



Jo taught us to make each day count

Brendan Burget / KD7IKV

President

Usually, as the lazy days of summer wane, I find myself lamenting all of those things that I could have done or could have said. Or people I was planning to spend more time with but didn't.

This summer that feeling is even greater, especially in the people department. This year we have all lost a very special person: Jo Hallstrom, KB7UFM, has gone silent key.

My memories of Jo are fond, indeed. When I was new to the Club, she was always friendly and made me feel welcome. I'm not sure that I can remember very many Club events where she was not present.

Jo, it seemed to me, always had a warm smile and a kind word when I needed to hear one. And a sense of humor. I think you'll all remember the "Viking Dipole." I have more warm and treasured memories that I don't have the skill to put into



From the Hot Seat

words. In my heart, she will always hold a golden place.

There will forever be a hole unfilled for us in the Mike & Key, those in the DX world in which she was so active, and all those who were lucky enough to have met her. I know that

somewhere in the heavens, Jo is burning up the airwaves and catching some great DX.

So take her passing as a reminder that our time on this earth is finite. Let's try not to squander it on things that don't really matter. Think of all we could accomplish were we to succeed.

We'll miss you Jo. 73.

A poignant tribute by N7WA is on Page 3.

Inside the Edition

Timely advice on keeping your PC free of viruses and worms — **page 4.**

The first volley in the debate over dropping the Morse Code requirement — **pages 6 and 7.**

Swapmeets around the region this fall — **page 8.**

A new electronics store opens in Renton — **page 9**

Learn about SteppIR's monobeam

A representative from SteppIR Antennas will be on hand at the September general meeting to explain and demonstrate the company's unusual three-element monobeam.

Coming up on the weekend of Oct. 18-19 is your chance to introduce Boy Scouts to Ham radio by participating in the Jamboree on the Air at Fire Mountain Scout Camp in Walker Valley near Mount Vernon.

Volunteers are still needed. If you're interested, contact a

Programs & Activities

member of the Public Service Committee.

And for those who haven't attended a general meeting lately, the Club has introduced a \$5 raffle to augment the longstanding \$1 grab bag of prizes. The high-end raffle is being held every other month and holds the promise of a fancier prize for those who are willing to take a chance.



The *K7LED Relay*, published monthly, is the official newsletter of the Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club. Mike & Key ARC is an ARRL-affiliated club dedicated to the growth and betterment of amateur radio.

The club meets at 10 A.M. the third Saturday of every month at Salvation Army Headquarters, 720 S. Tobin Street, in Renton (near the southeast corner of Renton Airport). Anyone interested in amateur radio is invited to participate in the Mike & Key ARC and its activities. Annual dues are \$12 for individuals and \$18 for families.



Postal Address

P.O. Box 4234
Renton, WA 98057-4234

K7LED Repeaters

146.82 output / 146.22 input (PL 103.5)
Squak Mountain

224.120 output / 222.520 input (PL 103.5)
Tiger Mountain

Web Site

www.mikeandkey.com

E-mail

info@mikeandkey.com

Re actor

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

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Several club resources are available electronically:

Web: The club's site at www.mikeandkey.com includes extensive information about club events, VEC testing, membership, past editions of the *Relay* and more.

Mike & Key Online

Reflector: The public message board offers an easy and free way to converse with club members. To sign up, surf to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/mkarc>.

E-Relay: Want the newsletter in color and a day or two before the print edition arrives in the mail? You'll also help the Club save money in printing and postage costs.

To sign up, send a message to the editor: k7stq@arrl.net.

Silent key: Tribute to a high-spirited Club Ham

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

Senior Contributing Editor

Early on the morning of September 6th, the Mike & Key ARC lost one of its more colorful and beloved members, Zita Jo Hallstrom, to a nearly yearlong battle with lung cancer.

She was 70 years old. A memorial was held Wednesday, Sept. 10th, at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Tukwila.

Jo fought the cancer with a positive attitude that bordered on wonderful.

Until recently, it was even felt she was in remission until the latest aggressive attacks and setbacks. Just four weeks ago—at the last regular Club meeting—Jo was off chemotherapy, her hair was growing back and she felt physically wonderful. To hear differently just a couple of weeks later was a shock.

I don't know much about Jo's early life, but she certainly made a splash in the Mike & Key. Jo had been a regular in Club activities as a result of her husband, Nils', membership long before she ever joined. However, she became a full member in March 1992.

At first, Jo had no license and, probably, little interest in becoming a Ham. Still, she was a lot of fun as non-Hams go. Her

sharp wit, outgoing personality and juxtaposition with Nils made her a natural for the Mike and Key ARC.

I don't know what changed her mind, but by mid-1993 she had earned a Technician license. That date is burned into my mind because within the thousands of QSL cards I have stuffed in shoeboxes, there is a special and unique one now sitting on the desk before me.

This card is for a QSO between KB7UFM and WA7UVJ, on

2-meter FM on the Mike & Key Repeater. I remember the QSO well as I was bicycle mobile and she made me promise I would send a QSL card. Let me assure you, this is the only QSL exchange I

have ever made for any 2-meter contact, FM or otherwise, never mind for a repeater-type QSO.

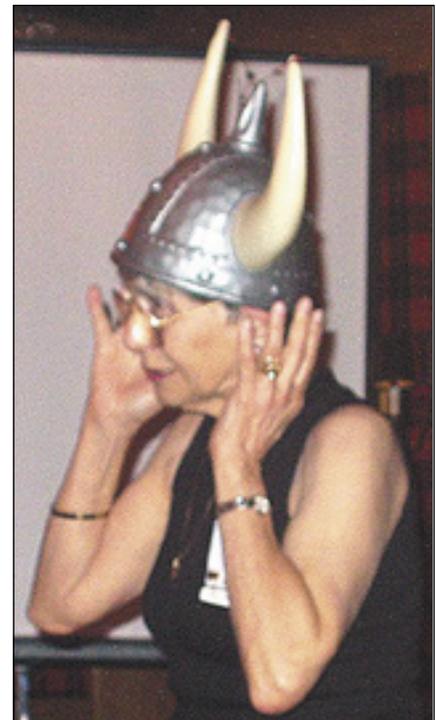
Jo was rather unconventional that way and I treasure the card. I wouldn't be surprised if quite a few of you have such a card.

Jo didn't stay a Technician. With a supporting husband, maybe a little help from the FCC in the way of CW deregulation, but mostly her own determination, Jo finally claimed Extra Class in February 2003.

Long before that, though, Jo attained HF privileges and started making great use of them by

““

If there is any doubt as to the effect she had on the air, check out the number of times her call has been looked up on QRZ.com — 450.



Diane Dinkelman

KB7UFM's fun-loving personality was renowned. In a nod to Swedish heritage, Jo modeled her "Viking dipole" at the 2003 Awards Banquet.

discovering the world of DXing. Jo wasn't your average DXer who collected countries and forgot them. She would get on the air and make friends with people in foreign countries by learning about them personally.

One proof to this is that Jo is the only person known in the past 20 years to have earned the Mike & Key Friendship Award. This award can only be claimed by holding a specified number of QSOs with other Hams.

That doesn't sound too difficult. The hard part comes in that the contacts must be of a minimum time duration and Hams can't do that with the usual "5x9 and my name is ..." type of contact.

Jo even started playing around in contests. I remem-

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How to avoid PC viruses and worms

Terry Dettmann / WX7S

Contributing Editor

It is an unfortunate reality that there are people who find their greatest pleasure in attacking other people. While many hackers and virus writers claim to be doing the world a favor by highlighting security holes, they actually cause much damage and force us to take precautions that shouldn't be necessary.

Standard precautions include:

- 1.) Keeping backups current for your system.
- 2.) Using virus identification software to find them before they strike.
- 3.) Scan your system regularly with good virus software to check every file, every executable and even the hidden portions of your hard disk for malicious code.
- 4.) Avoid using html in e-mails.
- 5.) Disable preview panes in your e-mail software.
- 6.) Never open an attachment you're not expecting, even from someone you know well.
- 7.) Don't be enticed by the ways virus writers try to get you to open their stuff, thereby executing their code.

8.) Don't go to Web sites when invited by an unexpected e-mail; it could be infected and just viewing the site will allow virus writers to execute code on your computer.

There are a number of places where you can get a free virus scan online. I have used the following two personally:

<http://housecall.antivirus.com>
www.centralcommand.com

To the best of my knowledge, these are both reputable organizations and their pages have not been infected as I write this.

Symantec Corp., which publishes the Norton AntiVirus software, also runs an excellent Web site at www.symantec.com. You may be interested in looking through their online FAQ at: <http://securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/faq.html>

Online Hams are at a higher risk of infection than other normal e-mail users. You are corresponding with a wider range of people, many of whom are inexperienced computer users. The precautions I've listed are a good start, but keep up with what's happening in the virus world. Things change daily and new attacks emerge. Only by being proactive about viruses will you be able to prevent infection and damage to your systems.

Jo Hallstrom's trademark was her sharp wit

Continued from Page 3

ber shocking her by working KB7UFM in last year's CQWW DX contest.

We will miss the regular updates about her DXploits published in the *Relay* and there will be a long list of Hams who will miss her voice on the air. It was fun for this jaded old Ham to hear the excitement as she showed everyone her latest QSL card or spoke of the latest interesting QSO she had.

By the way, if there is any doubt as to the effect she had on the air, check out the number of times her call has been looked up on QRZ.com. When your call has been looked up well over 450

times, consider yourself active and known on the air.

Jo was scheduled to go to the DX convention in Visalia, Calif., last May which, unfortunately, she couldn't attend. Some of us were fortunate to be able to pass along her greetings to international attendees and they were disappointed not to be able to meet this remarkable woman in person. I still believe it would have been quite a sight to see her work that crowd.

Jo was a Life Member of the ARRL and felt the organization was an important voice for Amateur Radio.

Jo was also an active Club member, serving as trustee and most recently vice president.

When I was Activity Manager, she was one of those I could count on to sell raffle tickets—a job I hated.

Who will be able to forget the Swedish accent combined with the Southern drawl? Or that she always had a hug and a kiss for just about anybody who wanted one at the meeting.

The only thing I may miss more might be that sharp wit, which stayed active until the very end. When Diane and I made a final visit last week, Jo was very drowsy and tired due to medication and her battle with the cancer. Unfazed, Jo still managed to pull out a couple of zingers that made us all smile.

We'll miss you, Jo. 88 forever.

The club needs a new radio officer

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

Senior Contributing Editor

Wanted: Club radio officer. This need isn't quite as immediate as the secretary position (see related article below) but current Radio Officer Ken Rau has informed the Board of Directors that he'll resign at the end of the year.

The radio officer position has some particular requirements. Interested candidates should submit a written résumé to the Board.

As the holder of the club license, radio officer applicants *must* be an Extra class licensee. The Board would also like someone with repeater experience because the majority of the radio officer's work seems to involve the Club's repeaters.

Interested candidates are urged to step forward as soon as possible so that the successful applicant can work with Ken to help transfer the 2-meter repeater to a new site.

The radio officer is the only non-elected position on the Mike

& Key Board and serves at the pleasure of the Board.

The candidate needs to be committed to regularly attending general Club and Board meetings. Since there are paperwork issues related to the club's amateur radio license each time the radio officership changes, it is best viewed as a long-term position.

If you have questions, you should attend the next Board meeting at 7:15 P.M. Wednesday, Sept. 24, or contact a Board member.

What happened to the *Relay* that we all know and love?

Paul McElroy / K7STQ

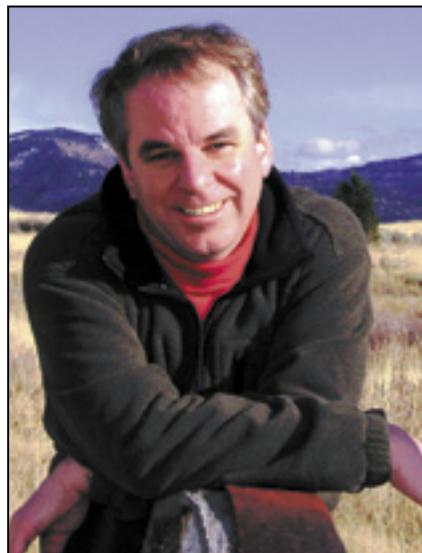
Relay Editor

To every thing there is a season. I'm pleased to take over the reins of the *Relay* from our very capable Mike, N7WA, and must say it feels good to resume the craft of editing and layout.

But it pains me that my first issue must announce the sad passing of one of our best-known members. Even though KB7UFM is gone, though, her colorful wit, humor and warm friendship still serves as an inspiration to us all. She certainly made me feel right at home when I began attending Club meetings a year ago.

I hope you like the new look of the *Relay*. Although I've given it a modest facelift, the newsletter will still offer relevant content that focuses on our Club, its members and a fascinating hobby. And, like all of us, the *Relay* will keep evolving.

Please let me know what you think—good or bad—and what



Amy McElroy

The *Relay*'s new editor during a less-frenzetic moment off deadline.

you'd like to see in it. Catch me at a meeting or e-mail me at **k7stq@arrl.net**. By the way, it's patently untrue that I skipped the September meeting to avoid darts from unhappy readers!

I also welcome your articles. Don't be shy; communicating is what we do, after all. And don't sweat the small stuff. I'll fix any misspellings and make sure the commas are in the right places. Let me hear from you.

Interim secretary sought; fetching coffee not required

Wanted: secretary. The Mike & Key ARC has a new newsletter editor—Paul McElroy, K7STQ. That's the good news.

The bad news is that the Club now needs a new Secretary to fill out the remainder of Paul's term. Here's a good chance to provide limited service to the Club and you'll be done in only six or seven months ... unless you decide it's so much fun you want to run for election next spring.

The secretary position is fairly well defined and limited. The format for minutes is well established and easy to implement. No need to be creative; just take the words right out of peoples' mouths.

You attend Club and Board meetings, record the minutes, then get them to newsletter editor by the deadline for articles. The job takes about four hours a month.

Please consider nominating yourself (or have a friend do it).

A passion for the tradition of CW

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

Senior Relay Contributing Editor

Let anyone think I have changed my attitudes about CW based on an upcoming, opposing article in this newsletter, I would like to state a case for CW—not as a testing requirement, but as a passion. I operate CW because I enjoy it. Beyond that, though, it has a number of great advantages which tend to get lost in the rush to hasten its demise.

CW is efficient. You can work farther on a watt of CW than you can ever work on SSB. If you are already compromised with low power and makeshift antennas, CW is the mode that will allow you to make up that difference in signal readability that surpasses anything possible with voice modes.

CW takes up less room. You can hold several conversations on CW in the same space of a typical SSB QSO. In a world where band space is at premium, it only makes sense to use CW.

CW equipment is easy to build. This isn't as important as in the early days of radio when most equipment was homebrew, but it's still a consideration if building is part of your hobby. This is the reason CW is still king when it comes to operating QRP.

CW is the international language of radio. Sure, many DX operators use English on SSB. But CW, with its abbreviations and spelled-out communications mode, allows those who are not proficient in English to make international contacts.

Personally, I have made Japanese QSOs using a written script that I could tap out. It's really fun

Several European nations have already made the Morse Code requirement optional for access to Ham bands below 30 MHz.

Should the United States follow suit?

To spur discussion, Mike Dinkelman

Editor's Note

and Jack Burrell are debating the issue. Mike, N7WA, argues in favor this month. Jack, N7ZS, responds in October on why it would be a bad move.



Craig Dinkelman perfectly captured his brother's fondness for CW. This image is an appropriate part of N7WA's QSL card.

to send a greeting using another language and without butchering the pronunciation. (Of course, there is a downside. Sometimes the other op thinks you can actually carry on a conversation.)

CW is popular. The propagandists would have you believe CW is dead. Try getting on during a major contest.

A recent ARRL Web survey asked the question "what percentage of your operating time is spent using CW?" The distilled results show that 44 percent of the respondents spent more time on CW than on all other modes put together.

Granted, these are Web-active Hams and probably HF operators to boot, but CW is far from being a dead mode.

Yes, CW is not the *most* popular mode among Hams. However, it remains a vibrant and useful mode. I don't see it going away any more than I see FSK (RTTY/PSK31) or SSTV going away.

As we progress to a CW-less testing environment, it's possible more beginning Hams will start to see CW as a mode of choice.

Come on in. There is plenty of room.

Time to drop the code—for testing

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

Senior Contributing Editor

Our new editor thought it would be interesting if we had a Point/Counterpoint type of debate this month based on the recent announcement from WRC-03 that the international requirement for CW would be dropped and that many individual countries are following suit.

Petitions to eliminate CW as a test requirement have already hit the FCC. I think I surprised our editor by mentioning that I had no objection to the FCC taking such action.

OK, pull your jaws up off the floor if anybody remembers, during our last visit with Northwest ARRL Director Greg Milnes, I actually argued that the ARRL should support the proposal by other IARU societies to remove the requirement and to try and get something meaningful in return.

So, why should I, whose motto is CW forever, be in favor of eliminating the code as a testing requirement? Note the word *testing*. While I have a deep love for CW as an operating mode, I have no illusions that it should be a requirement for obtaining an Amateur Radio license in today's world.

Let's review my rationale.

Why are there tests to obtain a radio license? Frankly, for two reasons. One is to show technical competence, including safety issues. Since we are allowed to build, operate and repair our own equipment, we need to demonstrate that we can do it safely and without causing unnecessary interference. We need to understand the implications and

the results of operating equipment improperly.

The second reason—and most important for the purposes of this discussion—is that radio is a communications medium without borders. At the same time, communications is a resource that most governments view as important to national security and as a revenue source.



I have a deep love for CW as an operating mode, but I have no illusions that it should be a requirement for obtaining an Amateur Radio license in today's world.

As such, there is a need to control how the resource is used and who gets access to it. In simplest terms, that means rules and regulations. These are the reasons we take tests.

Now, there was a time when a new Ham would be expected to know CW for reasons that fall within the above criteria. After all, CW was king and a good deal of the operating going on was via CW.

It was the entry point for new operators, it was the best mode for long-distance communications and the equipment was relatively simple to build. An operator who didn't know CW would not be an asset to a country's Amateur Service and the

Amateur Service was considered a training pool for both the maritime industry and the military.

Looking at it this way, you can easily see a requirement for CW.

Alas, those days are gone. The entry point for most new Hams in the modern era is an FM handheld and a repeater. Most new Hams have no desire to advance beyond that point.

CW is no longer king of the airwaves. Although popular (despite the propaganda), it certainly doesn't have the lure of SSB. The new rigs of today are virtually "plug and play." We are comfortable with the idea of reliable worldwide voice communications using telephones so voice is the natural method for radio communications.

Along that vein, neither the maritime industry or the military consider CW to be a priority, although the military has its own training processes for the CW that it does require.

Now there are a couple of emotional reasons for requiring CW. The two most prevalent are "it acts as a filter" and the other is "I got mine, you get yours."

Well, the first argument is blatantly false—just check out the garbage on the bands some evening. Enough said there.

The second argument is a rather exclusive attitude at a time when we should be searching for common ground in a hobby under attack from many outside sources.

In addition, such an attitude can be carried to extremes. After all, I started out in radio as a 75-watt, crystal-controlled Novice. If I took the "I got mine" attitude

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2004 Fleamarket planning begins

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

Senior Contributing Editor

The time has come to start the planning process for next year's Fleamarket in Puyallup. We need to review last year's many successes and make plans to address those few nagging shortcomings.

First, the most important thing: Mark your calendars for March 5th and 6th in 2004.

Talk to the boss, schedule vacation days and make all the arrangements necessary to be in Puyallup so you can support your Club's most important fund-raising activity. Of course, you'll be helping yourself by being in on the ground floor of the biggest Hamfest in the Pacific Northwest.

If you would like to get involved in the process at an organizational level, we have a Fleamarket Committee that will start meeting in October. While most committee positions are already filled, there may be other openings and there are always support roles where help is needed.

Here are the current committee heads as I know them at this time. If I have listed you incorrectly or you're missing in action, please let me know as

soon as possible. If you have an interest in one of the open positions or questions, please contact me or come to the first meeting.

Announcing / Talking: Kim, KD7FDY, and Barry, KC7YB, Wolborsky

Country Store: Dawn, N7VWH, and Curtis, N7MWC, Hanner

Facilities: Hal Goodell, N7NW

Hospitality: Wayne Heath, KC7ORB

Loading: Fred Lowell, N7PZ

Phones: Gil Drynan, KB7ZQT

Publicity: Open

Registration: Diane Dinkelman, KB7DNE

Setup: Michael Dinkelman, N7WA

Security: Alan Hughes, KB7SVU

Tickets: Open

Traffic/Gates: Open

VE Exams: Frank Krieger, KA7QHG



The first meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7. Meetings are held at Salvation Army Headquarters, 720 S. Tobin Street, the same place as Club meetings.

In addition, worker signups should be available starting at the September general Club meeting.

Several swap meets coming up this fall

Can't wait till next spring for the Mike & Key Fleamarket? Several other organizations are sponsoring swap meets during the next few months.

Saturday, Sept. 27, in Chehalis: The Chehalis Valley ARS SwapFest.

Information on the Web at www.cvars.org.

Or contact Bill Harwell, AC7SR, at 360-748-8086, or ac7sr@arrl.net.

Saturday, Sept. 27, in Spokane: Spokane Hamfest at the ARRL Eastern Washington Section Convention.

Information on the Web at www.kbara.org.

Or contact Bill, KC7YSP, at 509-218-1110; or Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ, at 509-448-5821 or n7wrq@aol.com.

Saturday, Oct. 11, in Bremerton: North Kitsap ARC Hamfest.

Information on the Web at <http://nkarc.home.donobi.net>.

Or contact Ron Sefton, N7EM, at 360-779-5418 or via e-mail at ronsefton@hotmail.com.

Saturday, Oct. 25, in Rickreall, Ore.: Mid-Valley ARES Swaptoberfest.

Information on the Web at <http://home.earthlink.net/~kd7bcv/Swaptoberfest2003>.

Or contact Shane Kuehl, W0SPK, at 503-589-0496 or w0spk@arrl.net; or Bud at n7bud@arrl.net.

Saturday, Nov. 8, in Lynden: Mount Baker ARC.

Information on the Web at www.qsl.net/k7skw. Or contact Al Norton, K7IEY, at 360-354-4622 or k7iey@netscape.net.

Information provided by the Western Amateur Radio Friendship Association. On the Web at www.warfa.org.

New Renton store has a few tidbits for Hams

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

Senior Contributing Editor

You may have heard all the hoopla in the news media over the Labor Day weekend about the opening of a new electronics mega-store in Renton called Fry's Electronics.

As big as a Costco or Home Depot, this new store is located next to the Boeing parking lot along I-405. Fry's has been slowly expanding into the Northwest, opening up last year in Portland.

I'd heard it was a neat place to visit but I've never been able to find out if they stocked radio gear (doubtful). Always hopeful, I headed on down to see what all the fuss was about.

First off, the place is huge. Luckily, there are signs all over to identify departments. The first one to strike my interest was one labeled "Components." Actually, the word is used pretty loosely and can mean just about anything except what I think components are.

However, on a couple of long rows were resistors, capacitors, switches, some ICs, diodes and transistors. Nothing great but better than the local Radio Shack. Alright, maybe there's some hope here after all? I continued walking and found some RG58 and RG58X but nothing really good like RG213.

There was lots of computer stuff. This place is a computer geek's dream. Thirty percent of the store must be dedicated to computers and accessories, including books and software.

I think I passed a display

stacked six feet high with CPU motherboards. Every accessory known to mankind was on the shelves as well. If you want to build your own computer from scratch or buy one whole, I think they have you covered.

There is a "Wireless Communications" department, but it turns out Fry's idea of wireless consists of cell phones and Family Service Radios. I couldn't even find a CB radio in the place.

Sigh ... Oh, well, I didn't have high expectations to start out with. They do have an impressive stock of CDs and DVDs, including some old TV series and musical concerts. If you need a break, there's a restaurant in the middle where you can get something to eat and drink.

So what's my verdict?

Well, it's certainly farther away than the local Radio Shack but no more so than the computer shops I check out around Southcenter. Certainly, the discrete component selection is better than Rat Shack but not as good as Supertronix in Tukwila. Then again, the hours are better than Supertronix.

I'll hold judgment until I see how well they keep that stuff stocked. It's nice that the books, software and hardware are all in one place for my computer needs. Hopefully, the crowds will die down a bit, too, as the hyperbole subsides.

The best way to get there is to take the Sunset exit (SR900) off I-405 on the south side of Kenndale Hill and head west into Renton. The intersection just at the bottom the hill leads south to Fry's. Hard to miss. Enjoy.

Let your voice be heard

The FCC is seeking comments on seven petitions related to the Morse Code requirement for Hams.

Don't just ragchew on the air about it. Make your opinion count by letting the FCC—or the ARRL—know your viewpoint.

Keep CW on the air, not a testing roadblock

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seriously, I would be making the case that everyone one else should start the same way.

I say we keep the arguments off the emotional track. (I know it's hard.)

In my heart, I figure CW testing has already been gone for a number of years. For me, it went away when "multiple-guess" CW testing became the standard at VEC sessions.

Unless someone actually copies readable CW (personally, I can live without a 100 percent copy requirement), then what's the point of having the test at all as there won't be any multiple choices in front of the radio. So, I see no reasons for keeping CW as a testing requirement to obtain an Amateur License.

Yes, we want to make sure CW is part of the written tests even as most other modes are mentioned in the more advanced licensee class tests. After all, it's a popular mode and a well-trained operator certainly needs to be aware of its characteristics and advantages. But forcing someone to learn Morse Code is no longer relevant.

Let it go—let's move on.

Officers present:

President – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV)
 Vice President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE)
 Secretary – Paul McElroy (K7STQ)
 Treasurer – Jack Grimmatt (N7IHS)
 Activity Manager – John Long (KW7A)

Trustees present:

No. 5 – Dave Smith (KB7PSN)

Visitors: Joan McDonald.

President Burget called the meeting to order at 10:02 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.

No quorum present.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay* could not be made due to a lack of quorum.

Officer Reports

President – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV): Radio Officer: Ken Rau is resigning when he moves at the end of the year. Interested applicants should submit a resume, preferably written, to the Board of Directors. Applicants must be an Extra class ham and, preferably, have expertise with ham radio and repeaters. The club needs to get a new radio officer soon.

New repeater: There is no definitive timetable on installation. It will be located on the southeast area of Rattlesnake Mountain, near where State Route 18 and Interstate 90 intersect. The club has a signed agreement with property owner Tanner Electric for five years, with a five-year extension.

Vice President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE): Nothing to report.

General Meeting Minutes August 16, 2003

Secretary – Paul McElroy (K7STQ): The latest edition of *The Logger's Bark* is available.

Treasurer – Jack Grimmatt (N7IHS): The club has 198 members. Issued P&L statement.

Activity Manager – John Long (KW7A): The September program will be a presentation by SteppIR Antennas of Issaquah. They manufacture a three-element monobeam.

Standing Committee Reports

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

Technical – Terry Dettman (WX7S): Nothing to report.

Education – Dave Smith (KB7PSN): A short meeting will be held at the picnic to explore what the committee wants to get involved in. Elimination of the code requirement for advanced ham classes would have a significant effect on club members.

Public Service – Barry Wolborsky (KC7YB) could not attend: Brendan Burget asks for volunteers for upcoming events, including the Boy Scouts' Jamboree on the Air the weekend of Oct. 18-19 at the Fire Mountain Scout Camp in Walker Valley near Mount Vernon. The Western Washington ARRL page on ARRL's Web site (www.arrl.org) lists many other activities seeking volunteer hams.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Christmas Party: Mike (K7JML) and

Ronnie (KC7UFS) LaFerla, Jim (K7JOM) and Joan McDonald, and Calvin (KC7IYP) and Brenda Doss volunteer to chair this year's event. Activity Manager John Long buys one raffle ticket for Mike in recognition of the group's efforts.

Antenna Tower Laws: Jim Monaghan (N7HKO) says nineteen states have passed a law, many of which stipulate a minimum height. Washington has an antenna bill that the Legislature that will consider next year, but the bill has problems. It stipulates that tower owners must be a member of ARES. General discussion about antenna heights and approval requirements. An article in a recent *QST* about construction tower supports covered various facets of height requirements.

New Club Secretary: Paul McElroy (K7STQ) has volunteered to take over as K7LED Relay editor, but must resign as secretary. Brendan Burget opens nominations for an interim secretary to fill out Paul's term, which ends in March 2004. Mike Dinkleman (N7WA), Jo Hallstrom (KB7UFM) and Sandy Dunkel (K7OZY) are nominated, but all decline. More nominations will be sought next month, when Brendan hopes the membership can vote on a candidate.

Good of the Order

Broadband over Power Lines: The ARRL is seeking comment on the issue of BPL. Comments now must pertain to previously submitted remarks or they will be ignored. The interference would make HF bands nearly unusable in neighborhoods near power lines.

Jo Hallstrom (KB7UFM) thanks club members for all of their cards, e-mails and kind thoughts.

There being no further business, Jim Monaghan (N7HKO) moved to adjourn. Due to a lack of quorum, no vote was taken. President Burget closed the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Attested: Paul McElroy – Secretary, K7STQ

Officers present:

President – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV)
 Secretary – Paul McElroy (K7STQ)
 Activity Manager – John Long (KW7A)

Trustees present:

No. 1 – Nils Hallstrom (W7RUJ)
 No. 2 – Terry Dettman (WX7S)

Board Meeting Minutes August 27, 2003

No. 3 – Steve Cook / CoB (KD7IQL)
 No. 5 – Dave Smith (KB7PSN)

Visitors: Bing Clisbee (KG7SF); Dawn (KC7YYB) and Dan (N7QHC) Humphrey; Dick Vance (K7NEX).

Chairman Cook called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. at the Salvation Army Building in Renton, Wash.



Registration open for online emergency comm. course

Registration opened this past Monday for the ARRL's Level II Emergency Communications online course.

Registration remains open through the Sept. 13-14 weekend or until all seats are filled—whichever occurs first.

The class begins on Tuesday, Sept. 23.

Thanks to United Technologies Corp., the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the Level II course. About 75 seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis.

To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Con-

tinuing Education Web page at www.arrl.org/cce and follow the C-CE Links found there.

For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, at 860-594-0340 or via e-mail at dmiller@arrl.org.

— The ARRL Letter

Minutes: Motion by Chairman Cook (KD7IQL) and seconded by Nils Hallstrom (W7RUJ) 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): A trustee is needed to run the election for secretary at the September general meeting because he will not be able to attend. Dave Smith (KB7PSN) volunteers.

President – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV): New club secretary: Three members were nominated at the general meeting in August, but all declined. Nominations will be sought again at the September general meeting, when Brendan hopes the membership can vote on a candidate.

Lack of a quorum at the August general meeting is believed to have been the first time that has happened in 15 years.

Vice President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE): Nothing to report.

Secretary – Paul McElroy (K7STQ): Paul will be unable to attend either meeting in September. Curtis Hanner (N7MWC) and Dave Smith (KB7PSN) have kindly agreed to serve as acting secretary for the September general and board meetings, respectively.

Treasurer – Jack Grimmatt (N7IHS) unable to attend; report given by Jack Burrell (N7ZS): Preliminary figures show membership holding steady at 199. Issued P&L report.

Activity Manager – John Long (KW7A): SteppIR representatives will demonstrate their antennas at the September general meeting.

Board Meeting Minutes (continued)

Technical Committee – Terry Dettman (WX7S): Nothing to report.

Committee Liaison Reports

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

Education – Dave Smith (KB7PSN): No one attended the August meeting. He plans to schedule another meeting immediately preceding or following the September general meeting. Dave has signed up for the Emergency Communication Level II class on the Internet.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Nils Hallstrom (W7RUJ) regretfully tenders his resignation as Trustee No. 1, effective Aug. 27, 2003, for health reasons. He thanks those who elected him and intends to stay active in the club as long as possible. Brendan Burget (KD7IKV) moves and Dave Smith (KB7PSN) seconds a motion to “regretfully accept” his resignation. Approved. John Hall (KW7A) moves and Brendan seconds a motion for a vote of thanks to Nils’ longstanding efforts on behalf of the club. Approved.

Repeater request: The Northwest Society of Amateur Radio Operators (NSAR) wants to use the club’s 2-meter

repeater for a half-hour net at 7 p.m. every Thursday. The Public Service Net presently meets at this time and day. The board is inclined to approve NSAR’s request, pending rescheduling the time of their net and a review of the topic.

New radio officer applicant: Bing Clisbee (KG7SF). Bing is a previous club member who moved out of state and now resides in Issaquah. He rejoined the club about six months ago. He has been an Extra class ham since 1993. Bing used to listen to K7PP when it started and thinks it would be interesting to set up a repeater.

He is interested in the technical and hardware aspects of ham radio, particularly satellite, ATV, etc. He wants to help the club at any level he can. He is comfortable with computers and the Windows operating system, which most repeaters use for operation.

Alan Hughes (KB7SVU) has also submitted an application.

The board hopes to make a decision at the September board meeting on someone to help the current radio officer, Ken Rau. It is intended that the new person will take over as radio officer when Rau leaves at the end of 2003.

QSL manager: Nils Hallstrom requests permission to take over when the position becomes vacant. Brendan Burget moves and John Long seconds a motion to allow him to do so. Approved.

Good of the Order

There being no further business, Brendan Burget moved and Dave Smith seconded a motion to adjourn. Approved and Chairman Cook closed the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Attested: Paul McElroy – Secretary, K7STQ

Ham Events for September & October 2003



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 8 P.M. ARES Regional net on 146.82 ARRL VHF QSO party (begins Sat.)	15	16	17 8:30 P.M. WARFA swapnet on 3.908 (every Wednesday)	18 7 P.M. Public Service net on 146.82	19	20 10 A.M. Club meeting Washington State Salmon Run contest — info: www.wdxc.org
21 8 P.M. ARES Regional net on 146.82	22	23	24 7:15 P.M. Board meeting	25 7 P.M. Public Service net on 146.82	26	27 Chehalis Valley ARS Swapmeet Spokane Hamfest CQ RTTY contest
28 8 P.M. ARES Regional net on 146.82	29	30	1	2 7 P.M. Public Service net on 146.82	3	4
5 8 P.M. ARES Regional net on 146.82	6	7	8	9 7 P.M. Public Service net on 146.82	10 Relay deadline	11 North Kitsap ARC Hamfest
12 8 P.M. ARES Regional net on 146.82	13	14	15	16 7 P.M. Public Service net on 146.82	17	18 9:15 A.M. Mike & Key net on 146.82 10 A.M. Club meeting