when Tyler came into the garage, asked me what I was doing (which I explained) and replied, "You mean like the other antennas?" My immediate response was yes and then a quick NO, not like the other antennas, this one will work. Tyler merely laughed and ran into the house and told Mom to put the fire department on standby. I hate when he does that. But have no fear as this antenna does not require the use of fire.

I found the design on the internet. It is simply made from small PVC pipe and 12 gauge wire. It does not have to be perfect as long as you are close to the measurements. Remember, its just for receiving, not for transmitting as the uplink to the satellite is on 2 meters.

After building it I tried to pick up a few passes of the satellite but no luck. Lesson one, make sure that your clocks are set to the right time. If you go to www.heavens-above.com you will find the 24 hour forecasts for all satellites.

Our first real try came when Tyler got his 817 and we were at the fairgrounds because he was showing his horse (he has quite a few ribbons). I held the antenna up and pointed it towards the position the satellite should be and bang! There were loud signals coming from Alberta Canada, California, Alaska, Oregon and Washington. I almost cried. Something I built actually worked and the only accident I had while building it was when I dropped the pliers in my lap (do not ask!).

The only problem I had was that even though the antenna is light and I can hold it up, it was a little difficult to keep it in the right position. So, I took an old camera tripod and bolted it on. The last few passes has shown that it is the next best thing to having a satellite rotor as I can move it up and down and side to side.

As of this writing we have listened to about 4 passes even though Oscar 14 can come over 6-8 times in 24 hours. I have not tried to listen to the ones using CW and SSB yet even though Tyler has the 817. Our next step is to make our first contact and I am confident that it will be soon. We will keep you posted. If your interested or need some help, just email me at K7TUT@arll.net.

TeleZapper

Submitted by Chuck, N7BV

(Chuck saw this on a reflector he subscribes too and passed it along—ed.)

Are you tired of Telemarketer phone calls? Want a free and easy way to get off their lists automatically? You can do this easily without spending \$\$\$ for one of those TeleZapper devices to connect to your phone line. What's a TeleZapper? Read on.

The TeleZapper is a device that plays the first tone in the three tones that precede the telephone company's historic "This number has been disconnected" message. The telemarketing dialer listens for that tone, and when it is present the dialer assumes the number is disconnected. The result is the telemarketing dialer will immediately disconnect and will likely delete your phone number from it's list as well. But, if you have a computer with speaker and a telephone answering machine, you can accomplish the same thing. How it's done:

1. Download the 3 tone wav file from:
<<http://home.attbi.com/~dakine/sound/tones.wav>>
2. Put your Telephone Answering Machine near your computer speaker and play the .wav sound file you downloaded

using the Windows Media Player. Record the sound file at the very beginning of your outgoing message, then complete your voice greeting as usual. That's it! When a computer Telemarketer calls, their dialer will hear the 'DO-DA-DEE' and disconnect. They won't leave a message on your answering machine because the dialer has moved on to the next number on it's list. If the phone call is from a friend or family, and your answering machine takes the call, they will hear the 'DO-DA-DEE' and then your voice message greeting, after which they can leave a message as normal.

After perhaps a month of letting your answering machine screen all of your evening and weekend incoming calls, you'll have the same results as a \$50.00 TeleZapper. This will work on any answering machine, digital or tape based as long as you can record the tones at the beginning of your outgoing message. NOTE: This is how I accomplished this task. Instead of moving my answering machine up stairs to my computer room, I used one of those cute birthday cards that you can record a brief happy birthday message. I held the card near my computer speaker and pressed the record button while my wife played the tone .wav file in the Windows media player. Once I had the tones recorded on the card, it was easy to play the tones followed by our greeting in a new outgoing message on my answering machine located downstairs. Of course you could use any hand held recording device you may have to record the tones.

General Meeting Minutes, 07-20-2002

Officers present:

President – Jack Grimmert (N7IHS);
Vice President – Jo Hallstrom (KB7UFM);
Secretary – Kim Wolborsky (KD7FYD);
Treasurer – Jim Etwiler (KD7BAT);
ActMgr/Relay – 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 10:00 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: Correction to last month's minutes: N7MER is named Richard, not Ben. It was moved by Sam (N7RHE) and seconded by Jo (KB7UFM) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the Relay, with the correction above. The motion was approved.

Officer Reports

President: Jack (N7IHS): Nothing to report.

Vice President: Jo (KB7UFM): award presented to CarolynWv7q for 15 year membership, N7STR Chuck for 10 years, and to others not present. No new membership applications this month

Secretary: Kim (KD7FYD): Has mail for treasurer and two editions of 'The Logger's Bark' from the Radio club of Tacoma.

Treasurer: Jim (KD7BAT): Income from past month was all dues. Expenses were for field day and the Relay. We still have outstanding expenses for field day. The certificate of deposit rolled over, is drawing 3% annually. Jim has details anyone wants to see them. Please turn in any outstanding field day expenses.

Activity Manage & Relay: Mike (N7WA): Today's program is by Gene Underwood. There will be no program in August, picnic instead. Look for details in the next Relay. NU7Z Rick will discuss high frequency in September. Due date is 9 august for Relay. There was interest in the logging software class, Mike needs teachers. There will be a Sticky Fingers contest in September. Home-made jam and jelly contest for the September meeting, bring in samples. No cheating! Mike will be out in August.

Radio Officer: Ken Rau (K7YR). Nothing to report.

COB: Brendan (KD7IKV): Members, please come down to the board meeting.

Standing Committee Reports

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

Facilities: Steve Cook (KD7IQL): Nothing to report.

Strategic Planning: Barry (KC7YB): Looking for members, has 3.

Technical: Alan (KB7SVU): Nothing to report.

Public Service Committee: Brendan (KD7IKV): Mike Eakins (K7OV) is acting chairman. Committee meets at the Yankee Diner directly after presentation, please attend or visit. Dick Radford is in charge of Seafair Parade communications, has lost the signup list due to computer meltdown. Please sign up for upcoming parades today. August 3rd at 10:00 Magnolia parade is not listed on our schedule.

Education: Mitch (K7TUT): Nothing to report.

Picnic: Dawn Humphrey (KC7YYB): There may be a neat surprise at the picnic. Option of homemade ice cream, bring blankets and chairs, has moved to Renton Riverside Park, between the stadium and Boeing. Picnic is potluck, held right after the meeting in August, 6th and Logan, turn right and go up a couple of blocks, one picnic shelter.

Field Day: Alan (KB7SVU): Thanks to Steve and Brendan, band chairman, those who showed up. Total points 11,858. Steve has individual scores, will send in today. Hopes we all (including CW) get more people next year. Jack appointed Steve Cook chair for next year.

Awards: Michael (KG7MX): Nothing to report.

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.

Alligator Award: Dean (N7NKO):

Old Business: None.

New Business

Jim N7HKO asked if we may have a Booth at Puyallup fair? Not this year.

See Barry Wolborsky today if you want to be on strategic planning committee.

Ken Rau: Needs people for two projects: new cable and hoist crank for a tower, someone to go through and fix rotators. Would like to complete by the end of the year.

Steve Cook: Needs volunteers to inventory

trailer. See him. Jack volunteered.

Harry Lewis: \$181,900 grant from homeland security to ARRL for training.

Nils: ICOM751A transceiver. ZK1CG Victor in South Cook Island cracked two toroidal inductors. Needs an instruction manual. Nils would like to take digital photo of the bottom of the radio. Manual offered at meeting, he is set.

Looking for people to do RDF. (Radio Direction Finding.) If you have any interest, talk to Brendan or email the RDF reflector, WX7S@cfsystems.org.

There being no further business Jim (N7HKO) moved to adjourn and Brendan (KD7IKV), seconded the motion, Jack (N7IHS) closed the meeting at 10:30 AM.

Attested: Kim Wolborsky, KD7FYD, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes, 07-31-2002

Officers present: President Jack Grimmert (N7IHS); Vice President – Jo Hallstrom (KB7UFM); 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); Trustee #4 - Mitch Gill (K7TUT); Trustee #5 – Alan Hughes (KB7SVU).

Visitors: Nils Hallstrom (W7RUJ)

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

Motion made by Barry to approve the minutes as amended and seconded by Mitch The motion passes.

Officer Reports

COB: Brendan Burget (KD7IKV): Nothing to report.

President: Jack Grimmert (N7IHS): Nothing to report.

Vice President: Jo Hallstrom (KB7UFM): 3 applications: Brian Lepke (NJ7F), recommended by Jim Etwiler. He is a registered nurse and an ARRL VE, sponsored by Mike Dinkelman. Would like to attend field day, other activities. Jo recommends accept, Barry (KC7YB) seconds, passes.

Celco Serrano (KF6UTA), attended last meeting, Barry moved to accept, Mitch seconded, passed. Letys Bracho (KG4TBJ). Barry moved to accept, Mitch seconded, passed.

Secretary: Kim Wolborsky (KD7FYD): Gave

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Jim mail, including generator trailer registration renewal.

Treasurer: Jim Etwiler (KD7BAT): Report's unchanged since GM, income from dues. Still have past due members. Refund check from insurance company is in process.

Activities Manager: Mike Dinkelman (N7WA): August program will be the picnic, entries for the next relay due Aug 9. September program: NU7Z on vhf operating. Looking for teachers for contest software class. September, non-radio contest (homemade jellies or jams) at the general meeting. Mike won't be here for August meeting.

Radio Officer: Ken Rau (K7YR): New repeater is still on the water tower. Has ordered the amplifier, it should be here next week.

Committees Liaison Reports

Technical: Alan Hughes (KB7SVU): Has a chairman Steve MUT, will get a meeting together shortly.

Public Service: Brendan Burget (KD7IKV): Pushing for ads for booklet next year, hoping to get half paid. The public service committee would like to create a public service award.

Education: Mitch Gill (K7TUT): Potential chairman: Terry Dettman. Has a list of all the past members.

Strategic Planning: Barry Wolborsky (KC7YB): No written responses to last ad in the newsletter. Still waiting for emails.

Facilities: Steve Cook (KD7IQL): Planning to meet with Ken next week to inventory equipment trailer and tower trailer. Ken asked at the General Meeting for a work party to look at towers. Mike Dinkelman volunteered to look at the rotors, Alan Hughes will help with the crank up tower. Alan found the license plate for the generator, and brought the trailer here to transfer to Ken.

Field Day: Alan Hughes (KB7SVU):

Picnic: Dawn Humphrey (KC7YYB):

Old Business: none

New Business

A member pointed out we are past or near our 30th anniversary. April 1961 was original date, reactivated October 1970, so we missed the 30th anniversary. Coming up on 25th anniversary of the flea market.

Sam Sullivan is working on procedures and policies manual. Barry (KC7YB) will contact him for status.

Field day is the 4th full weekend in June, so will be 27th-29th in 2003.

World Radio, CQ, QST list places where you can get your license. Mike and Key isn't listed in any of these. Facilities is responsible for publicity, so Steve will notify them.

Jim Etwiler: License for the generator is \$50.00, we only have \$100.00 budgeted for all

trailer licenses. Jim will pay and change the address to Ken's.

A Boy Scout group in Shoreline is looking for a presentation, Jim E will forward to Brendan and Mike Eakins.

Nils asked, what are the plans for the CDs? Answers: Brendan: currently we are in deficit spending. We need to keep a prudent reserve of 20,000. Mike: We probably won't be adding to the reserve in the next few years, haven't added for 3 years. It is also used for capital expenditures such as the repeater.

Barry moves that the Public Service Committee be authorized to make a plaque out of their own budget for exceptional service to the committee. Discussion determined that the committee has authority to do this without board approval, motion withdrawn.

If there is any interest in participating, Ken Rau will talk to the people on the retired light ship (buoy tender) on Lake Union to see if they would like to have a club sponsored station installed. This could be used for Lighthouse weekend, other contests. Nils suggested this dovetails in with public service. Barry noted ties in to education.

There being no further business a motion by Barry (KC7YB) seconded by Mitch (K7TUT) to adjourn was made, and the chairman closed the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Attested: Kim Wolborsky, KD7FYD, Secretary

Subject: Electronic License Renewal

Submitted by Michael, N7WA

I received a call the other day from a frustrated member. The member wanted to renew their license. They filled out a Form 610 and mailed into the FCC. Well, it came back.

Over the past several years, the FCC has instituted a system called the Universal Licensing System (ULS). Every Ham was supposed to go out and get a ULS number in order to do business with the FCC. (The last I heard only about a third had done so a couple years ago.) Since then, ULS has changed to CORES and you now need a "FRN" number. (If you have a ULS number, you should have received notification of your FRN in the mail.)

If you want to do business with the FCC in the easiest possible manner, you should have a FRN number. You can get one online. Once you have one, you can also perform license modifications and renewals on line.

Here's the drill:

- 1) go to <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.html>
- 2) click on "Register Now"(CORES)
- 3) click on Register Now and continue

- 4) register with CORES (save your assigned FRN number and password)
- 5) go back to <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.html>
- 6) click on Register (CORES)
- 7) click on "Update Callsign" and continue
- 8) enter your FRN and password (continue)
- 9) click on "Enter Callsigns"
- 10) enter your callsign in box #1, click on submit
- 11) click on continue

Congratulations!, you are now registered with the FCC and are allowed to do business with them on line.

Renewal process

- 1) go to <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.html>
- 2) click on Online filing
- 3) enter FRN and password (continue)
- 4) select renewal/modification from drop down box >
- 5) select your callsign from drop down box

(A Java applet loads up - this may take a few minutes)
(Allow the applet permission to load and run if asked)

- 6) You are now in form FCC 605 which is a general form for everything (ships, planes, and even Hams).
- 7) Answer questions 7 and 8 on the first page (click next)
- 8) No need to change anything on page 2 unless you are modifying something like your address (click next)
- 9) Type your name in the certification to sign (click next)
- 10) Last page - You may change your callsign if you wish by clicking the appropriate box (either systematic or vanity)
- 11) click submit and you are done.

It's not difficult—just specific.

DID'JA KNOW? Submitted by Fred W6TKV

On July 6th, our earth reached its aphelion, the farthest distance from the sun in its annual orbit. Earth's orbit has an eccentricity of 1.7 percent, and so we are nearly 95 million miles from our closest star (the sun). When we are at the closest point, or perihelion, we are almost 92 million miles from the sun. According to the U.S. Naval Observatory at <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/EarthSeasons.html> the aphelion was July 5th and the perihelion in 2002 was January 2nd, but in 2003 and 2004, it will be January 4th. So if we're further from the sun, why is it so hot? And, how do we redeem our frequent flyer miles – all 587,477,000 miles per year?

Flea Market Meeting submitted by Michael N7WA

We are breaking with tradition this year and moving the first "Flea Market 2003" organizational meeting to October. So, DON'T show up the first Thursday in September and expect to find anyone. This doesn't mean there isn't any Flea Market work going on, we just don't feel a need for the meeting.

Video-conferencing VE Exams from the ARRL The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has endorsed experimental use of videoconferencing technology to conduct Amateur Radio testing in remote areas of Alaska. Meeting July 26 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the NCVVEC voted 6-3 with two abstentions to back a one-year trial run to be conducted by the Anchorage Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. Jim Wiley, KL7CC, of the Anchorage VEC told his VEC colleagues that it's very expensive to provide Amateur Radio test sessions to the thousands of Alaska residents who live in remote areas. The vote followed discussion on whether having a VE team remotely monitor a test session while an unlicensed individual proctored the exams on site would comply with FCC Part 97 rules. Section 97.509(c) calls for three VEs to be "present and observing" the examinees.

Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, pointed out that the VEC and the VEs are responsible for the proper conduct of the exams. He said that no rule changes appeared necessary because VECs already have authority to determine the manner in which their VE teams conduct examination sessions. Cross emphasized no VECs would be required to coordinate exam sessions using a testing method they were not comfortable with. "The conference was willing to allow the Anchorage VEC to conduct a trial in Alaska of the program it has developed after it describes the program in further detail," he said.

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

PRESIDENT	Jack Grimmert	N7IHS	n7ihs@aol.com	425-271-7955
VICE-PRESIDENT	Jo Hallstrom	KB7UFM	nazj.hams@juno.com	206-242-8271
SECRETARY	Kim Wolborsky	KD7FYD	bwolb@attbi.com	425-271-5799
TREASURER	Jim Ezwiler	KD7BAT	kd7bat@arrl.net	206-633-1512
ACTIVITY MGR	Michael Dinkelman	N7WA	mwdink@eskimo.com	253-631-3756
RADIO OFFICER	Ken Rau	K7YR	ken@foss.com	425-222-7711
TRUSTEE #1 (CoB)	Brendan Burget	KD7IKV	kd7ikv@arrl.net	206-362-4807
TRUSTEE #2	Barry Wolborsky	KC7YB	bwolb@attbi.com	425-271-5799
TRUSTEE #3	Steven Cook	KD7IQL	kd7iql@arrl.net	206-781-2293
TRUSTEE #4	Mitch Gill	K7TUT	k7tut@aol.com	425-433-1676
TRUSTEE #5	Alan Hughes	KB7SVU	kb7svu@juno.com	253-840-4947
WEBMASTER	Jim Ezwiler	KD7BAT	kd7bat@arrl.net	206-633-1512
Badges/Logo	Dan/Dawn Humphrey	N7QHC/KC7YYB	n7qhc@juno.com	206-243-0163
Field Day Chair	Steven Cook	KD7IQL	kd7iql@arrl.net	206-781-2293