

# K7LED

# RELAY

Volume 31, Issue 5

Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club - Seattle, Washington

May 2003



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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**



Field day will be here in no time at all. There are many facets to Field Day. In fact, if you ask 10 hams what Field Day is you're liable to get 10 different answers. One way I see Field Day is as an opportunity to learn how to effectively set up and operate a station in an emergency. We have members who enjoy contesting, DXing, CW, and some enjoy extraterrestrial communication. The point is Field Day seems to have something for every ham.

Not only do we score well every year, but also we have a lot of fun. One reason for this could be the incredible location we choose to operate in. If you're not inclined to stay up all night pounding a keyboard or calling CQ on a microphone, our Field Day has something to offer you as well. If beaches, historic gun batteries, and hiking trails at the fort aren't your thing ei-

ther, you have the Victorian port of Port Townsend just a short drive away. I guess what I'm getting at is that no matter what your interests are, there is something for at the Mike and Key Field Day. Without all the participation of our members and their families we wouldn't have nearly as much fun at Field Day.

This year your Field Day chairpersons are Steve Cook (a.k.a. Scott, Mark Jim, etc) KD7IQL, and myself. Both of us were co-chairs last year and I think Alan Hughes (KB7SVU) has done a pretty good job of showing us how to pull this off. We are excited about some of the opportunities this year's Field Day will offer. There are rumors that we may see new antennas for both 40 and 80/75 meters. See you there.

On a more serious note, this has been an impossibly hard year for several of our members. I know you all join with me in sending our hopes and prayers to those who have fallen on hard times.

### Errata and other Editor Miscues

Correction to reported awards made at Banquet

Field Day MVP - Scott Robinson AG7T

Then..... My computer blew up last week. I am actually writing this on Diane's computer. As such, I have lost some articles and some of you who signed up for Electronic Relays may be getting hardcopies because the last backup of my address book was created in January. So, if you wrote an article and it's not here, send it again. If you prefer the electronic copy of the Relay and you got this hardcopy instead. Send me an email. Aren't computers great?

## Programs & Activities



The program for the May meeting will be another in the "Back to Basics" series. This month, verticals antennas. I hope to repeat the high interest and repartee experienced in the Dipole edition. If you know nothing about vertical antennas, this is for you. If you know every-

thing about verticals, come kibitz and share the knowledge.

Next month, the program will be the usual Field Day preparation event - a chance to teach new members about Mike & Key style Field Day's and to clear up last minute plans. By the way, another mistake last month—Field Day is always the 4th full weekend of June. For 2003, that will be June 27-29. See you there.

## Turn out, Tune up, and Turn in late

Submitted by Steve, KD7IQL

Have you found yourself suddenly struck with the inspiration to build a new (insert favorite ham project here)? Or has your husband/spouse/boy or girl friend been driving you nuts by dragging out all of their radio STUFF out of this nook and that? Relax! This somewhat strange behavior is not a life threatening condition. They are merely signals that Field Day 2003 is almost here. So pack up the gear and strap the kids to the roof of the car.....or was that supposed to be the other way around? Hmm.....

For those of us who have been bitten by the ham bug Field Day 2003 will have all of your old favorites and a few new ones. Yes CW Beach will still be with us in 2003. We on the hill like to call the CW Beach folks

"Preservationists" . Oops, we digress. Also appearing this year, all your favorite bands from the past and maybe a few new VHF freqs. The G.O.T.A. station will be back for hams new to the hobby, returning after a long break, or those that never knew they had a ham inside them. There are rumors of digital, satellite, microwave, and other less conventional modes.

A real "Don't Miss" is the Friday evening potluck. Once we've transformed the bluff and part of the beach into a breathtaking display of ham radio landscaping. If you miss the tasty morsels provided by Wayne and the "Big Unit" don't say we didn't warn you. Bring your favorite dish and sample every body else's.

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## Members on the Mend

As you may or may not have heard, Nils W7RUJ suffered a heart attack last month during preparations for a trip. In actuality, that was probably the good news because if this had happened out on the road, things may have been much worse. Fortunately, Jo was on hand to call 911 and even tried a bit of CPR.

Finally, in Jo's words, ***Just a few lines to let you all know that Nils is now home, the hospital food was the last straw, especially the so called "hash brown potatoes". He is feeling great, all things considered after a 5-way by-pass and a new bovine valve replace-***

***ment. You always knew he was full of bull. We both want to thank everyone for the cards, emails and especially the prayers ---for both of us. From all of you, everything meant so much and as Sasi 9V1SM said, "We are all one family", no matter how far apart we all are in this very small world.***

Hope we see you at the next meeting Nil's and Jo!

### Another member on the Mend

Lyman Fitzgerald, KA7OES, a Club member who resides back in Maryland also recently suffered a heart attack and is recovering. Not much detail in the note I received but we certainly wish him a speed recovery as well.

## The Irish Dipole™ by Sam N7RHE



Since it's debut by Mark KD7KUN, the Viking Dipole™ has been the "official" symbol of the Vice President of the club. The Viking Dipole was passed on to Jo KB7UFM and most recently to me at the annual awards banquet. Though an elegant antenna, it just wasn't me. So, at the April meeting, the Irish Dipole™ made it's debut. Several club members were obviously envious, namely Brendan KD7IKV, Dan N7QHC, Jack N7IHS, and especially Jo O'Hallstrom, KB7UFM. However, the Viking Dipole will still be passed on to my successor as the "official" symbol.

Maybe I'll lend the Viking Dipole to Nils, W7RUJ, and the Irish Dipole to Jo, KB7UFM, who knows, a QSO may occur.

Naaah.

### **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 ccurrid@iGlide.net**

## I AM HERE TO HELP

Submitted by Mitch, K7TUT

My name is Mitch and I am a Ham addict. Now that's not bad if you are single or your wife is a Ham but if you are married and it is disrupting your family life then there may be a problem.

It is for this reason that I have started two non-profit organizations. The first one is called Hams Against Marriage (H.A.M). The purpose of H.A.M. is to encourage new young amateur radio operators never to marry. We will have weekly meetings with guest speakers explaining the hazards of being married and attempting to enjoy your hobby. During that sharing time we will provide information on how women will say that they don't mind that you have a hobby and then, once you are married, the TRUTH will come out!

Now I am a realist and I know that many will in fact marry, despite the help we are trying to give. It is for that reason that I have started a second non-profit. This one is called Hams Enjoying Nothing Probably Evolving Chickens Totally Eating Dirt (H.E.N.P.E.C.T.E.D.). This organization will provide handouts for those that have made the mistake of marrying a non-Ham. Below is a sample of the titles and brief descriptions of the handouts:

1. **Cell Phone DXing** – How to disguise the rig in the car so that she thinks it's a Cell Phone.

2. **Receiving QSL's** – How to use your neighbors address and what to do in case a QSL arrives at your home and your wife gets the mail.

3. **Early Warning Alarm Systems** – How to set up shack in the garage, hide it and then have silent alarms warning you of anyone approaching the garage.

4. **Clothes Line Antenna** – This is a great hand-out on making your antenna look like a clothes line. Now we know that most of us have Dryers in our homes but you can convince the XYL that the smell of freshness from clothes hanging on the line makes all the difference in the world. We have a smaller handout that goes along with this one titled, **"What Happens if She Gets Zapped"**. In this one we give you a list of excuses to help you get past this one. A sample answer would be, "Honey, I have it electrified to keep the birds away!"

5. **Using Your Children** – This one is my favorites. You get Moms favorite son or daughter to become a Ham and coach them on how to beg and plead for more. You have to be careful of this one as the child can easily turn against you (I have personal experience with this one).

6. **Getting Your Wife Licensed** – This one describes how to convince her that she needs a license for safety reasons. This one, however, could be a double edged sword as she may begin to enjoy the hobby. If this happens you will need the handout on avoiding scheduling contacts which I have called, **"If You Want Dinner You Better Give Her the Mike"**.

I know that this all sounds one sided as there are many licensed women out there whose husbands are not licensed. I have thought about this one for a long time, at least for several minutes, and have to the conclusion that the women need no help. As a matter of fact, most of them have some of the best shacks around since most husbands are keenly aware of the repercussions that could fall upon them when saying "No" to their wives.

In conclusion, Ham Radio is a great hobby as long as you plan properly. You can not just pick up the hobby and have real fun unless you are single, live in the mountains and have no visitors. But.....who needs visitors when all your real friends are on the radio and from all over the world!

## Wow; its May already and I been thinking..... Submitted by Jan K7YH

But then I try to do that a lot. It's better than the alternative, not thinking at all. Sometimes though that can get you into trouble too!

If you want to have a really good impression of a babbling, drooling, village idiot, get me into one of my favorite subjects: antennas! Ooooooh, aaaah mumble, drool, stumble, yagi, beam, wire, tubing and now tape! Yes I said tape. There is an excellent new antenna on the market now, called the SteppIR, made right here in Issaquah. Utilizing a system of fiberglass tubes with guides inside, the computer-controlled motors extend and retract the tapes inside the tubes to produce a flat match. It has

been receiving rave reviews, and will be at Dayton this year. Hmmmm, couple of years ago I was discussing my favorite subject with a friend, on the air. I asked: if one were to build a yagi, using motors as in the more popular vertical antennas, could you not produce a flat match. Seems like someone had the same idea, and modified it with great success.

Years ago, I thought the antenna was just a pile of tubing or a piece of wire; the real deal was in the tuner. With the right tuner you can load a bedspring, ya, sure, u betcha. Poit! the best antenna is a totally resonate antenna. There are many ways to accomplish this. You can take a bunch of wire, using rope to form the various parts, make a log periodic. Dean N7NKO and I tried it, liked it,

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and later Dean refined it to the present form he uses today on 40Meters at Field Day. Dean was the guy that got me interested in antenna building. Remember when he lived in Burien? His Datsun B2110 looked like a porcupine, and so did his house. But they worked, and worked well. He used to spend hours and hours cutting and trimming matching the antennas. His one bedroom bungalow had no less than 8 HF wire antennas.

In those days I had more money than brains, so I bought antennas. I had an ISO LOOP (AEA) on my motor home, until my buddy helped me, and didn't lock the boom when we raised it. Down came the boom. Down came the IsoLoop, and my nearly ?? dollar antenna was in pieces, mostly in pieces. (Never, never discuss money spent on equipment when your wife might read it!!!). Later, on the same trip, he drove under some trees and broke my triband vhf/uhf comet off the camper. He's not a ham and couldn't understand why I was crying. OK, so I started building with wires.

My latest project is a fan dipole, much like the one featured in the April issue of CQ. However, when I was discussing it with one of my antenna guru buddies, he mentioned a trick you may not have heard of, and it sure is a work saver. When building a wire antenna, instead of cut-

ting and trimming to a resonate frequency, simply loop the wire and attach a length of **80 pound test monofilament** fishing line. No insulator, no cutting, no trimming. To adjust the length of the antenna simply adjust the loop. Sound crazy? Just remember RF flows to the end of the wire, and if that end happens to be the center of a loop, so what. When it does resonate, simply torch a drop of solder on the loop twist, and it won't slide anymore.

Another idea that I cannot claim credit for. Want to make your screwdriver antenna into a horizontal with greater receptive coefficient? A long piece of wire with a strong alligator clip on one end, and an insulator of piece of 80 lb on the other. When you are in the campground clip the wire to the whip, throw the other end over the appropriate tree limb. The coil allows you to tune. It works!!! I've heard it.

QST also has a really neat little dipole outlined this month, Using PROAM antennas. Flea Markets are a good source if you can't afford \$40.00 plus per band. If you had several 10, 15, 20, I would suggest you install quick disconnects on the hub and antennas, that way you have a rotatable dipole that can be changed to another band without tools, muss or fuss. Another neat antenna in this months issue is a 15M 2 el beam called the Black Widow, and with a few modifications would also be neat on 10 meters. Check them out, you might like 'em.

## WANTED!

**Picnic Chairperson—see the Activity manager, John / KW7A**

*(another Biography from a new Board Member—ed)*

### Getting to know Trustee # 5

Submitted by Dave KB7PSN

Hi, I am KB7PSN, one of the many David Smith's listed in the local King County phone book. Although I share my name with an owner of an auto dealer over in Kellogg, ID; the author of the Melissa Virus; one of the people who got struck by lightening while loading to a trailer near Lake Tapps a couple of years ago; a few politicians from many cities inside the State of Washington; and owner of some real nice restaurants throughout the United States; I can assure you I am none of these people.

My story is quite different. I have been a software engineer / programmer for the past 18 years. Starting out as a circuit board designer, and finding out that there is more to life than being a career worker at Boeing, I left after 10 years to become a database programmer and started processing billable cellular telephone records. Then, after a brief stint in programming automatic phone systems that take care of the annoying telemarketing systems, I moved on to my current position as a web master

maintaining guidelines for various health conditions, working in one of the Downtown Seattle actuary firms.

I moved up from the Willamette Valley down in Oregon, attending a High School down in Lake Oswego, OR, and graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from a close Pac-10 college, Oregon State University (Go Beavers!).

When I started out as a ham 11 years ago, I had fun talking on many of the local VHF and UHF repeaters surfing the active repeaters and visiting with many of the regulars. Lately, most of my activity has been focused toward Internet activities, enjoying the many features available up there, even conversing with many contacts using the Echolink system.

Having spent much of the past 18 years here in King County, I have developed a great appreciation for the many climates of the Pacific Northwest. I especially like the coastal climates of the Northern Oregon coast -- there is plenty to do in many of the coastal towns down there.

It will be a pleasure serving as your Mike and Key Education Liason, Trustee # 5.

## General Meeting Minutes April 19, 2003

### Officers present:

President – Brendan Burget / KD7IKV, Vice President – Sam Sullivan / N7RHE, Secretary – Paul McElroy / K7STQ, Treasurer – Jack Grimmert / N7IHS, Activity Manager – John Long / KW7A, Radio Officer – Ken Rau / K7YR

### Trustees present:

No. 1 – Nils Hallstrom / W7RUJ, No. 2 – Terry Dettmann / WX7S, No. 3 – Steve Cook / KD7IQL (CoB), No. 4 – Dick Radford / WA7NIW

**Visitors:** KD7VEY / Mark Baratta; N0XAL / Joshua Books; KP7RIG / Bryan Chun; KD7TTI / Dave Fields; WA7OEE / Ron Henderson; KD7VGW / Ed Lane; W7IAG / Carter Powell; KP7UI / John Saunders; KD7UXT / Phil Sheridan; Vera M. Doss; Meredith Low; Jennifer Pasquier.

President Burget called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. at the Salvation Army Building in Renton, Wash. All members and guests repeated the Pledge of Allegiance. The president made several announcements: The Mike & Key ARC is affiliated with the ARRL, which members are encouraged to join; everyone, including visitors, should sign the rosters; visitors are reminded not to vote on membership matters; smoking is allowed in the parking lot but not in front of the chapel. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Quorum present.

**Minutes:** Motion by Jim Monaghan / N7HKO and seconded by Barry Wolborsky / K7YB to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay*. Motion passed.

### Officer Reports

**President** – Brendan Burget / KD7IKV: Raleigh Elkins / WB7WNF awarded 25-year life member award. Mike Eakins / K7OV voted MVP for the 2003 Flea Market.

**Vice President** – Sam Sullivan / N7RHE: He inherited the Viking dipole from previous Vice President Jo Hallstrom, but the style doesn't suit him so he invented the Irish dipole. Ted Roebel presented with five-year service award. Memberships pending for approval: Terry and Rachel Martin (no calls), son and daughter of Ryan and Kathy Martin and longtime Mike & Key meeting attendees; Stephen Luke / KB7FGB, advanced class. All approved

**Secretary** – Paul McElroy / K7STQ: The April edition of *The Logger's Bark* is available.

**Treasurer** – Jack Grimmert / N7IHS: Club assets include approximately \$3,600 in the general fund, a \$25,000 certificate of deposit, \$17,100 in the flea market account and \$1,400 in savings for a grand total of \$47,138. About \$11,000 of the flea market account is committed. Anyone who wants to see the club's financial reports is welcome to consult the red book.

**Radio Officer** – Ken Rau / K7YR: He will present a tentative contract for leasing a new 2-meter repeater site to the Board of Directors at its April 30 meeting. The contract is for five years, plus a five-year extension. Plans are to test two locations: the 220 MHz repeater site on Tiger Mountain and the Tanner Electric site on Rattlesnake Ridge. Rau prefers the Rattlesnake site because it's quieter; there is no broadcast and commercial sites are limited to 200 watts. However, the small size of the wood building may be an issue. Expansion may be possible. Nils Hallstrom / W7RUJ: The contract stipulates that the club can access its equipment 24/7 without being accompanied by a Tanner Electric employee.

**Activity Manager** – John Long / KW7A: Raffle prizes include an Easter chicken, volleyball set, small halogen lamp, ham radio guru sticker, electrical tape.

**Chairman of the Board** – Steve Cook / KD7IQL: Invites members to attend Board of Directors meetings at 7:15 p.m. the last Wednesday of each month in the Salvation Army Building.

### Standing Committee Reports

Those committees not reporting in the *Relay* are asked to report before the general membership.

**Technical Committee** – Terry Dettmann / WX7S: No report.

**Education** – Dave Smith / KB7PSN: No report.

**Facilities** – Steve Cook / KD7IQL: No report.

**Public Service** – Barry Wolborsky / K7YB: Meetings held after the general meeting program at the Yankee Diner at the Holiday Inn at Rainier Avenue and Grady Way. April 19 is considered the kickoff meeting for the year. The Jamboree on the Air for Boy and Girl Scouts is coming up.

**Strategic Planning** – Carolyn Pasquier / WV7Q: Meetings held before the general meeting at 9 a.m. Please join to help shape the future of the club.

**Public Service Communications:** Gary Bryan / KG7KU: Upcoming events include a parade in Oak Harbor and March of Dimes Walk America in Tacoma, both on April 26; Husky crew races on May 3; parade in Ballard on May 17; Washington Special Olympics on May 31-June 1 at Fort Lewis; Field Day on June 28-29; Seafair Torchlight Parade on July 29 (50-60 hams needed for 4-4½ hours). It's never too early to let people know you can help. All events and contact information are listed in the Mike & Key ARC Special Events & Information Guide.

**Field Day** – Steve Cook / KD7IQL: Looking for someone to run the VHF station. Wants a technician to volunteer; don't have to run the station, just organize it. Rita Danielson / KD7CNU: Barracks with twin beds are available from noon Friday until noon Sunday. Breakfast provided

Saturday and Sunday.

**Awards** – 2002 Field Day Chairman Alan Hughes / KB7SVU: Presents Field Day MVP to Scott Robinson / AG7T. Carolyn Pasquier / WV7Q: Compliments Banquet Chairman Dave Smith / KB7PSN for the wonderful job he did. Alan Hughes won the Special Service Award for serving as president of the Mike & Key and Tacoma ARCs at the same time, among other contributions. Frank Henshaw / K7VMG won the Ken Jackson Award (recognizing great Elmers). Sam Sullivan / N7RHE won the Pop Brown Award.

**Alligator Award:** Dean Holtan / N7NKO retains the award.

### Old Business

None.

### New Business

Activity Manager John Long / KW7A: A chairperson is needed for the August picnic. Please contact him if interested. Past Picnic Chairwoman Dawn Humphrey / KC7YYB advises reserving a location soon.

### Good of the Order

Nils Hallstrom / W7RUJ: Asks about listing Mike & Key VEC exams in *World Radio* and elsewhere. Sam Sullivan / N7RHE: Application filled out but he hasn't heard back. Brendan Burget / KD7IKV: We are in the ARRL State Section listing. Scott Robinson / AG7T: Testing time is listed incorrectly as 1:30 p.m. in the Mike & Key ARC Special Events & Information Guide.

There being no further business, Barry Wolborsky / K7YB moved and Mike Eakins / K7OV seconded a motion to adjourn. Approved and President Burget closed the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Attested: Paul McElroy – Secretary, K7STQ

## Board Meeting Minutes April 30, 2003

### Officers present:

President – Brendan Burget / KD7IKV, Vice President – Sam Sullivan / N7RHE, Secretary – Paul McElroy / K7STQ, Treasurer – Jack Grimmert / N7IHS

### Trustees present:

No. 3 – Steve Cook / KD7IQL (CoB), No. 4 – Dick Radford / WA7NIW, No. 5 – Dave Smith / KB7PSN

**Visitors:** N7ZS / Jack Burrell; N7WA / Mike Dinkleman; N7BV / Chuck Jones; WV7Q / Carolyn Pasquier.

Chairman Cook called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. at the Salvation Army Building in Renton, Wash.

**Minutes:** Motion by Sam Sullivan / N7RHE and

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seconded by Brendan Burget / KD7IKV to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay*. Motion passed.

#### Officer Reports

**Chairman of the Board** – Steve Cook / KD7IQL: Nothing to report.

**President** – Brendan Burget / KD7IKV: Nils Hallstrom / W7RUJ is recuperating at home after five-way heart bypass and valve replacement surgery.

**Vice President** – Sam Sullivan / N7RHE: The club is getting low on patches and pins. He has talked with Dawn and Dan Humphrey, who are looking for a new supplier. The cost should be less than \$1 apiece. At Sam's suggestion, they are pricing decals, too. New member applications recommended for consideration by the membership: KD7VEY / Mark Baratta, a General; KD7TTI / David Fields of Hobart; KC7EOP / Chuck Griggs, a tech; WA7OEE / Ron Henderson, an Extra and former club member; KD7VGW / Ed Lane, a tech; KE4ZDY / Gerry Ortolini, a tech.

**Secretary** – Paul McElroy / K7STQ: ARRL records have been updated to reflect the club's new president and contact person (secretary). Our Special Service Club affiliation with the ARRL expired March 29.

**Treasurer** – Jack Grimmett / N7IHS: Membership totaled 192 as of April 30. Club assets amounted to \$13,149 in the general fund and \$29,346 in reserves. The officers' budget is down to \$7; money will be transferred from the Board Discretionary Funds / Miscellaneous account.

**Activity Manager** – John Long / KW7A: No report.

**Radio Officer** – Ken Rau / K7YR: No report.

more help.

**Technical Committee** – Chairman Mike Dinkelman / N7WA reported that the committee is having difficulty getting people involved. Two members are working on the "no-excuses transmitter." Dinkelman is preparing a program for the May 17 meeting about vertical antennas. He is also looking into a technical presentation on transistors. He wants to have 5- to 10-minute classes preceding general meetings. The next *Relay* deadline is May 9.

#### Committee Liaison Reports

**Facilities** – Steve Cook / KD7IQL: Nothing to report.

**Strategic Planning** – Carolyn Pasquier / WV7Q reported that the committee has decided another membership survey is not merited. Experience from previous surveys is that the same recommendations are made, but not always addressed. They want to survey those who don't renew their club membership to find out why in order to retain members. Surveys were conducted in 1993 and '96.

**Technical** – Terry Dettmann / WX7S: No report.

**Public Service** – Dick Radford / WA7NIW: The committee is working on a new letter for prospective members informing them of various club activities. They are trying to contact the Scout Council to determine interest in participating in the Jamboree on the Air for Boy and Girl Scouts. Carolyn Pasquier / WV7Q: The club prints the Mike & Key ARC Special Events & Information Guide, but otherwise doesn't market public service events very well. She suggests upcoming events be put on the reflector. General agreement on this as well as noting upcoming parades in the *Relay* and on the Web site.

**Education** – Dave Smith / KB7PSN: The committee has one other member. Brendan Burget / KD7IKV suggests talking to the VE Team for

**Logos** – Carolyn Pasquier / WV7Q notes that the committee has no logo items. She knows a friend who can produce sweatshirts, T-shirts and coffee mugs in small quantities. After Carolyn obtains a suitable copy of the club's logo, she will solicit pricing information.

**Field Day** – Steve Cook / KD7IQL: Thanks to John Rehnstrom / WA7HQG for donating three power cables to the club. Most equipment is situated. The club is enjoying a good deal from Sanican, which normally charges \$110 per can and \$145 for handicapped, plus a delivery charge of \$30. The club is being charged \$65 for a normal can and \$145 for handicapped, with no delivery charge. Four cans will be rented. One each will be located on the bluff and beach, plus two at the Wagon Wheel. Alan Hughes / KB7SVU is donating a two-meter beam. Jack Burrell / N7ZS: Day-trippers will need to pay a \$5 parking fee, but anyone staying in a facility will be admitted free.

#### Old Business

Dave Smith / KB7PSN: He is getting information from Jim Etwiler / KD7BAT about updating the Web site. Paul McElroy / K7STQ: More content could be added to the site. It is also difficult to find some items, such as the *Relay*. Dave will generate a proposed redesign for consideration.

#### New Business

None.

#### Good of the Order

None.

There being no further business, Dave Smith / KB7PSN moved and Brendan Burget / KD7IKV seconded a motion to adjourn. Approved and Chairman Cook closed the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Attested: Paul McElroy – Secretary, K7STQ

## Field Day, a'la CW Beach

Submitted by Michael, N7WA

Ah, it's Spring time. When plants bring forth new blossoms, you no longer see your breath outside, small patches of blue can be detected through the clouds, and a young man's fancy turns to..... planting aluminum on CW Beach at Fort Flagler. (OK, so I'm not so young anymore.) Yes, that yearly ritual for the stout of heart and mind returns in June - CW Beach.

What does that mean to you? Well, it means you can get involved in REAL radio, the kind that involves the use of brainpower. Instead of flapping your jaws mindlessly, you engage the neurons and send as the greats of old did—using a key. Anybody can talk on a radio without thinking. (I see it everyday as people drive by using cell phones.) CW involves thought and thought keeps you young.

Seriously, CW Beach at the Mike and Key Field Day is a chance for you to come on down and try your hand at listening and sending CW. We usually have two stations. One for the old hands who want to run and another for those who would like a stress free experience in the CW arts. We have hand keys, electronic keyers, computer keyers, and mentors. You can try it for 5 minutes or run for 5 hours. You can even just come down and listen.

Now for the hard-to-believe part. We actually ENJOY ourselves. Instead of the somber and bored looking faces you'll find up at the SSB stations, we actually smile, laugh, and get excited. (All without the use of controlled substances.) We can't wait to get setup on Friday. We get on the air early. We try new antennas, new ideas, and have high expectations. Simply put, CW Beach is a passion.

Make it point to come on down and visit us; maybe even try some CW. You're always welcome.

(Continued from page 2) Turn out, Tune up, and Turn in late

www.ptguide.com website to find out what else is available.

**New This Year**

Washington State Parks have instituted a "A Natural Investment Vehicle Parking Permit". The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission requires a vehicle parking permit to park in state parks system-wide. The commissions set the daily vehicle parking permit fee at \$7 daily and \$70 for an annual permit. This permit is discounted to \$5 daily and \$50 annually until 2006. If you are planning on only coming up for the day you will need to have one. They can be purchased at the Washington State Parks web site or in person at the park. If you are camping in the wagon wheel or staying in the barracks your fees are part of what the club pays for use of the site

**Finishing Touches**

We are looking for a few finishing touches. There are 3 trailers that we need taken up to Fort Flagler ( antenna, generator, and equipment). Also, we need someone to get the gas cans filled once we arrive.

Our VHF station currently has no chairman. VHF is the ideal band for you technicians out there. Allen Hughes KB7SVU is donating a 2 meter beam to the club, and there are plenty of radios and other equipment available. New hams are encouraged as there will be quite a bit of help available

**The Un-Afflicted**

For those of you who are non-hams there are many activities to do and sites to see. Fort Flagler has places to explore and beautiful beach views. If you're a looking for something a little more adventurous, the Victorian seaport of Port Townsend is only minutes away. If you have the urge to go sea kayaking, or simply feel grabbing an ice cream cone and reading by the water then Port Townsend is the place for you. Go to the

If you are willing to help with any of these please get in touch with either Steve Cook or Brendan Burget

**Things To Bring**

Sunscreen, bug repellent, warm clothing, rain gear, extra blanket, flashlights, handi-talkie, spare batteries (don't forget extras for your HT too), food and snacks, ice, drinks, pot-luck dish for Friday night, camping gear (if needed), matches, first aid kit, XYL, and the rest of the family.



**"The baby just said,  
'Don't even think of naming me Trevor!'"**

Fred / N7PZ found this on his desk calendar and thought he might share it with all. He told me the caption should be changed to "N7WA, in the womb." Frankly, I just don't get it.

**Visalia Trip Highlights by Michael, N7WA**



Fred Roberts, W6TKV, California (we won't hold that against him) Club Member. Fred plans to be here for Field Day.

BIG Iron! A Force 12, 2 element 80 Meter Yagi on a US Tower crankup display at the US Towers BBQ. (Yes, I said 80 Meters!)



Club Member Pete Hedberg K7WTG who actually won a gift certificate at the Saturday Banquet.

## From the Writer's Block

Submitted by Michael, N7WA

This Relay is a bit thin. Partially, that's my fault. My computer crash lost the last part of Jeremy's fine article musing about living in California and Mitch had another escapade I was holding from last month. Hopefully we can have both next month. Meanwhile, the rest of you can write too.

From the sound of it, there was a larger than usual attendance at the last meeting. Seems like some came because of an article in the **APRIL** Relay. Something about a Club member winning some money in a French **Poisson d'Avril** lottery. Poisson d'Avril literally means "April Fish" and has some interesting history behind it which you can find on the Internet. The short version is that it is the French way of saying April Fool! I thought I was being pretty obvious (who's ever heard of a French lottery?) Member Fred Roberts W6TKV actually came up with the idea though he told me I was supposed to actually be at the meeting, hand out tickets, and an envelope with the winning April Fool announcement. A'las, I couldn't be there but maybe that was better for my own safety.

Speaking of Fred (who lives in California), I finally met him personally down at Visalia during the International DX Convention along with a huge number of others I have only met over the air during my various contesting efforts. Everywhere I turned, there were DXing and Contesting greats. It was pretty overwhelming for this Contesting hick

from the Pacific Northwest backwaters. Non-the-less, I managed to stick out my hand a few times and have a few faces to put with those calls now. Chuck, N7BV who was my traveling partner, also managed to reunite with some friends from days of old.

I know that Nils and Jo had planned to go down. It would have been a blast to see Jo plow through that crowd. I can guarantee, there were no other YL's in her league and she would have left quite the impression (especially with the Viking dipole). The only other Mike & Keyer I found was Pete Hedberg. Guess he has been to quite a number of these events. Did find a number of Western Washington DX Club members. By the way, it rained the whole time we were there. Felt just like home.

I never did get that blessing I was looking for - the one that involved honey, feathers, and beer... lots of beer. Just as well, I guess. However, I did see a picture of a special garden where they grow Wolff Hongs. I always wondered where they came from - it seems they grow them down there in the Sacramento Valley. It was an amazing sight, rows of tiny little Wolff Hongs just waiting to be harvested for use against lids.

While we took two days to get down to Visalia, Chuck and I burned the roads up for over 15 straight hours on the way back. Killer trip. I think I'll be going back. Maybe not next year but in maybe 2 or 3. If you enjoy Dxing or contesting - give Visalia a try.

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

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Brendan Burget	KD7IKV	kd7ikv@arrl.net	206-362-4807
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<b>QSL Manager</b>	Jo Hallstrom	KB7UFM	nazj.hams@juno.com	206-242-8271
<b>August Picnic</b>	<b>Volunteer needed!</b>			



# May– June 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11 RN	12	13	14	15 PSN	16	17 <b>Club Meeting 10AM</b>  MKN
18 RN	19	20	21	22 PSN	23 CQWW CW WPX	24 CQWW CW WPX
25 CQWW CW WPX RN	26	27	28 <b>Board Meeting 7:15</b>	29 PSN	30	31 Special Olympics N7LEX 425-488-0905
1 Special Olympics N7LEX 425-488-0905 RN	2	3 DA	4	5 PSN	6	7 Salty Sea Days WB7OUT 206-784-9243
8 RN	9	10 DA	11	12 PSN	13 <b>Relay Deadline</b>	14 Strawberry Festival 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**

