

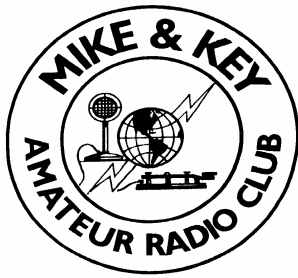
K7LED

RELAY

Volume 31, Issue 4

Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club - Seattle, Washington

April 2003



President

Brendan Burget KD7IKV

Vice-President

Sam Sullivan N7RHE

Secretary

Paul McElroy K7STQ

Treasurer

Jack Grimmett N7IHS

Activity Manager

John Long Jr. KW7A

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#1 Nils Hallstrom W7RUJ

#2 Terry Dettman WX7S

#3 / **Chairman of Board**

Steven Cook KD7IQL

#4 Dick Radford WA7NIW

#5 Dave Smith KB7PSN

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Reflector

[http:// groups.yahoo.com/mkarc](http://groups.yahoo.com/mkarc)

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QSL Manager

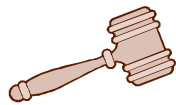
Jo Hallstrom KB7UFM

Logo Committee

Dan N7QHC and Dawn KC7YYB
Humphrey

From the Hot Seat

Club President Brendan Burget, KD7IKV



I'd like to start by saying how honored I am to be your president. I'm looking forward to a year of learning and excitement. Please feel free to approach me with any ideas or suggestions you might have.

I'm very interested in seeing all of our Committees becoming active. The first thing I'd like to see come to life is our "Technical and Special Interest" Committee. This Committee seems to me to be the perfect place for everything from home brewing to basic antenna setup. If you have an interest in anything "Technical" please get in touch with Michael Dinkelman.

Finally, while it is not the club leaders' re-

sponsibility to police it's members' personal interactions; I feel the following needs saying. It has come to my attention that certain club members are behaving somewhat less than appropriately at club functions. Our club functions (i.e. meetings, banquets, picnics, etc.) are meant to be occasions for like-minded folks to get together and discuss their common interests. Not for displaying personal grudges against other members for any reason. I'm disappointed and ashamed when I hear that behavior like this has happened in front of a visitor to our club. This does not hurt the person the malice was ultimately directed at, as much as it makes our club and our hobby look childish and petty.

Social interactions at club functions, when kept within the bounds of social decorum benefit us all. Contention among the members and guests are a detriment to all and provide a poor example for the innocent.

2003 Banquet Awards

Field Day MVP - Alan Hughes KB7SVU

FleaMarket MVP's - Earl Swiney W7ZH and Mike Eakins K7OV

Ken Jackson Elmering Award - Frank Henshaw, K7VMG

Pop Brown Award - Sam Sullivan N7RHE

Thanks to all of these winners for their efforts in the past year

Programs & Activities



The program for April will be a Powerpoint presentation on Six Meter's. While the program was produced by a third party, Brendan KD7IKV will be doing the presentation and answering questions.

This will be the first opportunity for Members, who weren't at the Banquet, to see the Club's latest purchase—an Epson

LCD projector. We hope to see the quality and range of Club presentation expand exponentially with this acquisition.

The May program will be another presentation by the Technical Committee on Basic Antennas—this time, a discussion of verticals. Bring your questions and knowledge to share.

Don't forget, Field Day is only 9 weeks away—make sure you have June 20-22 reserved!

Speaking of Field Day...

Submitted by Steve Cook KD7IQL

I'm getting an early start this year on Field Day. As of this time we are still looking for some one to come to the table and run the VHF station and we would like this person to be a technician class licensee. We are also looking for any new ideas in getting more points this year, does any one want to run digital? If so, let me know.

I would like to welcome our new 20 meter band chairman this year Curtis Hanner (N7MWC).

New this year are the GOTA Field Day pins and T-

Shirts. I will be taking orders for Field Day T-Shirts and pins. Pins are \$5 each and T-Shirts are \$13.95. This includes shipping and we must have a 6 shirts minimum to get this price.

If you are looking to make Barrack reservations, Rita (KD7CNU) is taking care of the Barracks again this year.

We are looking to have a good time this year and break our score of last year and get first in our class. I would like to have a meeting of the Band Chairs after the General meeting program on the 19th.

(Each year, I ask the new Officers, particularly first timers, to tell us a bit about themselves. For many of them, it's a scary thing to do. Yet, I think it's an excellent way to bridge the gap between Officer and Members. This month, we have two.)

Mike and Key Secretary for 2003 Paul McElroy K7STQ

Ham and shortwave radio have interested me for decades, but it wasn't until last summer that I finally tuned in. Taking advantage of a rare chunk of spare time, I earned my General ticket in August and my Extra in November. Now I'm looking forward to spending years exploring the delights of DX, participating in public service and learning more about the nuances of our hobby that a few exams can't really cover.

Communication has played a major role in my life. For 21 years, I worked as a reporter at several smaller newspapers, then as an editor at the Chicago Sun-Times and Seattle P-I. But I've always dreamed of writing books, too. In late 1999, I left the news business to test the risky

waters of full-time authoring. It remains to be seen whether that decision was courageous or stupid. Either way, I've enjoyed a fascinating ride since then.

My first novel, "Tracon," was a technically accurate thriller about air traffic controllers and the consequences of relying too heavily on technology. The book's authenticity led the National Air Traffic Controllers Association to commission me to write the history of their union, which rose like a phoenix six years after Reagan crushed PATCO in 1981. "Against the Wind" was released last September, and now I'm busy crafting my next novel.

Writing is a rather solitary profession, so I stay in touch with the outside world by teaching an undergraduate journalism course at the University of Washington every spring and fall. I'm also happy to be getting more involved with the Mike & Key Club, which I joined last fall.

My wife, Amy, is interested in ham radio but not enough to earn her license. I'm not sure about our yellow Lab and black cat because they haven't perfected English yet — although they certainly understand a few key words like "lunch" and "dinner."

Mike and Key Vice President for 2003 Sam Sullivan N7RHE

I joined the Club in June of 1991. I've served two years as a Trustee on the executive board and one previous term as Vice President. I first got interested in Amateur Radio in the late fifties through my uncle, Sam Sullivan, W6WXU (SK). His daughter, my cousin Joan, now has his W6WXU call but I never got around to it until the no-code Technician class helped overcome my laziness about learning code. My goal is still to learn code and up-

grade to Extra.

After three years of college, I attended a three-year electronics school, graduating in 1968. I got my commercial First Class Radiotelephone license in 1967. I worked as a broadcast engineer in AM, FM, and TV for three years. I then became an electronics technician for the Federal Aviation Administration. I retired in the fall of 2000 after 30 years as an electronics engineer with the FAA. I have been married to my college sweetheart Sharon for almost 39 years. We have three children and four grandchildren.

Hamfests — Courtesy Western Amateur Radio Friendship Association

April 26 Caldwell, ID. The Snake River Amateur Radio Club, KJ7XK@msn.com
 April 26 Idaho Falls, ID Eagle Rock ARC & Eastern Idaho UHF Society, wa4vrv@arrr.net
 May 2-4 Visalia, CA. International DX Convention, www.ncdxc.org/Ncdxc/Convention
 May 10 Portland, OR. Northwest Vintage Radio Society, www.nwvrs.org
 May 6-8 Wenatchee, WA Apple City Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, <http://w7aq.ykm.com>

Thanks!

Submitted by Jo. KB7UFM

My thanks to Mike and Key ARC members for tolerating my unorthodox Vice-presidency this past year. I didn't know what I was doing either so you weren't the only one/ones confused at the General or the Board meetings. I made many mistakes and, hopefully, learned something.

Congratulations Sam Sullivan. I know you will do a grand job as VP. The best thing of all was I had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed myself with nonsense at times. I wore the official Vice President 40 meter dipole crown (whatever) invented by Mark KD7KUN at the last

meeting and will pass it on to the new Vice-president at the Awards Banquet. Hopefully, it will fit the head of the elected. It didn't fit me so I had to wear my cowboy hat or a cap under this unique head-gear. Nils, W7RUJ, has secret designs on it and I believe Sam has come up with his own head-gear so we shall see.

I would like to thank all the folks for their best wishes concerning my health. I plan to be bugging everybody for a long time. Trust me, would I lie? On that note I'll share some good news. The tumor is shrinking!

Hot darn, that is good news.

Public Service Committee

Submitted by Barry KC7YB

Well a new season for the Public Service Committee. With the 2003 Public Service book out we will settle down to map our tasks for this year. Now is a GREAT time to get involved and help us map our strategies. For good food and fellowship (and a key to the gates of heaven), come join us immediately after the general meeting (12:30 PM) at the Yankee Diner in the Renton Holiday Inn at Rainier and Grady Way.

New Amateur Bureau Chief

From the ARRL

John Muleta recently began duties as the new chief of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, the bureau that administers the Amateur Radio Service.

Muleta takes over the reins from Thomas Sugrue, who announced earlier this year that he was leaving the FCC. Muleta previously was President and CEO of Source 1 Technologies LLC.

Oh gee, I almost forgot, it's March.

(But I did) and now its April!!

Submitted by Jan K7YH

Wow, another year is gone by, and do you believe in déjà vu? The Flea Market is done for another year. From what I saw there was a really good turn out, even though there was snow in the northern part of the state for the second time, just in time for the Big Show. Poit? Does this have anything to do with Santa Claws? (That's where momma says "Honey, you can have some money for that gizmo-fatchi, BUT I get to spend a day at Nordstrom's.) Well anyway, we had a good time testing. Saw some good-looking stuff there at the loading dock door including mint appearing Heathkit. And lots of people.

I know many of us read CQ and QST, World Radio, 73, and a bunch that have gone by the wayside, and that brings me to the subject of the month. Surveys! We all see the mailer in the middle, or a tear out sheet to fill out and mail in. They ask us all kinds of questions about our hobby and a multitude of other things. How many of you have noticed the surveys? Raise your hand. How many send in the survey, occasionally? Raise your hand! How many of you ignore the survey? Raise your hand! No, the other hand! Now, how many of you are standing up. If you are not, do so. All right, do you think there is any benefit for the publication or organization in publishing and compiling these surveys? If you do raise you're left leg! If you do not, raise your right leg. Do you think that the surveys benefit you? If you do raise your right leg, if not your left leg! Now all of you should be flat on the floor rubbing the sore spot you

just incurred.

Of course the benefits work both ways, the publications are able to respond to the type articles the readership desire, and you benefit by having those items of your interest published more often. In some ways, surveys are like those membership cards you get at the supermarket. They are to give you, the happy customer, more favorable prices, more congenial treatment, and guarantee that the store will have what you want when you want it. Poit: they are intended to track your purchases. The correlation of the data tells them what the local populace prefers. The sale price is a token gratuity for your patronage. You see, they tried surveys. Didn't work. I don't want to take the time to give answers to a little old gray haired lady in the vegetable aisle for her 20 questions, nor the dark eyed beauty that has a questionnaire in beverage department. (Never figured out why they didn't have some handsome hunk in the health and beauty products aisle) But essentially that is why and how they procure the products line now days.

But the surveys we generally ignore are valid for our purposes; we just do not take advantage of them. They do benefit us. After all, when the FCC asks for comments on a band's utilization; that is a survey of a type. Comments on towers and CCR's are also surveys.

I wrote a note to the ARRL, CQ and a couple of others to garner information for this article. I received a nice reply from WB8IMY, Steve Ford. Steve is the Publications Manager at Headquarters. It had a lot of good information

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in it. Bottom line is the ARRL finds surveys to be reliable and beneficial in selecting the material presented to the membership and has been used for several years. So, from now on, when you see a survey, take a minute, fill it out, and send it in. The band you save might be your own or the information it generates may allow you to erect a tower where one couldn't before. Had the others responded to my queries I am sure the response would have been much the same.

Nobody is ever satisfied; Poor men wish they were rich, Rich men wish they were handsome, bachelors wish they were married, and married men wish they were dead!

They say that love is blind—true—Its marriage that is the real eye-opener!

A true Southerner can point out to you or show you the general direction of "Yonder".

Nobody but a true Southerner knows how many catfish, collard greens, turnip greens, peas, beans, etc it takes to make up a "Mess".

Nobody but a true Southerner knows the difference between a "Hissie fit" and a "conniption fit" and that you don't have" them but "Pitch" them.

True Southerners know that Grits come from corn---and how to eat them!

Next month—how this po'old Yankee was introduced to Grrriitzz and why you shouldn't eat them! Or my first visit to a White Castle! (A survival tip, eat only what can be recognized as edible.)

Reading back over this, I am moved to tell the story this month, as it is next month, already! I started this last month, and now its April, tax time and Dink reminded me I hadn't sent this yet. *(my mistake—ed)* The events of the day cause me to hark back to the days when I was a young man. The infamous mid 60s, and I just finished 17 months in the 'Nam and was reporting into Fort Benning, GA. Ever been there? Good, don't go, it's a really strange place. Outside the Fort is Columbus and in Columbus is a restaurant called the White Castle. Yup it's still there. Featured miniature hamburgers, 2 bite size on square buns with onions for 15 cents...each. They are now up to 25 cents, 5 for a dollar.

Anyway, its 4AM I've been traveling all night, hungry, and tired. So I crossed the street from the bus station and went into the White Castle. Inside is a true Georgia Southern Belle who politely asked me what I would like. For \$2 dollars they featured sausage, eggs, hash browns and toast. I replied that sounded good. She poured a nice big cup of really bad coffee, Chock Ful of Chickory they call it. Before I transferred to the Army, I spent 5 years in the Navy. The Navy cannot, repeat cannot, even on its worst day make coffee that bad. Anyway I digress.

Bobbie-Lou busied herself at the grill as I was the only customer. Soon she brought me a oval plate covered with Hash browns, two beautiful eggs, two large patties of country style sausage, and a large scoop of white stuff! I noticed it certainly wasn't mashed potatoes, as the hash browns would have made potatoes redundant. My curiosity is now perked up and I asked: "s'cuse me, but what is that?", pointing to the lump of white stuff with lumps. She immediately bristled and replied; "thems Griitze". "Well, what exactly are Griiiteze," I exclaimed! Her attractive countenance now clouded with anger, she snapped; "Griitze is Homony, you know, boiled corn." I replied no, "I am sorry, I don't know". "I am not from this geographical area". She replied thru gritted teeth, "I thought you-all waz a Yankee"! I said "that looks like a really delicious breakfast, except for that lumpy stuff. Would you be so kind, and scrape it off of the plate please? I saw movement in the lumps and I never eat anything that may be an alien life form".

I don't know why, I didn't really mean to offend her tender sensibilities. Her eyes flashed under a furrowed brow, and I swear there was smoke coming from under her beehive hairdo. Even though I had the money and then some, I didn't have to pay for the meal. I really didn't understand her next act, but she grabbed the plate in both hands, and, shaking, raised it above her head. I thought she was going to remove the offensive white stuff, but she THREW IT AT ME! I ducked. The Griitze caught the sausage in mid-air and the eggs and hash browns hit me square in the chest. So, I beat a hasty retreat. Among her most articulate statements of indignity, I quickly found that she did know a lot of words. Words that all boat suns Mates know and interspersed with a whole lot of D...Yankees, she made her point. After I got married several years later, I found out why she threw the breakfast at me....Southern Belles just do not have a sense of humor!!!!

Ya all have a good day now, ya hear?

Limericks—last month, I ask for Limericks to go along with the April Issue. I only received two—but they're great. Hope you enjoy them as much as I did. My thanks to Barry and Kim

**There once was a man with long tower
and thousands of watts of power
he talked near and far, even talked in his car,
as his wife turned bitter and sour. -Barry KC7YB**

**A ham from Puyallup named Hughes
climbed up a tower so used
it rattled and swayed as he trembled and prayed
'til it frightened him out of his shoes. -Kim KD7FYD**

General Meeting Minutes,**March 15th 2003****Officers present:**

President – Jack Grimmert (N7IHS); Vice President – Jo Hallstrom (KB7UFM); Acting Secretary – Curtis Hanner (N7MWC); Treasurer - Jack Burrell (N7ZS); 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 – Dick Radford (WA7NIW); 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.

Correction to minutes: Name correction for Jim Monaghan (N7NKO) (previously spelled as Monohagn in last months minutes).

Minutes: It was moved by Sam (N7RHE) and seconded by Brendan (KD7IKV) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the Relay. The motion was approved.

Officer Reports

President: Jack (N7IHS): Recognition of the Flea Market Committee. The Committee gives recognition to others who help out, but without the core committee the Flea Market would not be a success. Hal, Mike and Diane get things started each year and deserve special recognition for another successful flea market. Jack also gave special recognition to the officers and trustees for their hard work and commitment to the club.

Vice President: Jo (KB7UFM): New members Tom Raymus and Thomas Great (KD7SCC) were voted in as new members.

Secretary: Kim (KD7FYD): Nothing to report

Treasurer: Jack (N7ZS): Jack reports that the numbers are looking good even though lots of work is still needed to clean things up after the flea market. We raised \$219 in the basket raffle at the country store, thanks to Dawn Hanner (N7VWH).

Activity Manage & Relay: Mike (N7WA): Mike is not present. Program this month is elections.

Standing Committee Reports

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

Facilities: Steve Cook (KD7IQL): If you have cabinet keys, they will no longer work as the keys have been changed. If you are a former officer and have keys, please return them to the club.

Strategic Planning: Carolyn (WV7Q), they are still in the formative stages. If you are interested in joining and helping set the future course of the club, then please come to our next meeting. They meet at 9AM before the general meeting at

Public Service Committee: Brendan (KD7IKV): More than 50% of the pamphlet was paid for by ads this year. Thanks to the whole committee for all their hard work on the pamphlet. The committee will be taking a break this month and will not be meeting.

Field Day: Steve (KD7IQL): Need help with the VHF station. The chair that has volunteered has no previous experience so they are looking for someone to help out with the VHF band chairmanship.

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. Several up coming public service events such as Ballard parade, and crew races.

Alligator Award: After only 33 hours the alligator was returned home to Dean (N7NKO).

Flea Market: Hal (N7NW). Total attendance at approximately 2600. 2000 attendees, 500 sellers and 100 club member volunteers. Expressed his thanks to each of the committees for doing a great job. Diane Dinkelman and her group did a great job working in rainy conditions.

Spring banquet: Dave (KD7PSN): Awards banquet will be two weeks from today 3/29 at Baranby's in Tukwila.

New Business

Harry (W7JWJ): Thanked the club for selling the equipment for Dave a former club member. Also, the Communications Academy will be next weekend at Shoreline community College.

Good of the Order - nothing

Elections

Summary of New Officers:

President: Brendan Burget (KD7IKV)
 Vice President: Sam Sullivan (N7RHE)
 Treasurer: Jack Grimmert (N7IHS)
 Secretary: Paul (K7STQ)
 Activities Manager: John (KW7A)
 Trustee #1: Nils Hallstrom (W7RUJ)
 Trustee #3: Steve Cook (KD7IQL)
 Trustee #5: Dave (KB7PSN)
 Trustee #2 (one year term): Terry (WX7S)

President: Carolyn (WV7Q) and Brendan (KD7IKV) are both nominated for president. Carolyn withdraws her nomination. It is moved and seconded that we elect Brendan by acclimation. The motion carries.

Vice President: Carolyn (WV7Q) is nominated and declines, Nils is nominated and declined. Nominated last month John (KW7A) and Sam (N7RHE). Ballots are cast and Sam (N7RHE) is elected

Treasurer: Nominations from last month Jack (N7IHS). Mark is nominated and declines. Jack (N7ZS) is nominated and declines. The motion is made and seconded to elect Jack by acclimation. The motion carries.

Secretary: Curtis (N7MWC) was nominated last month and declines. Dawn (N7VWH) is nominated and declines. Paul (K7STQ) is nominated. Motion made and seconded to elect Paul (K7STQ) by acclimation. The motion carries.

Activities Manager: Dawn Humphrey (KC7YYB) and Gary (KG7KU) were both nominated last month. Dawn declines the nomination. John (KW7A) is nominated as Activities Manager. Ballots are cast and John (KW7A) is elected as the new Activities Manager.

Trustee #1, Trustee #3, Trustee #5: Nominations from last month Nils (W7RUJ). Jim (N7HKO), Mark (KD7KUN), Terry (WX7S), Dave (KB7PSN). Mark declines his nomination. Steve (KD7IQL) and Gary (KG7GU) are nominated. Ballots are cast for Trustee #1 and there is a tie between Nils and Steve and a runoff election is needed. Ballots are cast again for Trustee #1 and Nils is elected as Trustee #1. Ballots are cast for Trustee #3 and Steve (KD7IQL) is elected as Trustee #3. Ballots are cast for Trustee #5 and Dave (KB7PSN) is elected as Trustee #5.

Trustee #2 (Special one year term): Nominations from last month Dan Humphrey (N7QHC) and Curtis (N7MWC). Curtis withdraws his nomination. Terry (WX7S) and Gary (KG7KU) are nominated. Jo Hallstrom (KB7UFM) is nominated and declines. Ballots are cast for Trustee #2 and Terry (WX7S) is elected as Trustee #2.

There being no further business Sam (N7RHE) moved to adjourn and Brendan (KD7IKV), seconded the motion, Jack (N7IHS) closed the meeting at 11:37 AM.

Attested: Curtis Hanner, N7MWC Secretary

Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting Minutes, 03/26/2003

Officers present: President Jack Grimmert (N7IHS); Vice President – Jo Hallstrom (KB7UFM); Secretary – Kim Wolborsky (KD7FYD); Treasurer – Jack Burrell (N7ZS); 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 #5 – Alan Hughes (KB7SVU).

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Visitors (Including incoming board members):

Dawn Humphrey (KC7YYB), Dan Humphrey (N7QHC), Nils Hallstrom (W7RUJ), Sam Sullivan (N7RHE), Gary Bryan (KG7KU), Dave Smith (KB7PSN), Terry Dettman (WX7S), Paul McElroy (K7STQ), John Long (KW7N).

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

Motion made by Barry (KC7YB) to approve the minutes and seconded by Nils (W7RUJ). The motion passes.

Officer Reports

COB: Brendan Burget (KD7IKV): Welcome to the newcomers!

President: Jack Grimmatt (N7IHS): We have a good selection for the new board, looking forward to the next year. Thanks to the current board.

Vice President: Jo Hallstrom (KB7UFM): Thanks everyone, has enjoyed every minute. Potential new members: Thomas C. Davis, emergency dispatcher, General, ARRL, interested in activities. Sponsored by Steve Cook, board approved. Stephen Luke, KB7FGB. Interested in field day and flea market, board approved. Leon Hjalmar KD7IMP. Just moved here from Utah, application signed by Jo. Board approved. Bill Barzarinni KL7BB. Board did not approve. Application for family membership: Terry and Rachel Martin, son and daughter of Kathy and Ryan Martin. The board approved. KD7QER Frank Walls, tech, interested in field day. Board approved. Returning memberships for KA7PBC and KA7VXN, Michelle (extra) & Joyce Basket (tech+).

Secretary: Kim Wolborsky (KD7FYD): Thank everyone for a lovely year.

Treasurer: Jack Burrell (N7ZS), \$554 in the hole as of February month-end. Running Quick-Books and Quicken, \$8,513 profit from the flea market (not including \$150.00 security bill). We budgeted \$8,000, so slightly over budget and definitely over last year. We have one expired member, Gerhard. Jack Grimmatt made a motion that we carry Gerhard until he comes back next year, Nils seconded. Board approved.

Nils made a motion that we have no more 2 cent errors, Barry seconded. Jack Grimmatt nominated Jack Burrell and Nils Hallstrom as members of the finance committee, the board approved.

Activities Manager: Mike Dinkelman (N7WA): Next relay deadline is April 11th, looking forward to input from the new board members. The April program will be a PowerPoint on 6 meters. We have the Epson projector, can loan out a laptop. Brendan will act as the presenter as Mike won't be able to attend.

Radio Officer: Ken Rau (K7YR): The proposal for the radio site on Rattlesnake has been approved. Tanner Electric unanimously approved the proposal, 5 year contract with an additional 5 years, 90 day clause to back on either side if there are problems. We can pay on an annual basis, can have equipment there for a try out for a reasonable length of time with no charge. Yearly cost estimate is \$100 to the Department of Resources and \$600.00 to Tanner.

The other site is on East Tiger where 220 repeater is. Cost here would be \$300.00/year. We will run the repeater there for a couple of weeks, then try Rattlesnake for a couple of weeks to see which is best. Rattlesnake will probably be better, although possibly not for downtown Seattle. Either way we will need to purchase a dual port circulator. The cost will be about \$350.00. Nils is willing to let the club use one of his towers for the temporary setup.

Committees Liaison Reports

Banquet: Dave Smith (KB7PSN): The banquet will be this weekend. Dave found out we have room for 60 people in the big room at Barnaby's, not 70 so it will be tight. 64 are signed up, all are paid. Dinner is at 6:00, happy hour starts at 5:00. Gary Bryan will be the emcee.

Technical: Mike Dinkelman (N7WA): Mike has fixed all three rotator control heads. No guarantee on how long they'll last. They shouldn't go where they can freeze or where moisture can condense, so shouldn't be stored in the trailer.

Public Service: Brendan Burget (KD7IKV): The public service committee rested last month. The Chehalis Amateur Radio Club would like to emulate our booklet. We will give them the ok on that.

Education: Dick Radford (N7NIW): nothing to report. From Barry, the Renton EOC is conducting classes.

Strategic Planning: Sam Sullivan: No report.

Facilities: Steve Cook (KD7IQL): Collected keys from outgoing board members and old cabinet keys. We have 5 cabinet keys, stamped 'do not duplicate' and numbered: carried by Frank, president, chairman of the board, facilities, and radio officer. Door keys carried by

Frank, president, chairman of the board, facilities, treasurer. Chuck Benefiel has all the perpetual plaques for the banquet. After the awards banquet they will come back here.

Field Day: Steve Cook (KD7IQL): We are looking for a VHF band chairman, technician.

Old Business

Jo Hallstrom was appointed QSL manager for the club last year. She needs a copy of the license for K7LED, so she can transmit as K7LED. She asked Ken for a copy.

New Business

The board would like to thank Dorothy Lowell for the wonderful collage she made for the flea market. We had a lot of new membership applications, and the poster had a lot to do with that.

We have \$200 worth of door prizes left over from the flea market. Jack Burrell moved that we give them away at the banquet, seconded by Jack Grimmatt. Board approved.

Sam Sullivan noted that we're down to 12 printed by-laws. Jack Grimmatt has the articles of incorporation and the introduction done, still working on the by-laws. Sam also suggested that we list the Pop Brown and Ken Jackson award winners on the web site. Jack Grimmatt will send them to Jim Etwiler.

Dave Smith is willing to act as alternate for the Webmaster, Brendan appointed him to the position of alternate Webmaster.

Sam would like to put our club activities in QST and World Radio, with Mike Dinkelman as the contact. Mike accepted and the board agreed.

Handing over to the new board:

Trustees: Dave Smith, Steve Cook, Terry Dettman, Dick Radford, and Nils Hallstrom. Dave Smith nominated Steve Cook. Board approved.

Steve took the gavel. Clarified Trustee liaison positions: Technical and special interest (Terry), education (Dave), strategic planning (Nils), public service (Dick), facilities (Steve)

Mike demonstrated the Epson LCD projector. It's available for education, the board, activities, field day, etcetera. We will inaugurate it at the banquet. Brendan will purchase a case for it.

There being no further business a motion by Barry seconded by Jack Burrell to adjourn was made, and the chairman closed the meeting at 8:55 pm.

Attested: Kim Wolborsky, KD7FYD Secretary

For the Good of the Order

Tom Ramus WB7OUT is looking for SeaFair Parade Comm Volunteers - (206)784-9243 or bc994@scn.org
(see your Mike and Key Information Guide for specific event dates, times, and details)

Special Olympics is looking for Comm Volunteers, May 31 and June 1 - Colleen N7LWZ ccurr@iGlide.net

General Class License Class, starts April 14th, Radio Club of Tacoma, W7BUN (253)845-7652
Extra Class License Class, starting Late April, Radio Club of Tacoma, W7BUN (253)845-7652

California—part one

Submitted by Jeremy Donomirski W7YG

It's been over 3 years since I was forced to move to Southern California by a job change and I've been living there ever since. As a resident of the Seattle area, I heard my share of California stories over the years. I'm sure you have also. So what's California really like, as seen through the eyes of a former Seattleite?

Geographically

Huge is one word that comes to mind. The state is the third largest in the union (after Alaska and Texas) with the 2nd largest city (Los Angeles). Interestingly enough, it also has huge tracts of undeveloped land, monster-size farms and lots of mountains. It takes several hours of high speed driving to travel from my home to Hollywood, for example.

Temperature varies quite a bit. In fact, between the mountains and Death Valley, you can have the nation's coldest and hottest points in the same state on the same day. Southern California residents are surprisingly good at skiing. I didn't understand this until I learned that Southern California has several ski resorts in mountains that stay snow covered all winter long. They also enjoy water sports, which makes sense. I see them surfing whenever I drive by Surf City (Huntington Beach), unless there is a beach closure due to bacteria (which is becoming commonplace).

The ocean temperature in southern California is quite cold for such a southern place, only a few degrees warmer than Seattle. Only for the month of August does it warm up enough to swim comfortably. That causes the temperature of the rain to be a surprise. I was in Atlanta one rainy night and the raindrops were warm enough to shampoo my hair. Not in California. In southern California, the raindrops are as cold as Seattle's. Normally, around 7 inches of rain falls in one year. Most of that falls in February and March. That's when the empty concrete-lined riverbeds you saw in movies like *Terminator II* fill to their brim.

The temperature in the LA basin in summer frequently approaches 100 degrees. In winter, it's 45 in the morning, 70 at noon, then 45 again come evening. The humidity is low most of the year. It's usually around 50% near the ocean, but much lower inland. The wind is usually from the ocean toward the desert. Occasionally, especially during winter months, it turns around and blows from the inland desert areas. These winds are called the "Santa Anas." Then the humidity drops to 5 or 10%. Driving during a Santa Ana wind is a challenge for me, as it dries out my eyes. I have to blink a lot and drink lots of water just to be able to keep my eyes open.

LA is famous for its air pollution, commonly known as Smog. You may not have heard that California has overcome much of its smog problem, thanks to low-sulfur fuel.

While gasoline costs more in California than other states (\$2.12 today), the air is the cleanest it has been in 20 years. It isn't bad at all in Orange County, but can be noticeable in the most crowded parts of LA County.

Orange County is where I live. It is located midway between Los Angeles County and San Diego County. Strangely enough, while those two cities dominate their respective counties, Orange County doesn't have a leading city. You've probably heard the ones that have tourist attractions, like Anaheim (Disneyland), Buena Park (Knotts Berry Farm) and San Juan Capistrano (the Mission where Swallows return every year), but there are dozens of others less well known. Some of these other towns are only a mile or two in diameter. For this reason, residents of Orange County generally say "Orange County" rather than a city name when asked by an out-of-stater where they're from. Web sites like Digital City list Orange County as a choice among their city choices.

What do I like most about Southern California? Smokeless restaurants would be at the top of my list. California law forbids smoking in public restaurants, although I understand that private clubs can allow members to light up. It's a delight for a non-smoker like me to be able to enjoy a meal, and possibly live entertainment, without any smoke in the air.

Next, I would choose entertainment. There are so many musicians and singers in the state that they end up entertaining for free (to customers) in coffeehouses and restaurants. Some of them are really good. Since so many celebrities live in Southern California, it's common for them to perform at the many live theaters, arenas and comedy clubs. If you're ever in Hermosa Beach, drop in to Jay Leno's comedy club. On Sunday nights he sometimes practices his jokes for the upcoming week. Periodically, you get a celebrity sighting, and the local disc jockeys report those. Myself, I've only run across Shirley Jones (Partridge Family) so far and she was very aloof.

I love the choices in stores. Southern California has a lot of entrepreneurs who open various types of specialty stores, like tools, electronics, perfumes. I've even seen a store that sells shining body armor, like knights of medieval times wore. The only difficulty is finding such stores. The Yellow Pages can only list stores within an 8 mile radius because of binding size limits, so a service like www.Superpages.com is especially valuable. Most things are more expensive, especially gasoline and housing while produce is cheaper. Cost of living is overall higher than in Seattle.

How entrepreneurial is California? One eighth of the entire nation's businesses are located in California.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

I love the produce, which is truly excellent in California, since this is where so many of the country's farms are located. It's very fresh. Although kind of expensive in the regular stores, it can be very reasonable at farmers markets and in an area called "Little Saigon."

Finally, I love the attractions. There's a lot to do on weekends. Although places like Disneyland costs around \$50 per adult, there are others that are fairly reasonable and fun. One surprising one is the Reagan Library, which takes an entire fun afternoon to explore fully and only costs \$8.

Once in a while when attendance is low, places like Knotts Berry Farm and Universal City Studios will have a "super sale," and reduce admission to \$15 if you bring a can of soup for the needy. These sales are happening more often since 9-11. I'm trying to work up the interest to visit the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, since I remember "Tricky Dick" in a poor light. I might get there some day but am in no hurry.

Next month, what I don't like and other personal perspectives including.... Ham clubs!

My New HamShack

Submitted by Mitch K7TUT

As some of you may be aware, we had horses. Two years ago I built a stall for them. Recently, we had to give our horses away as we are still not caught up from being out of work so long. I started thinking (you know how dangerous that is for me) that I could move all of the stuff out of the 12 by 16 wood shed and move it to the stall. I had already planned to put Tyler's tower next to the shed so why not make it a ham shack? It has a second level on it that can have sleeping bags and a TV and the bottom level is huge. I ran electricity to it and think of the savings on coax! It was going to look and feel like a true ham shack with my callsign on the front door. How much fun could a guy have.

With that in my mind I sheepishly approached the XYL on the idea and was astounded to find that she thought it was a good idea. I was stunned and then began to think that maybe there was something I had missed here. She never ever gives in to any of my ideas as she has seen the fruit of many of them. Let's just say it's never pretty.

Since we had recently had a slight altercation and complaints of my "not talking" to her enough, I decided to be bold and find out why she had agreed to the Ham Shack. I was also very curious. I should have learned my lesson a long time ago and kept my mouth shut but instead I received a list of reasons why she thought it was such a great idea.

1. Since I have to walk through the yard to get to the Ham Shack, I might decide that the lawn needs

mowing, the garden needs weeding, or bushes need pruning.

2. I will no longer have to yell to you in the garage over the static and dits and dahs to tell you that dinner is ready. If your not here when its ready, then your's will be cold.
3. I will no longer have to walk over cables as you experiment with different antennas.
4. I will no longer have to look at half finished experiments or that stupid clock you melted while trying to weld that antenna last year!
5. If I am mad at you....you now have some place to sleep instead of messing up the coach.
6. No more will I wake in the morning to the Ham Radio blaring through the walls.
7. Finally you will now fix the leak in the shed's roof.
8. No more holes in the walls of the house

My lovely XYL ended the note with the following statement: "So you see Mitch, I have no problem with your idea. I think its great but I do have one demand. You can put your callsign on the door but underneath it you have to put another sign, MITCH'S DOGHOUSE".

I have had the idea to move the Ham Shack for about a month but everytime I think to do it, I just lose interest. Maybe I should just leave things well enough alone but then again, it would be a great place to go whenever my mother-in-law visits. But that's another story. Let me just end this by telling you that whenever my mother-in-law comes over I turn on my favorite movie, the Wizard of Oz. As she walks in the door, I hand her the broom and tell her that she forgot to take it home with her the last time she was here.

Yep.....I think I will move the shack out to the shed.

NOTICE

One of our club members, who chooses to remain anonymous, has generously donated a brand new FT-817 to be raffled off at the next club meeting. Everyone at the meeting gets one raffle ticket, and the winner takes the radio home. How come? Seems he recently won a substantial amount of money in a French lottery (go figure!) called the Poisson d'Avril and wanted to do something special for club members.

FleaMarket 2003





Banquet 2003



2003 Pop Brown Winner
Sam Sullivan



From the Writer's Block

Submitted by Michael, N7WA

Whew! That run from January through April has always seemed a barn burner. What with the Fleamarket, school, job responsibilities, Banquet, Spring yard work, and the occasional contest; I really look forward to May and a slow down in the pace.

Towards that end, Chuck, N7BV, and I have decided an excursion is in order. (Can you say ROAD TRIP!?) Off to Visalia, the DXer's and Contester's convention in Northern California. Been wanting to do this for years. It's sorta like doing the West Coast Ham pilgrimage (versus Dayton to the East). Not as big and no fleamarket but full of the hard core DX and Contesting fraternity I enjoy hobnobbing with. (I even think Dr. Beldar will be down there in disguise.) I am really looking for a blessing from one of the true contest masters..... I think that involves beer, honey spread all over the body, and some feathers but you know how rumors get out of hand sometimes..... I'll let you know next month.

Another project in the works has been the "No Excuses Transceiver". I and Mike, KD7LAX, have been working on a copy each. This was a project I tried to get a group effort on but alas, there were no takers - except Mike. By the way, Mike is 14 years old and I think it's great he is treading where older farts fear to go. So far,

he has learned how to etch his own PCB - it took us two tries - and is learning the color code as he searches through a mass of several thousand mixed resistors to find the ones he needs. (I have a great junk box, but that doesn't mean it's very organized.) Fortunately, Mike has a Elmer right next door to help him out as well.

My copy of the rig is progressing a lot farther along and I had hoped to have an article written by now about the effort but a lack of space precludes that right now. I hope to help Mike avoid any pitfalls as he trails along. I do have a picture though. The coils and transformers have to be wound and installed next. You should have seen the reaction of the clerk at the sewing store when I walked in and said I needed a dozen sewing machine bobbins. I tried to explain I wasn't a sewing fool but a radio fool and these were going to be coil forms. I just got one of "those" smiles. Even the lady in front of me at the checkout register let me go ahead. Sigh, anything for radio.



See you next month and keep those articles coming!

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 \$18 for families.

Club Contacts

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Field Day Chair	Steven Cook	KD7IQL	kd7iql@arrl.net	206-781-2293
August Picnic	Volunteer needed!			

April-May 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13 RN	14	15	16	17 PSN	18	19 Club Meeting 10AM MKN
20 Easter RN	21	22	23	24 PSN	25	26 March of Dimes KD7KPZ 360-897-9015
27 RN	28	29	30 Board Meeting 7:15	1 PSN	2	3 Crew Races WA7NIW 425-828-9791
4 RN	5	6 DA	7	8 PSN	9 Relay Deadline	10
11 Mothers Day RN	12	13 DA	14	15 PSN	16	17 Nordic Days WB7OUT 206-784-9243

RN – ARES Regional Net, 8PM, 146.82

PSN – Public Service Net, 7PM, 146.82

MKN – Mike & Key Net, 9:15AM, 146.82

Contests

