



Special thanks to active members

Brendan Burget / KD7IKV

President

Here we go into another holiday season. Thanksgiving will be on hand before we know it. This year, as I reflect on the things I'm thankful for, it's people and the way they enrich my life that I appreciate the most.

I spoke in last month's article about volunteerism and my new award. Since then, I've been looking for the person who would be the first recipient of such an award. I originally thought this would not be very hard.

However, I was mistaken.

While looking for the appropriate person, I have become more aware of just how many of you *do* give large portions of your time and energy in service of the club.

We'll start off with all of the members of the Public Service Committee. Not only do they work very hard to produce the *Special Events & Information Guide*, but they spend quite a lot of time working on furthering Ham radio in the community as well as in the club.

I have also seen those of you who have put on or helped with a presentation for the club. You've poured time, energy and love into the creation of something enriching for the club.

There are still others working somewhat behind the scenes. I'm talking about those of you who have chosen to



From the Hot Seat

Elmer some of us "youngins"—hi hi. Yes I know that the club has no official list of Elmers. I, however have never had very much trouble finding someone willing to pass on a little knowledge.

So it looks like giving out this award isn't going to be quite as easy as I thought.

The first award goes to a member who is always doing something for the club and/or ham radio. Every time I turn around, Michael Dinkelman is doing this or that for the club. Michael handles everything from organizing the Flea Market to creating club contests, down to bringing the coffee and doughnuts to the meetings.

He embodies what a recipient of the "Extra Mile Award" should be. Thanks, Michael, for always going the extra mile. Without members like you, the Mike & Key ARC wouldn't be nearly as great as it is.

So, in a year when the economy is bad and most of us are having a tough time financially, I think about those people in my life whom I'm thankful for. And it's you, the members, who I am very thankful for.

The Inside Story

November program: Historic solar activity	3
Help pass state and federal antenna bills	4
Seattle Marathon needs Hams	5
CD of Ham-useful software in the works	6
A primer on ARRL's Logbook of the World	7
Laying more groundwork for the Flea Market ..	8



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

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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 by regular 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.

How solar activity affects Hams

Terry Dettmann / WX7S

Radio Officer

The last 30 days have been an extraordinary period in the history of solar studies. We saw the largest observed explosion *ever* in the solar system on Nov. 4th along with a series of solar flares and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) that have had everyone talking about the Sun and its effect on propagation.

We're going to take a little time here and at the next general meeting to talk about these events and learn a bit more about them. Come prepared to talk and we'll see how many experts we have on propagation.

Space weather, as it is sometimes called, is a result of activity on the Sun. A number of events take place there that affect us and it helps to understand those events if we want to understand propagation.

We're most interested in events that affect the ionosphere. The most important ones are *solar flares* and *non-flare events*. Any of these events produce radiation, which we'll categorize as photons, high-energy particles (solar cosmic rays) and low-energy particles. Each type of radiation will have an impact on us ranging from minimal to total.

A solar flare releases photons primarily as ultraviolet light and X-rays. These reach the Earth roughly 8.3 minutes after the event on the Sun.

The principal effect of the impact on the Earth is known as a Sudden Ionospheric Disturbance or SID (also called a Shortwave Fadeout SWF or a Dellenger effect). When the intense X-rays hit the Earth's atmosphere,

they cause a sudden increase in ionization in the D-Layer, which causes an almost immediate increase in HF absorption.

Depending on the strength of the radiation reaching the Earth, this can lead to a total blackout for as much as an hour or two. SIDs primarily affect the ionosphere on the side of the Earth facing the Sun. Any paths relying on signal propagation in a sunlit region will be affected.

Programs & Activities

Along with the UV and X-rays released within the first minute of a solar flare event, a cloud of high-energy particles is released at speeds up to one-third the speed of light.

A particle cloud like this, though, may not reach the Earth. Ionized particles travel along interplanetary lines of magnetic force. Only when the interplanetary magnetic field and the Earth's magnetic field are lined up in the right way will the particle cloud reach us.

The clouds are also more like a bubble thrown off from the Sun's surface, so they are limited in extent. We have a pretty good chance of not being hit. If we do, though, you can expect some interesting effects.

The major effect when high-energy solar cosmic rays hit the Earth is what is known as a Polar Cap Absorption event or PCA. This will happen anywhere from one to four hours after the particles are released from the Sun and can result in an increase in absorption for HF signals ranging from 40 to 80 dB!

Polar region signals will be suppressed in strong events for

three to five days and all trans-polar communications will be totally blacked out. Very strong auroral displays are often associated with these events.

In the last 40 years, high-energy particle events have come to have another very serious effect: They can be satellite killers

Ionospheric storms result from the impact of the low-energy particle stream on the atmosphere. This stream takes 20 to 40 hours to reach us after a solar flare and can start a major disruption, but its effect is primarily geomagnetic.

Poor propagation is often attributed to these effects because of their close association with ionospheric storms, but the effect is not quite so direct. In fact, solar flares aren't the only source of such particle streams reaching us.

High-speed solar wind systems arise from what are called "coronal holes." This is just what the name implies: a hole in the magnetic containment field in the solar corona. A hole like this allows an outflow of solar particles, which can affect us if we pass through the stream.

They are considered to be the primary cause of geomagnetic effects during solar minimums. Coronal holes rotate with the Sun's surface and so will recur in 27-day periods, the time it takes for the Sun to rotate.

Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) are thought to be solar flares that didn't produce an optical explosion. They still have enough energy for particles to escape from the Sun and reach Earth, though. Another event

Continued on Page 6

Help pass a pair of antenna bills

Paul McElroy / K7STQ

Relay Editor

Three times' the charm, they say. If so, that's a good omen for Hams hoping that legislators in Olympia pass a state antenna bill during the next session.

Senate Bill 5200 would prohibit municipal and county governments from enacting ordinances that do not conform with the FCC pre-emption known as PRB-1.

As most Hams know, the federal mandate requires local authorities to "reasonably accommodate" the antennas we need for amateur communications.

But the Senate bill, as written, would specifically permit antennas at least 70 feet tall, unless health, safety or aesthetic considerations outweighed the benefits of Amateur Radio to carry out its public service mission of emergency communications.

If the Senate bill passes and the House concurs, Washington would become the 20th state to enact an antenna bill.

That isn't likely if we rely on luck, especially if history is any indication. The bill was originally introduced in the 2001 Legislature and died in committee. Last year, no action was taken. So this coming January is our chance to make it happen.

Jim, N7HKO, plans to go to

Olympia to lobby, which won't be his first time. Contact him if you're interested in joining the crusade. Jim and Hams throughout the state would welcome your support.

At the very least, write to your state representatives and let them know what a valuable service Hams provide, particularly during emergencies.

Jim has thoughtfully prepared a sample letter that will be distributed at the November general meeting for those who would like to use it as a guide.

A bill in the U.S. House would close a loophole concerning restrictive CC&Rs governing some subdivisions and condominium associations. H.R. 1478 would require private land-use rules to conform to the same requirements and limitations as state or local regulations.

Hams know they are called upon time and again to respond to forest fires, mountain rescues, hurricanes, you name it. We're also well aware that Ham radio communications typically get through when telephone land lines are down, cell phone networks have overloaded and other technologies aren't working.

We need to repeatedly remind Congress of our value, particularly in the post-9/11 world, until they address our needs with the proper legal protection.

Club ranked 16th overall in Field Day

Once again, the club made a remarkable showing during Field Day by placing 16th overall with a score of 11,516 points.

The 82 participants made 4,026 QSOs, placing Mike & Key second in Category 6A behind

South Jersey RA, K2AA.

First place overall went to the Potomac Valley Radio Club and Columbia ARA, W3AO, with 27,834 points.

More than 2,000 logs were submitted for Field Day.

Where to reach your representatives

Don't know who represents you or how to reach them? Find out your state representative simply by providing your street address at this Web site:

<http://dfind.leg.wa.gov>

For Congress, here's a rundown of members representing the greater Seattle metropolitan area:

Jay Inslee (1st Dist.)

308 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6311

Rick Larsen (2nd Dist.)

1529 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2605

Jim McDermott (7th Dist.)

1035 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3106

Jennifer Dunn (8th Dist.)

1501 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-7761

Adam Smith (9th Dist.)

227 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-8901

And, of course, our two U.S. senators:

Maria Cantwell

717 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3441

Patty Murray

173 Russell SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2621

80 Hams needed for Seattle run

Gene Underwood / W7AKA

Fran Underwood / N7FWZ

Special to the *Relay*

As 2003 moves on so rapidly, the Seattle Marathon approaches on Sunday, Nov. 30. Again, this year, we public service-oriented Hams of this area have another opportunity to serve.

Over 10,000 participants are expected in this year's Seattle Marathon. Over 3,000 volunteers will be needed to make this entire effort possible. Of that number, we need about 80 Hams to properly cover the course. Incidentally, the New York Marathon uses over 400 Hams.

We were very gratified when a CNN poll selected our Seattle Marathon as one of the top 10 in the country. This is important, as each year well over half of the participants come from out of town.

Our Ham effort will cover several jobs. Some will communicate for water stops while others will monitor and, possibly, marshal intersections. We will have three water trucks on the course this year with Hams needed for coordination. We will assist the split timers with the event starter's gun sound.

APRS-equipped Hams will set up the Pooped-Out Participant Pickup Patrol. (We transported many pooped-out runners last year.) Other Hams will staff the several Seattle Center communications positions. Several Hams with their radios on bicycles will be needed. We also have a couple of new jobs that will require four or five additional Hams.

This year, the Kids Staged Marathon is being moved to

Public service is one of the hallmarks of Ham radio and local events are an easy way to get involved.

Public Service Events

All you really need is a handheld transceiver, spare battery and a willingness to donate a little time to a good cause.

Upcoming events:

**Sunday, Nov. 30
Seattle Marathon**
Seattle Center, Mercer Island,

Seward Park
Contact: Gene, W7AKA
425-226-4115
w7aka@arrl.net

**Sunday, Dec. 7
Special People's Cruise**
Seattle
Contact: Dick, WA7NIW
425-828-9791
wa7niw@arrl.net

**Saturday, Dec. 20
Santa Talks / Seattle**
Contact: Tim, K7QMI
206-368-3970
tvschnee@eskimo.com



Harrisdirect
Seattle Marathon
November 30, 2003

Saturday. This is a 1.2-mile run around Seattle Center, with around 2,000 participants. We need about 10 Hams for this short event. All told, this is a big job!

We hope you will work with us this year. We will try to follow your wishes as to assignment. We know that many will want to return to the same position they held last year. Others want to try something new.

Seattle Center has allowed us the use of Exposition Hall as the recovery hall, so some changes will be necessary. We will try to make everybody happy if possible.

There will be a pair of meetings at our home to orient you and to deliver the materials to you that will make it possible

to handle whatever assignment we ask you to take. (You will be asked to come to one of the meetings.)

As in past years, there will be T-shirts and orange baseball caps for identification as well as orange vests for your safety.

Please reserve a couple of hours on Saturday, Nov. 23. We will try to keep the meetings as short as possible.

To learn more about the Seattle Marathon, check out www.seattlemarathon.org.

Please e-mail your reply to w7aka@arrl.net. Or call our home at (425) 226-4115 or Gene's cell phone at (425) 890-5752.

Since we are a little late, your prompt response would be very much appreciated.

Tech committee compiling a CD of PC software useful to Hams

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

Senior Contributing Editor

The Technical Committee is going ahead with plans to produce a "Reference CD" for Mike & Key members. The idea is to include freeware and shareware programs, and even general PC utilities, useful to the Ham.

For example, Darby, NY1R, has provided me with a CD that contains 34 programs for the AGW packet engine, APRS, loggers, and Echolink. These are programs he hunted up on the Web and finds useful.

We have 650 megabytes to fill—maybe you have other programs you think would be useful? If so, burn them to a CD (or find a friend who can do it for you) and get them to me along with a one-line text for each program so I don't have to figure out what each one does.

I will accept *limited* e-mail submissions—please don't fill my mailbox with megabytes of programs—if you have no other way of getting them to me.

If you must e-mail me, ask beforehand and I'll give you my work address, which has a broadband connection. It's dialup at home and I'll be real unhappy if it gets clogged up.

The rules: All programs must be freeware or shareware with the complete documentation package. No copyrighted programs or pirating please.

My hope is to get this project done by January or February. I'm looking forward to hearing from more contributors.

Here comes the sun: Solar flares are a major cause of geomagnetic activity

Continued from Page 3

that can have the same effect is known as "Disappearing Filaments." Solar filaments are large curtains of relatively cool gas in the Sun's photosphere. Studies have shown that when such a filament disappears, it can be correlated with a geomagnetic storm several days later on Earth.

Through most of the Sun's cycle, though, the primary cause of geomagnetic activity is solar flares. The particle cloud, which is moving slower than the high-energy particles, has more time to expand before reaching us so its effect is more global.

When the cloud impacts on the Earth's magnetosphere, it causes a ripple effect in our planet's magnetic field. This is properly called a "magnetic storm."

The particles themselves will move along magnetic field lines and so they will concentrate in the polar regions, causing an increase in the intensity of the storm with latitude. This storm, which is the direct effect of the impact of these solar particles, does not disrupt HF communications, however, because of the disturbed magnetic field. The ionospheric chemistry is changed, causing greater recombination than normal, an effect called an "ionospheric storm" and which *does* impact propagation.

It's possible to have a geomagnetic storm that does not result in an ionospheric storm, but all ionospheric storms are associated with geomagnetic storms.

The onset of an ionospheric storm is usually noticed in the polar regions first, gradually

spreading out to the middle and low latitudes over a period of days. Depending on the severity of the storm, the F-layer may seem to disappear completely or it may change ionization levels rapidly or even split into multiple layers.

The first effect will cause loss of HF communications. The second will be seen as a rapid fading of signals or as signal echos. The storm may reduce the maximum frequency that the F-layer will reflect by as much as 50 percent and severe storms may also affect the E-Layer. The combination of effects in the ionosphere may result in total HF blackout to some regions of the world.

The solar flare on Nov. 4th was the largest ever recorded. It was at least an X28-level event coming from Sunspot 486 just before it rotated around the limb of the Sun. Some astronomers have speculated that it might be an X40 event. Because it was just about to go behind the Sun, it wasn't aimed at us, but was in a great position for observation. It was so strong that it saturated the detectors of observing satellites for 13 minutes.

The level of the flare had to be estimated from data taken by the High Energy Solar Spectroscopic Imaging satellite. A remarkable event even when we consider that accurate records have only been available for the last 30 years.

After the November general meeting, we'll talk some more about solar events and propagation so you can understand the impact of what's been happening on the Sun.

Lowdown on Logbook of the World

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

Senior Contributing Editor

Back in September, the ARRL finally went live with its Logbook of the World program. Just what is it and should you get involved?

LOTW is an electronic database of contact information. It will enable you to upload your electronic logs and have them matched with the contents of other logs submitted by Hams around the world.

The idea is to enable you to have "instant" confirmation for contacts you have made instead of waiting around for a QSL card. Once these contacts are matched, you will be able to use them for awards such as the DXCC program.

You may have heard of another similar program called E-QSL, which was independently produced a number of years ago.

The difference is that LOTW is much more stringent about security—requiring you to prove your identity before getting access to the system. This, in itself, has somewhat dampened enthusiasm about the project but is necessary to ensure the integrity of the database.

Why would you want to get involved and jump through the hoops required to participate in LOTW?

Well, it is expected that most major DXpeditions and large contest operations will eventually dump their logs into the database to help eliminate the QSL cores that result. It could be that, eventually, this is the only way you'll ever be able to confirm that rare one. If you were applying for an award such as DXCC,

Which logging program to use? There's a wide choice available

The accompanying article on LOTW brings up another issue—logging programs in general.

At last count, I am aware of 74 different Amateur Radio logging programs encompassing both general logging and contesting. Some are specialized—doing only a single contest or function—while others attempt to provide every function imaginable. Of course, complexity varies widely as do the operating systems supported.

Personally, I use DX4Win for general logging and awards and WriteLog for contests (just switched from DOS-based TR and a short run with the N1MM Free Logger).

I have reviewed DX4Win before in the *Relay*. I hope to write up something on WriteLog as I get a bit more time with it under my belt.

If you are looking for a logger, I recommend heading out to the product review section of www.eHam.net. Under Resources on the left side of the screen, click on Product Reviews and scroll down to Ham Software – Logging.

There, you will find a large number of programs listed and reviews by people who have used them. You may also find links to particular loggers that may offer more info and even a demo. I highly recommend trying out any demos, if they are available.

you could also avoid mailing those prized QSL cards if you used the LOTW system instead.

What are the downsides?

First, you must go through an authentication process to prove who you are. This process isn't quite so onerous for U.S. Hams but DX Hams will need to mail in copies of their licenses. Once authenticated, Hams will receive a digital certificate and password that will allow them to upload ADIF or Cabrillo files to their account.

There have been reports of initial problems in this area (uploading), but I haven't heard any complaints lately. By the way, uploading files is free but there is a cost for using the in-

formation to apply for awards. Of course, only ARRL awards will be supported.

The LOTW will only become useful if a high number of Hams participate. Surely, Hams have been headed toward electronic documentation for a number of years but it remains to be seen if that will actually cross over to widespread use of this system.

You can find more information about LOTW and getting your own digital certificate on the ARRL Web site.

Update: The ARRL has just released a version for the Macintosh OS X operating system. LOTW was previously available only for computers running Windows and Linux.

Dedicated Fleas inch toward Market

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

Senior Contributing Editor

The Flea Market Committee met for the second time for 2004 event planning. Items of interest:

The Puyallup Fairgrounds has instituted new rules regarding food items. If food is sold or even sampled by vendors, \$1 million of liability insurance is required by the seller and a certificate of such insurance must be presented to the fairgrounds administration. Note that this does not affect our hospitality trailer as we do not provide those items to the public.

The state passed a law last year that requires organizers of events such as ours to record tax ID information of all exhibitors. We are exempted from this requirement because we charge less than \$200 a space, but the state has the right to subpoena the club for vendor names and

addresses, at which point they may mail out tax forms to our vendors.

It remains to be seen if they will actually do this. We will be updating our vendor documents to reflect this possibility and the food rules.

Fred, N7PZ, loading chair, brought in a sample safety vest he would like to see purchased for the outside workers. They are of higher quality than the plastic mesh variety of vest rapidly wearing out from current use. While more expensive, they are more visible, have pockets and expected to last longer.

The committee told Fred to go ahead and buy 25, which will be permanently marked as Mike & Key property.

Mailing labels are in and 12,000 flyers have been ordered. Both will be brought to the November meeting. I have a couple of volunteers to label flyers, which need to be completed by

the December meeting.

Let me know if you are interested in helping. It's a good job to do in front of the boob tube if you have the free time.

The procedure will be a bit different this year. The Post Office does *not* want the flyers bundled or sealed. They must be submitted in plastic postal trays, which we hope to have, as well.

Sales: All booths downstairs have been spoken for except for a single half booth. Forty-four tables have been paid for and another 15 reserved. Table reservations are coming in daily.

Worker signup sheets were made available at the October meeting. They will be available at each meeting until February. Workers who sign up by the January meeting will receive their badges at the February meeting.

The next meeting (none in December) will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, at the Salvation Army HQ in Renton.

Country Store seeks goodies to raff e

Curtis Hanner / N7MWC

Dawn Hanner / N7VWH

Relay Correspondents

As you know, the Flea Market is coming up in March. We are going to be having the raffle fund-raiser at the Country Store again this year.

Last year, the raffle was a great success, raising several hundred dollars for the club. We hope to build on that this year and raise even more money.

The way the raffle works is that we have several baskets with all kinds of things in them. Last year, we had a chocolate lover's

basket, coffee lover's basket and the cookie lover's basket with the singing cow cookie jar.

Each basket is raffled off separately and has its own bag for raffle tickets. You purchase raffle tickets and then put your tickets in the bag that goes with the baskets you want to win.

We purchase many of the baskets, but we are hoping that you have some irresistible items that we can use in the baskets. If you have items that you are willing to donate it would probably be best if you drop us an e-mail describing what you have.

You can reach Dawn at

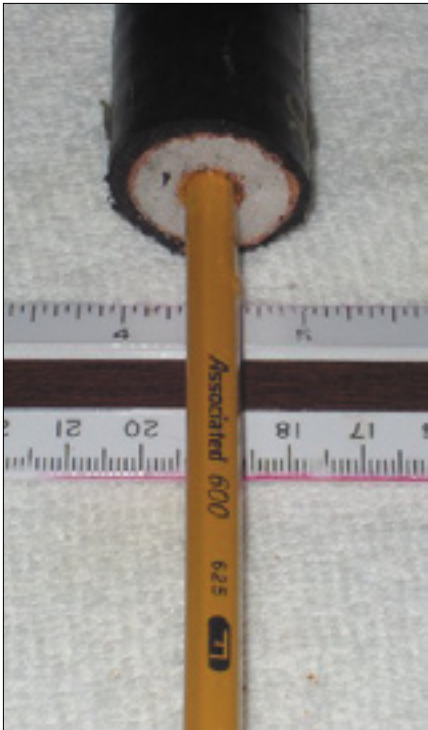
dawn@hanner.com and me at **curtis@hanner.com**. Or give us a call at (425) 829-1407.

Please keep us in mind as you make your plans for the Flea Market.

Make sure to stop by and see what we are raffling off and buy some tickets.

If your non-Ham friends are coming, make sure to send them upstairs to the Country Store to check out the raffle. We are sure to have something of interest to just about everyone.

As always, Grandma Eva and little Bryan (6) will be helping to sell tickets.



Michael Dinkelman

A pencil can fit "inside" the inner conductor. **Right:** The unusual connector.

An old hand finds new fun with coax and connectors

Michael Dinkelman

Sr. Contributing Editor

Recently, I had a chance to make a new addition to the station here.

A friend has been tearing down his tower and was looking to sell his used coax. Now, I've been a Ham for over 30 years, but I've only dreamed of having this kind of coax.

Frankly, even though I knew what I was getting, it was still kind of a shock (in a fun way) to actually work with the stuff. I haven't installed it yet but the connectors were quite a change from your usual PL-259.

Of course, to some of you this is old hat but I thought maybe the rest would get a kick out of it.

Can't wait to get it in the air.



Meeting called to order by Barry

In attendance: Dan, Dawn, Pam, Gary, Barry, Kim, Mike, Hideki, Ted, Terry, Jim, and Dick.

Old Business

New member packet: Status of packet for new club members introducing them to club activities, events and services. This will include a list of committees and activities where they can contribute and participate. This could also include officer contacts and some of the information that is included in the bylaws section of the membership booklet. Each committee could provide a blurb on why the new member should join them. This could also be a general information sheet that could be used at parades, Field Day, etc.

Also posting it on the Web site. Dick to write up and submit to the board for approval. Dick took to board meeting, got suggestions, e-mailed document to Paul to "pretty up." The revised document was passed around to committee members for their perusal.

Membership survey: Board status of interest survey for the general members regarding specific public service event interests and general radio interests.

Brendan or Dick — Decided to in-

Public Service Committee Minutes: Oct. 18, 2003

clude the survey as it currently exists as a page in the *Relay* with returns to go to Dick. Voted to send to *Relay* editor for publication.

JOTA: Gary and Mike will write and submit *Relay* articles and visit Scout camp. Scout organization failed to get back to them.

We will try again next year, possibly invite the Scouts to come to Station 14 in Renton for the event. We could just go directly from the club meeting to the event. Another way to get them interested would be to invite Scout groups to Field Day. Gary and Mike will handle this next spring.

Ad Sales: Terry — At present we have had no response. Another notice is going out this week, and he will follow up with phone calls.

New Business:

Assignments for booklet: Decided to change the year on the front cover, inside front cover to remain the same.

Mark Whittaker will be asked to

verify the net information. If he is unable, Gary will.

NWSOAR net will start on Wednesday on the 146.82 repeater at 2100 local.

Mike will verify the repeater information page.

Pages 4 and 5 will get new pictures, but otherwise remain the same except for minor corrections (date, spelling, etc.).

Dan and Dawn will do the Northwest Hamfests section.

Ted will do the amateur radio exam section.

Pam will take the Public Service events section. Torchlight will be added this year.

Kim is taking the top half of the club contacts page, Gary is taking the bottom half.

Emergency preparedness page will be updated to include the new King County ARES Web page. The page will remain a "bare bones checklist" with references to Web locations for additional information.

Jim Walker KN6TC will proofread the entire booklet prior to publication.

Inside back cover (glossary of terms) will remain the same. Outside cover will also remain the same except that the Special Service Club line will be deleted.

Inside front and back covers will be available for ads if they come in.

Meeting adjourned.

Officers present:

Vice President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE)
Acting Sec'y. – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
Treasurer – Jack Grimmertt (N7IHS)
Activity Manager – John Long (KW7A)
Radio Officer – Terry Dettmann (WX7S)

Trustees present:

No. 2 – Terry Dettmann (WX7S)
No. 3 – Steve Cook / CoB (KD7IQL)
No. 4 – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
No. 5 – Dave Smith (KB7PSN)

Vice President Sam Sullivan (N7RHE) called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. at the Salvation Army Building in Renton, Wash. All members and guests repeated the Pledge of Allegiance. The vice 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 K7OV and seconded by K7NEX to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay*. Motion passed.

Officer Reports

President – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV): Absent due to attending a wedding in Kansas.

Vice President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE): New member applications were reviewed. Ron Henderson, Marcos Miranda, and John Parker were approved for membership.

Acting Secretary – Dick Radford (WA7NIW): No report.

Treasurer – Jack Grimmertt (N7IHS): Membership is at 195. Issued profit and loss statement. The club is still solvent.

Radio Officer – Terry Dettmann (WX7S): Reported that the repeater is still working. The new repeater will be going up on the mountain by the end of the year. He's looking for people to help out with work parties and keeping things operational day to day.

He's also working on starting a group to do RDF work. There is another project to get digital networks (HF and VHF) developed for King County ARES. He's looking for people to work on these projects, too.

General Meeting Minutes Oct. 18, 2003

Activity Manager – John Long (KW7A):

1. John went over the raffle items – a portable vise, CD callbook, a lighted multi-bit screwdriver, a can of WD-40, a mini-tool knife, a bag of assorted sized clamps, a roll of electrical tape, and bundles of cable ties.

2. Today's program will be on how to talk around the world, or get WAS or DXCC with a Technician-class license.

Chairman of the Board – Steve Cook (KD7IQL):

1. Web site is currently down. A new Web host is being sought. Amount of space for the Web site is to be determined.

2. There will be an election for Trustee No. 1.

3. There is an opening for Secretary.

Standing Committee Reports

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

Education – Dave Smith (KB7PSN): Education Committee meeting after the meeting today to determine when to have regular meetings to get on with the business of education.

Facilities – Steve Cook (KD7IQL): No report.

Public Service – Barry Wolborsky (KC7YB): No report.

Strategic Planning – Carolyn Pas-

quier (WV7Q): No report

Public Service Communications
– Gary Bryan (KG7KU): No report.

Alligator Award: Acting on behalf of Calvin, Mike K7JML presented the Alligator Award to Hermano N7VIQ. Hermano explained that it's an easy award to get; all you need to do is talk for 91 seconds on the repeater.

Old Business

None

New Business

Harry W7JWJ reported on a silent key who was shot in the head by his girlfriend.

Jim N7HKO reported that a group of VECs have petitioned for the elimination of the Morse requirement for Technician class.

After the program, Jim Walker and Mike Dinkelman will demonstrate a DF setup outside

John KW7A reported that another RDF group is going to meet after the meeting. Also, that he is having back surgery and would appreciate help in picking out raffle items for the next couple of months.

Marcos Miranda is going to be making approximately monthly trips to HRO in Oregon and will be willing to pick up items for club members.

Good of the Order

Paul K7STQ reported on e-mail problems with the *Relay*. Next month he will send second e-mails to confirm that he sent the *Relay* so you can report if you didn't get it.

Mike K7JML asked if there was a confirmed location and date for the Holiday Party. Frank to check on availability of the first two Saturdays in December.

Jim N7HKO reported that he wants to get a group together to go to Olympia when the tower bill comes up for discussion in the Legislature.

There being no further business, Dick WA7UEW moved and Jim N7HKO seconded a motion to adjourn. Approved and Vice President Sullivan closed the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

Attested: Dick Radford – Acting Secretary, WA7NIW

Welcome, new members

The Mike & Key Club warmly welcomes these new members, who were approved at the October meeting:

Ron Henderson, K7DY, an Extra from Renton.

Marcos Miranda, WL7JS, a Technician from Seattle.

John Parker, KD7KFT, a General from Woodinville.

In September, General-class Ham Teresa Vaughn, KD7WCJ, from Auburn, joined the club.



Officers present:

President – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV)
 Secretary – Paul McElroy (K7STQ)
 Activity Manager – John Long (KW7A)
 Radio Officer – Terry Dettmann (WX7S)

Trustees present:

No. 2 – Terry Dettmann (WX7S)
 No. 3 – Steve Cook / CoB (KD7IQL)
 No. 4 – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
 No. 5 – Dave Smith (KB7PSN)

Visitors: Mike (N7WA), Scott (AG7T), Steven, (KB7FGV).

Chairman Cook called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m. at the Salvation Army Building in Renton, Wash.

Minutes: NWSOAR was misspelled in the September board minutes. Motion by Cook (KD7IQL) and seconded by Smith (KB7PSN) to approve amended minutes of the previous board meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay*. Motion passed.

Officer Reports

Chairman of the Board – Steve (KD7IQL): The next board meeting will be held Nov. 19. The December board meeting has been rescheduled for Jan. 7. The regular January board meeting will be held, as usual, on the last Wednesday (the 28th).

President – Brendan (KD7IKV): The election for trustee no.1 will be held at the November general meeting because nominee Scott (AG7T) was unable to attend in October. There are still no nominations or volunteers for secretary.

Vice President – Sam (N7RHE): In Sam's absence, Chairman Cook presented membership applications to vote on for submission to the general membership: Letcher Ross (KD7YOH), a technician; Randy Coots (KD7BMO), a general; Jimmy Jones (no call), who wants to become a Ham; Edward Maher (NL7VP), a general; and Jeff Miller (N9YEI), a technician. All approved.

Secretary – Paul (K7STQ): Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Jack Grimmer (N7IHS): No report.

Activity Manager – John (KW7A): Brendan will handle the raffle in November due to John's absence. Terry (WX7S) will present a program to be determined.

Radio Officer – Terry (WX7S): NWSOAR net will be at 9 p.m. Wednesdays instead of crowding the Public Service

Board Meeting Minutes Oct. 29, 2003

net on Thursdays.

Ken Rau is out of town. Terry is still waiting for materials from Ken, who will set up a meeting before they go to the Squak Mountain repeater. After Terry goes over the manuals, he'll get the VXR 5000 (50-watt repeater) going. Ken believes there's not enough room at the prospective Rattlesnake Ridge site for equipment (need about a half rack for equipment). Terry will visit the site and take pictures to determine before reporting back to the board. Other repeater operators have told him coverage on that side of Rattlesnake Ridge is not so good. He wants to get a service monitor, particularly since there's no local facility to repair the VXR 5000. Used equipment is on the market to consider. The best service models can inject low-level signals for testing and have spectrum analyzers, etc. Terry wants a better way to remotely control the repeater so that frequent site visits aren't necessary.

He is tasked with assembling an equipment inventory. He has an old one, but Chairman Cook will send him a better one.

The club's radio license expires in 2005. The registered trustee is still Harry Lewis. Terry will start paperwork to update the records.

Committee Liaison Reports

Facilities – Steve (KD7IQL): The club will pay the Salvation Army this month or next for use of the space.

Christmas Party: The first or second Saturday in December at the Salvation Army Building is available. John Long to coordinate with Frank Krieger (KA7QHG) to reserve a date

Field Day: The club scored second in Category 6A and 16th overall, which is remarkable.

Technical – Terry (WX7S): A small group has been started on Yahoo about radio direction finding.

Public Service – Dick (WA7NIW): At the Oct. 18 meeting, they assigned tasks for next year's Special Events Guide. A retired college professor has agreed to proofread it. They will also drop special events that are held before publication.

The new member handout was approved. Extra copies will be printed.

Terry suggests putting a PDF copy on the Web site.

Education – Dave (KB7PSN): Several members attended the first meeting, including a VE. Consensus on holding a class, but the question is whether it will be Technician or General level. They are considering co-sponsoring the class with BEARS and holding it somewhere in south King County. Number of instructors not determined yet. Dave will pursue arrangements and try to schedule the class before the end of the year. Terry advises that Search and Rescue recently held a Technician class that included a PowerPoint presentation, which the club might be able to borrow or duplicate.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Web hosting: Dave (KB7PSN) has sent Jim Etwiler a list of six or seven possible new hosts, including three local companies, among them Eskimo North.

Bylaws modification: A committee will be formed to look into additions and amendments.

Relay production: Paul (K7STQ) is printing it at his home office for better reproduction as opposed to photocopying at Costco or Kinko's. The production budget should remain the same, depending on how many toner cartridges are needed. He estimates six cartridges a year, which would equal the cost of duplication at Costco.

Good of the Order

There being no further business, Brendan (KD7IKV) moved and John (KW7A) seconded a motion to adjourn. Approved and Chairman Cook closed the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Attested: Paul McElroy – Secretary, K7STQ

Holiday party on Dec. 6

The club's annual Christmas party will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Salvation Army Building.





Ham Nets & Events for November / December 2003

All nets are on 146.82 unless indicated otherwise
Send calendar items to the Relay editor:
k7stq@arri.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 2000 — King Co. ARES (weekly) 2030 — Snoho. Co. ARES: 146.92 (weekly)	10 0545 — Weather net: 145.33 (M – F) 1730 — Puget Sound Traffic Sys. (daily) 1645 — Weather net	11 2000 — Snoho. Co. RACES: 146.92 (weekly)	12 2030 — WARFA swapnet: 3.908 (weekly)	13 1900 — Pub. Service net (weekly) 1930 — Shoreline ARES: 440.3 (wkly.)	14 2000 — Youth net: 145.33 (weekly)	15 0900 — Club net 1000 — Club mtg. 1300 — Ham exams ARRL Nov. Sweeps
16 2000 — Amateur TV net: 147.08 (weekly) ARRL Nov. Sweeps	17 ARRL Nov. Sweeps	18	19 1915 — Board mtg.	20	21	22
23 2200 — Northwest Astronomy net: 145.33 (weekly)	24 ARRL Nov. Sweeps	25	26	27	28	29
30 Seattle Marathon CQ Worldwide CW DX contest	1 1830 — Wash. ARES HF: 3.985 (weekly) 2000 — YL net: 145.33 (weekly)	2 2000 — Maple Valley ARC/ARES: 146.54 (weekly)	3 2000 — General Info & Tech net: 145.33 (weekly)	4 Thanksgiving 2000 — Computer & Packet net: 145.33 (weekly) 2000 — Amateur TV net: 147.08 (weekly)	5 ARRL 160-m contest	6 Christmas Party SKYWARN Recognition Day ARRL 160-m contest
7 Special People's Cruise in Seattle ARRL 160-m contest	8	9	10	11	12 Relay deadline	13 0900 — Wash. ARES HF: 3.985 (weekly) ARRL 10-m contest (Sat. and Sun.)