



'Tis the season for love and joy

Brendan Burget / KD7IKV

President

Happy holidays to all. I'd like to start by thanking the crew who put on our Christmas party.

Mike, Calvin, Ronnie and company staged an outstanding shindig. The turkeys were perfect, and don't get me started on the ham.



From the Hot Seat

The gift exchange seemed to be getting off to a slow start. Then the thievery began and things livened up considerably. We had quite a turnout and all in attendance had a good time. Thanks guys!

Well before the party, your board was putting in hard work on the budget for next year. I think we came up with a budget that shows fiscal responsibility while still providing for all of the club's needs.

As a board, we have to be sure to consider the long-term health of the club as well as current needs. We are still working toward a goal of zero-deficit spending. This budget continues progress toward that end.

I think the budget has the club's best interests at heart and, therefore, recommend that it be approved by the general membership, after your



Mike K7JML and Ronnie KC7UFS plus their elves, performed magic in the Salvation Army headquarters kitchen to create a feast fit for kings and queens at the club's Christmas party on Dec. 6.



Alan KB7SVU

review.

That's it for this month. May your holiday find you all surrounded by love and good fortune. 73.

A timely poem is on page 3.

The Inside Story

Two poignant tributes to a Silent Key.

Pages 3 and 4

BeaconSee shows you the band openings.

Page 5

The pride and polish of working a parade.

Page 7



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 ector

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

Send dues to

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10624 148th Avenue SE
Renton, WA 98059-4203

Send newsletter submissions to

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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.

A visit from jolly St. Nick

Editor's note: This charming and timely poem comes to us by way of World Radio. As author Dennis KW4DW writes, it is with all due respect to Clement Clarke Moore:

'Twas the night before Christmas, my verticals were all trim.
The guides were all snug, from the ground to the rim.
My dipole was hung, from one tree to the next.
When, while scanning the band, I became quite perplexed.
For what to my wandering eye should appear?
It was quite a commotion, some clanging, some cheer.
I raced to the window so swiftly and quick.
I caught a brief glimpse of white-bearded St. Nick.
It seems he was tangled in feedline and wire,
As he urged his team on to climb higher and higher.
I heard him exclaim as he rode out of sight,
"I need more than a reindeer with a red nose tonight.
How do they expect me to fly through the air?
While Hams have antennas in back yards everywhere!
I'm lucky to make it, and that's the true facts,
Through wires and radicals and dangling coax."
So please give some thought to those out Christmas night.
Decorate those antennas with tinsel and light.
Make high visibility your one common goal.
So Santa can make it through the long winter's cold.
Now I have come to the final last line.
With but one item left of which to remind ...
Merry Christmas to all, even if you're a Ham,
And expect some great presents, not just ashes and spam.

— 73 de Dennis KW4DW

Testify in Olympia on Jan. 20 to help pass a state antenna bill

Senate Bill 5200, which would enable Washington state Hams to erect antennas up to 70 feet, will be debated Tuesday, Jan. 20, in the Legislature.

Mike & Key's Jim N7HKO and Harry W7JWJ will be in Olympia to testify on behalf of the bill. If you are interested in joining them, contact Jim at (253) 845-0219.

Hams, of course, know the necessity and value of main-

taining reliable communications for emergencies. But many people believe mobile phones are the answer to staying in touch. In fact, they fall far short of Amateur Radio's capabilities.

According to a study published last April by the General Accounting Office, cell-phone users are unable to complete 10 percent of their calls.

By the way, that's under normal conditions.

Fond memories of a Silent Key

Sam Sullivan / N7RHE

Vice President

My memories of Nils Hallstrom go back 12 years to when I joined the club in 1991. Nils was a well-known mover and shaker who joined the club in September 1990. Sadly, he passed away Nov. 15.

Nils was a General class, call sign WB7TJK (later, in late 2000, an Extra, call W7RUJ). His application listed his nickname as "Svenskar."

I can remember his "drill sergeant" appearance as the head of security at several Flea Markets.

His sense of humor was also well known. Remember when he was presented with an egg timer and lanyard to limit his soapbox speeches at the podium? And when Carolyn WV7Q presented him with an apron after he remarked that a woman's place is in the kitchen?

Nils served as vice president in 1992 and '93; president in '94; trustee in 1999-2000 and in '03 until his resignation last September. Nils received the prestigious Pop Brown Award in 1995.

I remember Nils as an adviser, mentor, Elmer and friend. He was also an Elmer of life. He loved his country, his family, his friends and the Amateur Radio community.

In the last several days, I didn't get around to tell him when he was still receiving visitors the following:

Even though we've sometimes disagreed on some things, I've always sought and savored your advice and counsel. I thank you for your advice, mentorship and friendship. I love you.

Nils' and Jo's departure leave a big hole in the club but they will always have a place in our hearts.

Happy DX de N7RHE.

Another tribute is on page 4.

Farewell to our Prince of Sweden

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

Senior Contributing Editor

Some images just stick in your mind forever. I don't know why—it just works that way for me.

One such image is the first time I saw Nils Hallstrom walk through the doors of the United Good Neighbor Center for a Mike & Key meeting. He didn't look that much different from today. A bit less gray, a lot more heft, suspenders and the well-worn jeans. He was a lumber truck driver and looked the part.

Frankly, I made one of those quick judgments many of us make when we first size up a new acquaintance. I would be deceiving you if I didn't tell you that judgment—I think the word "hick" would come closest to describing it.

The past dozen years have taught me a lot about how lousy a judge of character I am and I'm happy to have learned the lesson. However, on Nov. 15, Nils' continuing contribution to my education ended when he became a Silent Key and many of us lost a close personal friend. Certainly, the club has lost one of its more colorful and influential members.

Nils was born in Los Angeles in 1928 and learned to talk Swedish before he spoke English. He attended schools in California, Hawaii and Washington before ending up at the Stockholm Technical Institute at the age of 18, where he majored in civil engineering just after WWII.

Following that, he joined the U.S. Signal Corps Radio School and graduated second out of a class of 156. Because of his familiarity with European culture

and ability to speak Swedish and German, he eventually ended up in the CIC intelligence group for two years of covert work before returning home to this area.

He worked for Boeing in various wind tunnels (transonic, supersonic and hypersonic) as a model maker and in instrumentation. From there, he joined the research and development group of what was once Sunstrand—an avionics equipment leader—and was a production manager at AvTech.

Eventually, Nils was offered a management position at one of the national laboratories. During



Jack N7ZS

Nils W7RUJ

the long background check required for the position, Nils made a life-changing decision. He became a truck driver for Weyerhaeuser, a career switch that lasted

23 happy and stress-free years. (Can you see Nils working happily in a suit and tie?)

This was the guy I had mentally labeled a hick. Nils found that amusing, as well.

Nils procured his first Ham license (WN7RUJ) in 1952, which eventually lapsed. Getting back into radio in the '80s, he walked through that door of the UGN Center as WB7TJK. When vanity licenses became available, he selected W7RUJ as a close reproduction of his original call.

It took a lot to get Nils into the club. In those days, you had to attend two meetings out of three and our quorum requirements were a lot higher. As such,

even after Nils had attended his required meetings, we couldn't vote him in as a member for three more meetings because we didn't have enough members in attendance (it was summer).

The Nils we knew was long-winded and he was well aware of the fact. One of the best gag gifts ever presented at the yearly banquet went to Nils as a result of this trait: an hourglass-type egg timer on a chain. For many a meeting after, Nils wore that timer and it was a requirement that the sand should never run out before Nils did. He was proud of that timer and I believe it still hangs on a wall in his home.

Nils was quick to get his dander up about some things and was just as good at backing down when he wrong. You could disagree with him and yet there was no need to be disagreeable.

I don't know if it was his engineering background, but Nils was extremely organized and everything he did in the Mike & Key was affected. A number of the committee and officer binders we use these days are a result of his work. If you ever checked out his shack or workshop, everything was meticulously filed and/or organized. Recently, even the club QSL collection received the "treatment."

Nils held a number of board positions and received numerous awards, including, of course, the coveted Pop Brown.

One of the greatest joys in his later years as an Amateur was sharing the hobby with his wife, Jo. Outside of radio, Nils produced and sold honey and maintained an excellent garden at his home in SeaTac.

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More programs and Web sites on propagation

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

Senior Contributing Editor

November's program was a bit off the cuff due to Terry's illness, but those who stayed seemed to enjoy themselves. We rambled all over the subject of propagation and got some good and experienced input from Scott AG7T, Dean N7NKO and others. Good questions were asked.

I just wanted to follow up on a few of the things mentioned and answer one question we deferred for fear of being inaccurate.

First, some links to software that was mentioned. The VOACAP program is available at:

<http://elbert.its.bldrdoc.gov/hf.html>

It's free—your tax dollars paid for it—and probably the most accurate propagation modeling software available. It's also a bit cumbersome to use so you might find these Web tutorials useful:

www.uwasa.fi/~jpe/voacap/
www.qsl.net/oh6bg/

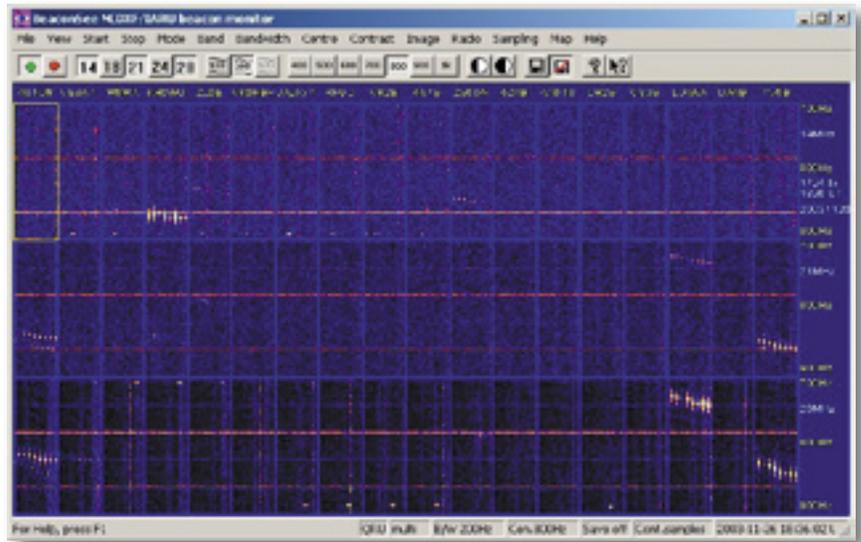
I think this program (and some of the commercially available interfaces) would be fun to discuss as a future program subject. Another freely available propagation program is the successor to Mini-Prop—W6ELProp. You can get it at:

www.qsl.net/w6elprop/

It's easier to use, although the modeling may be less accurate.

Also mentioned was a Web site called Northwest Research Associates.

Each of the above programs needs a sunspot (or flux) value plugged in to do their calculations. NWRA provides a number known



BeaconSee shows you openings on the bands

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

Senior Contributing Editor

I mentioned this program in the article at left, and have been giving it a workout before CQWW CW to get a picture of the upcoming propagation.

I thank Greg W7HRC for a great suggestion he made at the "Prop 101" session we had at the Mike and Key ARC last month. It's a program called BeaconSee.

BeaconSee is one of those programs that, once you sync up your computer to the time standard, will display the active NCDXF beacons. Previously, I've used other programs like this but, while interesting, they didn't give me much additional knowledge due to the need to sit there and listen.

BeaconSee gave me two more options, which has made it more useful to me. One, it controls the radio so it can jump from band to band, say, 20 meters to 15 to 10.

Two, it records a section of the bandwidth "visually" through use of the computer's sound card.

Once set, you can walk away from the radio and allow the program to record beacon activity.

The beacons tend to show up as a series of bright dots. Comparing the visual display to my propagation forecast data has really raised my confidence in the forecasts and also raised my awareness of openings I don't usually think about.

The program is useful in its free form and is available at:

<http://sapp.telepac.pt/coaa/beaconsee.htm>

If you register, there is additional capability given to save results.

The accompanying screen capture shows activity on three bands (20M, 15M, 10M) over a period of about an hour (10 A.M.) on Nov. 26, though I nor-

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Propagation

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as the Effective Sunspot Number Indices (SSNe). Instead of using the Smoothed Sunspot Number (which is always six months too late) or the predicted SSN (a guess), the SSNe is a number derived from a set of worldwide measurements of actual conditions. (They'll even show what the difference is between the "optical" sunspot count and what the sunspot number should effectively be for the current set of solar flux measurements.)

As such, the SSNe appears to be a better indicator of conditions than the SSN. You can look over the info at:

www.nwra-az.com/spawx/ssne.html

We talked about the NCDXF Beacon system as a propagation indicator and programs that show which beacon is active (once you sync your PC clock) and the power levels expected.

Greg W7HRC brought to our attention a *free* beacon tracker called BeaconSee. To use it, you'll probably want to get one of the many PC Time Sync programs available. I use SymmTime (www.symmetrictomm.com), but there are lots of these out there. Be sure you get one that can compensate for the delays inherent in the Internet.

All of these programs should show up on the resource CD the Technical Committee is producing.

Now, the question of the hour was, "What do all those numbers mean—what's good and bad?"

The quick answer we gave was ... High Flux: Good. High A and K: Bad. But what do the numbers really mean?

For that, I have reproduced a bit of propagation primer written by Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA. The Earth's magnetic field plays an important and critical role in propagation. Variations in the Earth's magnetic field are measured by magnetometers. There are two measurements readily

available: the daily A index and the three-hour K index.

The A index uses a linear scale and goes from 0 (quiet) to 400 (severe storm). The K index uses a quasi-logarithmic scale (which essentially is a compressed version of the A index) and goes from 0 (quiet) to 9 (severe storm). Generally, an A index at or below 15 or a K index at or below 3 is best for propagation.

Carl also explains that daily flux measurements or sunspot numbers are lousy indicators of propagation. Currently, our best bet indicators are smoothed SSN or flux numbers and they can only be used to indicate monthly medians. There is *no* daily propagation model. I have noted in recent *National Contest Journal* articles and at the NW DX Convention last July that Carl does see merit in using the SSNe numbers mentioned above.

In the January Relay, Scott AG7T will compare propagation models with the reality of Field Day 2003.

BeaconSee

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ally just monitor one band. Each segment shows a bandwidth of about 200Hz around a center frequency of 800Hz.

These parameters are adjustable. The display builds up in 10-second segments as each beacon becomes active. It takes time to

build a full segment though you can see activity (if any) in a partial segment. The active beacons show as a rather distinctive series of white dots.

Other single dots are signals that come and go, usually packet stations. The stronger signals are fairly bright, but you can make out the ZS6 beacon on 20 meters and the LU4 beacon on 15 meters as light dots.

(The disadvantage of using a

yagi is that you can only point it in one direction at a time so the strength of signals in another direction may not be optimum.)

One issue for me has been in finding a useful audio level to use with my sound card. I almost need to turn my audio all the way down to avoid overloading the card.

Still, if you're looking for another tool for DXing or contesting, give BeaconSee a try.

Nils

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He produced scale models. Nils also made sure, personally, that when SeaTac became a city, it made provisions for Amateur Ra-

dio towers and antennas. He was involved with his church, making food bank deliveries.

Self-deprecating in his humor, Nils was the subject of a lot of gags and jokes—frequently self-generated. More often than not, when he left messages on

my phone answering machine, he only identified himself as the Queen of Sweden. I'm afraid he had that one wrong, though ...

Sweden, Seattle, Amateur Radio, and the Mike and Key have lost a prince. Farewell, Prince of Sweden.

Work parades for pride and polish

Gary Bryan / KG7KU

Relay Correspondent

Hams enjoy a most wonderful hobby. It is one that connects the world through communications. One of the most exciting aspects of this hobby is the opportunity to work events on a local level to benefit the public.

Public service events are wide-ranging, and Hams often help as volunteers using hand-held radios operating on the two-meter frequency band. There are many avenues of service for Hams: off-road car races, foot-races/marathons and parades, to name a few. This article will focus on parade events.

Many parades during the summer are in association with SEAFAIR. This organization coordinates many community events with the theme of "connecting and celebrating the community spirit of Puget Sound."

Ham radio volunteers have been very instrumental in providing communications to effectively conduct these events. Parades are held in many communities outside the realm of SEAFAIR, and Ham radio volunteers help provide communications for them, as well.

The Seafair Parade Marshals organization is one member of a family of organizations that assist SEAFAIR in fulfilling its charter. Other members include the Seafair Commodores, Seafair Boat Club, Seafair Pirates and Seafair Clowns. A host of community events are supported by the many volunteer hours these organizations provide.

As its name implies, the Seafair Parade Marshals are primarily focused on parade events.

SEAFAIR-sanctioned parade

events fall within a time frame surrounding the Hydro races held each summer on Lake Washington. Sanctioning is a representative "canopy" that extends support for conducting parades at a specified level of safety, excellence and professionalism. This, in turn, becomes an overlapping charter for the Seafair Parade Marshals to ensure conformance to certain standards of conduct in the procedural execution of the parade plan.

The Seafair Parade Marshals, along with Ham radio volunteers and the event participants themselves, are among many who

Public Service Events

Monday, Dec. 22
Santa Talks / Seattle
 Contact: Tim, K7QMI
 206-368-3970
 tvschnee@eskimo.com

become guests in various communities and provide assistance in executing the parade plan.

Parade plans are primarily the responsibility of local community organizers. Much planning occurs over a time frame that can extend from one to five years, though typically a parade event is planned on a yearly cycle beginning the moment the parade is complete from one year and forward to the next.

The Seattle SEAFAIR Torchlight Parade plan is the responsibility of SEAFAIR, with many operational details provided by the Seafair Parade Marshals.

It is not at all surprising that Ham radio provides a top-notch, professional level of communications support for parade events.

Many Hams use these events as opportunities to tweak their equipment—radios, antennas, batteries, even temporary and permanent repeater sites—to prepare for actual emergencies.

Provision of these Ham radio volunteer hours is vital to the success of any parade event, especially for the Seattle SEAFAIR Torchlight parade. If it should ever seem that these services are not appreciated, then let me be the first to offer you my most sincere apologies.

At the scene of parade events are local community volunteers who have placed several hundred volunteer planning hours into the mix. Consider the larger picture for a moment: Safety risks and alternative action plans provided by police, fire, state Department of Transportation, city officials, city council members, the presence of visiting dignitaries and special guests, Navy, Coast Guard, Marines, Army, Air Force, the contributions by corporate sponsors, the event participants—all of whom, individually and collectively, repeatedly say, "Thank you for your contributions. This would not be possible without it, without you, without your time."

Be sure, then, that all Ham radio public service volunteers are appreciated for their contributions. Remember the bigger picture, then say to those who helped plan the event, "Thank you so much for the opportunity you have provided for us to serve you." By volunteering your Ham radio skills to help with parades, you further the goodwill associated with Ham radio volunteers around the world, and show people on a local level the tremendous value of this great hobby.

Officers present:

President – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV)
 Vice President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE)
 Secretary – Paul McElroy (K7STQ)
 Treasurer – Jack Grimmatt (N7IHS)

Trustees present:

No. 1 – Scott Robinson (AG7T)
 No. 3 – Steve Cook / CoB (KD7IQL)
 No. 4 – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
 No. 5 – Dave Smith (KB7PSN)

Visitors: Trina Burget; Vera Doss.

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.

Quorum present.

Minutes: Motion by Steve KD7IQL and seconded by Dean Holtan, N7NKO, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay*, with one correction: Brendan was not at the October general meeting. Motion passed.

Officer Reports

President – Brendan KD7IKV: Nils Hallstrom, W7RUJ, passed away this morning.

Vice President – Sam N7RHE: New member applications: Jimmy Jones, no call but taking the Technician test today; Jeff Miller, N9YEI, a Tech; Letcher Ross, KD7YOH, a Tech. All approved.

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

Treasurer – Jack N7IHS: Issued P&L statement. The club is still solvent.

Radio Officer – Terry WX7S: Brendan reports that Terry has the flu. The repeater process is rolling along. Terry plans to take the new repeater down and study it before getting it up by the end of the year. It may or may not go on Rattlesnake Ridge due to limited space considerations. That site and alternatives are

General Meeting Minutes Nov. 15, 2003

being evaluated.

Activity Manager – John KW7A: Brendan announces today's raffle prizes: lighted screwdriver, desoldering iron, lighted tape measure, and a few smaller items.

Chairman of the Board – Steve KD7IQL: Election for Trustee No. 1 (un-expired portion to March 2005). Scott Robinson, AG7T, is the only person running. Scott has been a Ham since 1990 and a club member for about six years. He's been the safety officer for Field Day the past few years. He also likes CW, antenna modeling and contesting. Jack (N7IHS) moves and Richard Pasquier (N7MER) seconds a motion to accept Scott unanimously by voice vote. Motion passed. Mike Eakins, K7OV, volunteers to serve as Trustee No. 2 (to replace Terry WX7S when he officially takes over as Radio Officer). Mike has been a Ham since 1958 and is active in repeaters. The club is still looking for a secretary.

Standing Committee Reports

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

Technical – Mike Dinkelman, N7WA: Still taking submissions for the software CD, which they will release early next year. Macintosh program are acceptable, too. Nelson Spohnheimer, W7KVI, has two HP-608 signal generators for free. One is fully functional; the other needs a 12-volt transformer. See Mike if interested.

Education – Dave KB7PSN: The committee hopes to set up a theory class soon. Volunteer instructors should contact Dave.

Facilities – Steve KD7IQL: Nothing to report.

Public Service – Barry Wolborsky, KC7YB: Brendan reports that the committee is meeting at the Yankee Diner after the general meeting. Volunteers are needed to help handle all the work to be done on the 2004 events guide.

Strategic Planning – Sam N7RHE reports that they have completed the

telephone survey form, which will be used to contact members whose dues have recently lapsed to find out why they have not renewed.

Public Service Communications – Gary Bryan, KG7KU: Volunteers are needed for a few events scheduled throughout the remainder of the year, especially the Seattle Marathon.

Christmas Party – Mike LaFerla, K7JML: The party will be on Saturday, Dec. 6, starting at 5 p.m., eating at 6. He and his wife, Ronnie, plus Calvin and Brenda and Jim and Joan, will start preparations on two turkeys and two hams at 9 a.m. Attendees whose last names begin with A-L should bring a hot dish; M-Z should bring desserts and salads. There will also be a gift exchange of Ham or non-Ham items with a \$12 limit.

Flea Market – Mike N7WA: The next meeting is Jan. 6. Four thousand flyers have been printed. Volunteers should sign up for duty in the sign-up workbook that circulates at general meetings.

Alligator Award: Ermanno Rusi, N7VIQ, hands off to the long-winded Dean N7NKO — again!

Old Business

None.

New Business

Extra Mile Award: Brendan awards the first certificate designed to recognize outstanding efforts by a club member to Mike (N7WA) "because every time I turn around he's doing about 10 things."

ARRL online training: Harry Lewis, W7JWJ, reports that the ARRL introduced online emergency communications courses in January 2000. It is now offering a course for Technician licensing. The comprehensive study materials include the book "Now You're Talking" and a year's membership in the ARRL. An online Reflector has been created by Terry Dettmann for students and about 25 mentors. Harry is serving as the Reflector moderator. It will be online for the public starting in February.

Antenna bills: Jim Monaghan, N7HKO, reports that sample letters are on the tables for urging passage of pending state and federal antenna bills. He

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 No. 4 – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
 No. 5 – Dave Smith (KB7PSN)

Visitors: Dawn KC7YYB and Dan N7QHC Humphrey.

Chairman Cook called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m. at the Salvation Army Building in Renton, Wash.

Minutes: Motion by Brendan KD7IKV and seconded by Dave KB7PSN to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay*. Motion passed.

Officer Reports

Chairman of the Board – Steve (KD7IQL): No report.

President – Brendan KD7IKV: Welcomes Scott AG7T to the board.

Vice President – Sam N7RHE: No new member applications.

Secretary – Paul K7STQ: The club received its annual renewal notice for the Post Office box, which was forwarded to Jack N7IHS and paid.

Treasurer – Jack N7IHS: Issued P&L statement.

Activity Manager – John KW7A: No report as he is still recovering from surgery.

Radio Officer – Terry WX7S: He is ready to submit the new paperwork for station trustee and is nearly ready to file the Washington state nonprofit report, which is due by Dec. 31.

He stumbled across expired coordination certifications for the K7LED 146.682 repeater on Squak Mountain and the 220 repeater on Tiger Mountain. The 440 repeater certificate also expired. He spoke with the WWARA, which extended currency for six months. He will follow through with five-year renewals, which cost \$5 apiece. He also plans to buy an amplifier, which the board previ-

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ously approved, after researching which model will work best.

Committee Liaison Reports

Facilities – Steve KD7IQL: The radio officer has been given an updated inventory of club equipment.

Strategic Planning – Sam N7RHE: The committee has survey questions in hand and is about to begin calling former club members to find out why they have not renewed their membership.

Technical – Terry WX7S: No report.

Public Service – Dick WA7NIW: Still working on the events guide. A minor correction will be made to the new member handout concerning the Field Day chairman. They are conducting a public service interest survey, which will be printed in the December *Relay*.

Christmas Party – Steve KD7IQL: Preparations are under way. Jack (N7IHS) has given the committee a check to buy food.

Old Business

Patches: Brendan KD7IKV will write Dawn KC7YYB a letter authorizing the purchase of 300 patches at \$2 apiece, which the board approved via e-mail earlier in November.

New Business

Proposed 2004 budget: After discussion by the board, Sam N7RHE moved and Jack N7IHS seconded a motion to approve the budget as modified. Motion passed.

Good of the Order

There being no further business, Scott AG7T moved and Dick WA7NIW seconded a motion to adjourn. Approved and Chairman Cook closed the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

Attested: Paul McElroy – Secretary, K7STQ

Welcome, new members

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

Jimmy Jones from Seattle.

Jeff Miller, N9YEI, a Technician from Redmond.

Letcher Ross, KD7YOH, a Technician from Snohomish.

December board meeting

The Mike & Key Club Board will hold its December meeting at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7.

General Meeting Minutes Nov. 15, 2003

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urges everyone to write to their representatives to get the bills passed. The state Legislature starts Jan. 20. He wants to contact state Rep. Pam Roach and get a group of Hams to testify on behalf of the bill. It's important to let them know we need antennas for emergency communications.

Mike & Key Club Web site: The site has been down intermittently recently. Brendan reports that the club will probably migrate the site to a new host.

Good of the Order

Since Terry is too ill to present his program on propagation, Mike N7WA will host a roundtable discussion on propagation after the meeting.

There being no further business, Jim N7HKO moved and Mike K7JML seconded a motion to adjourn. Approved and President Burget closed the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Attested: Paul McElroy – Secretary, K7STQ





Ham Nets & Events for December 2003 / January '04

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 2000 — King Co. ARES (weekly) 2030 — Snoho. Co. ARES: 146.92 (weekly)	15 0545 — Weather net: 145.33 (M – F) 1730 — Puget Sound Traffic Sys. (daily) 1645 — Weather net	16 2000 — Snoho. Co. RACES: 146.92 (weekly)	17 2030 — WARFA swapnet: 3.908 (weekly)	18 1900 — Pub. Service net (weekly) 1930 — Shoreline ARES: 440.3 (wtkly.)	19 2000 — Youth net: 145.33 (weekly)	20 0900 — Club net 1000 — Club mtg. 1300 — Ham exams
21 2000 — Amateur TV net: 147.08 (weekly)	22 Santa Talks	23	24	25	26	27
28 2200 — Northwest Astronomy net: 145.33 (weekly)	29	30	31	Christmas	2	3
4	5	6 1930 — Flea Market Committee mtg. 2000 — Maple Valley ARC/ARES: 146.54 (weekly)	7 1915 — Board mtg. 2000 — General Info & Tech net: 145.33 (weekly)	8 2000 — Computer & Packet net: 145.33 (weekly) 2000 — Amateur TV net: 147.08 (weekly)	9 Relay deadline	10 0900 — Wash. ARES HF: 3.985 (weekly) North American QSO Party – CW
11	12 1830 — Wash. ARES HF: 3.985 (weekly) 2000 — YL net: 145.33 (weekly)	13	14	15	16	17 0900 — Club net 1000 — Club mtg. 1300 — Ham exams ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes