



## Tribute to a pro and a longtime friend

**Fred Lowell / N7PZ**  
**Relay Correspondent**

The Mike & Key lost another member last month and I lost a dear friend. Ron Verschuyt, K7AAE, became a Silent Key on Sept. 16 after a long battle with cancer.

Ron had been in and out of the hospital over the past few years, but always came back with a smiling face and a warm greeting. Unfortunately, as happens all too often, cancer won out.

**I met Ron** in the late 1970s when we served together as members of the Naval Reserve attached to Patrol Squadron 69 at NAS Whidbey Island.

Ron was a Petty Officer First Class when we first met, but worked his way up to become a Chief Warrant Officer before he retired.

I was a pilot and Ron was a radio operator. I always felt confident when flying with Ron, knowing that our communications would invariably get through. He was just as much a professional then as he was when he died.

I would like to share with you some of Ron's history, which was included in a *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* article by Mike Barber last February:

"Ron Verschuyt, 73, of Woodinville is one of four sailors serving in the Naval Reserve under special permission. He also serves in the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

"But Verschuyt, who spent 24 years as a paid Navy reservist, continues to work in the Reserve Center's high-security communications section. He kept his electronics skills current through interests in several ham radio networks he runs from his home. One is the Military Affiliated Radio System, or MARS; another is a gateway patching travelers into e-mail systems.

"**Of his enthusiasm** for serving his country, Verschuyt points to his days as a refugee before immigrating to the United States. 'When I was in trouble—a displaced person—and didn't have anything, America helped me to have an opportunity. I got that opportunity. I want to pay this country back for that,' he said.

"Indonesian and Dutch by birth, Verschuyt was kicked out of his homeland when the former Dutch East Indies won independence and became Indonesia. Displaced to the Netherlands, he served in the Royal Dutch Army for seven years.

"In 1960, he realized his dream of coming to the United States under the sponsorship of Woodland Park Presbyterian Church. He joined the Navy in 1967."

**I also had the pleasure** of working with Ron at The Boeing Co., from where he retired about 12 years ago.

I last saw Ron at the annual Washington Amateur Radio Traffic System net picnic on Lake Kachees up at Snoqualmie Pass last July. At the time, he was feeling much discomfort. But when talking with him, he never let on. I was greatly saddened when I heard of Ron's passing. He will always hold a warm spot in my heart.

A memorial service will be held for Ron at the Tahoma Military Cemetery in Kent at 1 P.M. Friday, Oct. 14.

**The  
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Story**

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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.org](http://www.mikeandkey.org)

**E-mail**

[info@mikeandkey.org](mailto:info@mikeandkey.org)

**Reflector**

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

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Several club resources are available electronically:

**Web:** The club's site at [www.mikeandkey.org](http://www.mikeandkey.org) 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](mailto:k7stq@arrl.net).

# Quiet competence and group dynamics

Sam Sullivan / N7RHE

President

In May, I wrote about the board's settling-in period with its mix of new and returning members. This is a positive update on the board.

In my professional career, I was a member of several national committees and workgroups meeting to set national policy and future direction in telecommu-

## From the Hot Seat

nications.

What I experienced

was group dynamics where everyone presented their idea or solution. All things were discussed without yelling and screaming—with the final outcome being a re-analysis of the best idea and quite often the formation of a solution that no one had thought of. Group dynamics can bring great, far-reaching results.

The board is only six months into its year together and has reached this level of competence. It is a pleasure to be a part of such activity as we work on fine-tuning normal activities and resolving such issues as the best way to fix or replace the generator and trailer.

If you have *any* issue or concern, contact a board member. We can arrive at the best solution. Don't forget that any member can attend a board meeting. If you have an item for the agenda, contact Brendan KD7IKV. The next board meeting is at 1900 Wednesday, Oct. 26, at Galliano's Cucina, 16435 Military Road S. in SeaTac.

For education ideas or to join the committee, contact Guy N7ZG. For the Technical Committee, contact Dick K7NEX. If you have any ideas for a program or would like to present a program, contact Dawn KC7YYB. To assist the radio officer, contact Paul N7DOH. For Field Day, contact Brendan KD7IKV or Steve KD7IQL.

# A pleasant return to the world of DX

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA

Senior Contributing Editor

I used to be a DXer many years ago—I was still WA7UVJ back in those days. Had a respectable total and it was a fun aspect of the hobby.

Then the DXpedition to Bouvet happened ... gosh, it must have been at least 10 years ago, maybe more.

To say it was a bad experience is putting it lightly. It wasn't the crowds because that was expected. It wasn't the difficulty because that speck of dirt is a long ways away from the Pacific Northwest.

But when you get profanity—not just the usual self-proclaimed band police or LIDs, but actual profanity on CW (not SSB)—and the entire mess was being used as an example of how bad ham radio



Cortland KA5S

Our intrepid DX'er on another long night in 2004.

operation on Kure Island. I had a lot of fun. It's the first time I have actually pursued a DXpedition in all those years.

The technology has changed a bit. The K7C operation had a "near" real-time satellite Internet

has become, I walked away. Until recently.

I chased my first DXpedition in the past few weeks: the K7C

connection that let you know who they had worked. There was no need to be a DX hog and make extra contacts to make sure you were in the log.

The Internet connection also detailed what part of the world they were working. They sent out regular bulletins, as well.

As expected, you had to get in the crowd and fight for the contacts and I didn't get them on all the bands I wanted, but that's part of the fun. Yes, the band police were still there and a LID or two (including myself when I used the wrong VFO), but it was a competition and not a zoo.

Yes, Kure isn't the rarest place in the world, but it did my DX-ing heart some good. I think I'll be back for some more. Hope you had the chance to get on and work them, too.

# Traffic has a new route and prices are going up

Michael Dinkelman / N7WA  
Senior Contributing Editor

The kickoff meeting for the 2006 Mike & Key ARC Flea Market was held Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> in the home of Michael and Diane Dinkelman.

In attendance: Hal Goodell, Kathy Martin, Curtis Hanner, Jim Etwiler, Gary and Pam Bryan, and Michael and Diane Dinkelman,

**Item** – Chairpersons for 2006 are: Hal / Facilities; Diane / Registration; Pam / Announcing; Gary / Loading; Kathy plus (see below) / Tickets; Dawn and Curtis Hanner / Country Store; Wayne Heath / Hospitality; Alan Hughes / Security; Mike / Setup and Publicity; Scott Robinson / VE Exams.

**Item** – Prices have gone up. There hasn't been a general price increase since 1999. Tables will increase from \$22 to \$24, seller registrations will go from \$5 to \$6, helper registrations will go from \$7 to \$8, and general admittance will go from \$6 to \$7. Booth prices, which were raised a couple of years ago, went from \$120 to \$132 (if all four registrations are used).

**Item** – The fairgrounds has annexed Fifth Street along the west side of the grounds. This is where the Orange Gate (vendor entrance) is located.

That road no longer exists, but a new "corridor" has been paved that runs southeast/northwest from 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Fifth Street. There is access from this street to a large parking area that can be used to stage access to the Orange Gate, but we'll need to

## Flea Market

communicate the changes to the vendors and make some signs to direct traffic. Expect and prepare for confusion. As a result of this change, overnight RV parking may be moved, too.

**Item** – Kathy Martin is willing to co-chair the tickets with emphasis on "co." If you've been thinking about this job, but weren't quite sure how to go it alone—this is your chance to learn. Please see me or Kathy at the next club meeting.

**Item** – Door prizes were discussed. In the past several years, we've had a problem getting rid of them.

New system for 2006: Starting at 10 A.M., we will announce a \$20 cash prize every half hour. If the prize is not claimed in that half hour, it will roll into the next drawing at \$40.

This increment will continue each half hour until the prize is claimed, at which time the prize starts at \$20 again.

This may create some excitement and we won't need to worry about leftover prizes or prize procurement. It will be cheaper, as well, as we've been buying \$300 worth of prizes. The last drawing will be at 1 P.M.

**Item** – The sign-up sheets are changing. Worker scheduling is still one of our biggest headaches. There will be a short instructional program during each club meeting between now and March. Please see a related article in the next *Relay*.

Next meeting is at 7 p.m. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at Michael and Diane's home.

## To everything there is a season

Paul McElroy / K7STQ  
Relay Editor

Change is good, they say, because it makes life interesting and keeps us young.

I've been pushing that notion to the limit lately by starting a new job as a technical writer at Boeing and buying a house in the Fairwood area of Renton. Oh, and did I mention the Seattle Urban League commissioned me to write a book about its history?

As much as I love wringing order out of chaos, all this activity has exacted a price. I've been QRT on the bands for some time and have reached the point where I must hand off editing the *Relay*.

I do so wistfully because the newsletter has given me a lot of satisfaction. And I've really enjoyed and appreciated all the contributions from our members, which make the *Relay* such an informative publication.

I'm sure that whoever takes over will derive the same sense of fulfillment I've experienced. The club needs your help and you'll get your name in lights—or in print, anyway.

I'll handle the next two issues. But come January, it's time for a fresh hand. I'll help you get started with software templates or whatever guidance you need. Interested? Drop me a line or contact a board member.

September 17, 2005

**Officers present:**

President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE)  
 Vice Pres. – Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q)  
 Secretary – Gary Bryan (KG7KU)  
 Treasurer – Jack Grimmer (N7IHS)  
 Radio Officer – Paul Roth (N7DOH)

**Trustees present:**

No. 1 – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV) CoB  
 No. 2 – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)  
 No. 4 – Dick Vance (K7NEX)  
 No. 5 – Frank Tate (NA7O)

President Sullivan called the meeting to order at 10 A.M. at the Salvation Army building in Renton, Wash.

All members and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Sullivan 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 Brendan KD7IKV and seconded by Steve KD7IQL to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay*. Motion passed.

**Officer Reports**

**President** – Sam N7RHE: The next Mike & Key general membership meeting is Oct. 15.

Vice President – Carolyn WV7Q: New membership applicants Jack Mitchell, KD7OEH, Joel Lichtenstein, W8CQP, and John Marthens, NU6A, were placed before the membership for approval, and were approved. Welcome aboard.

On a different note, everyone is aware of the displacement of people as a result of Hurricane Katrina—so a hat is being passed around the room to collect money toward The Salvation Army as contribution from the Mike & Key Club to help the victims. Hams are generous people, so give what you are able. It was later announced that \$236 was collected. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

**Secretary** – Gary KG7KU: Anyone who may have official club papers, please

**General Mtg. Minutes**

forward them to me. Any items of club historic nature are welcome also. It is important to capture significant items of “Official Club Business” for the records.

**Treasurer** – Jack N7IHS: The club’s books are in good order. Gave P&L and balance sheet summary.

**Radio Officer** – Paul N7DOH: Progress has been made regarding the new repeater firmware and software installation.

**Activity Manager** – Dawn KC7YYB: Adrian KB7BVL – Raffle items are available, please participate.

**Chairman of the Board** – Brendan KD7IKV: The Mike & Key Board meets Sept. 28 at Galliano’s Cucina in SeaTac.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Technical** – Dick K7NEX: Nothing new to report at this time.

**Education** – Guy N7ZG: Not present.

**Facilities** – Brendan KD7IKV: Following the last work party, items are being identified for purchase or replacement.

**Public Service** – Dick WA7NIW: Event listings can be found on the tables. Meeting following the presentation today.

**Strategic Planning** – Frank NA7O: Work continues on the club’s mission statement.

**Annual Picnic** – Dave KB7PSN: Some items that were left at the picnic can be picked up.

**Flea Market** – Mike N7WA: The first meeting will be held Oct. 3. Next year, 2006, represents the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hamfest.

**VE Exams** – Scott AG7T: VE Exams will be held following today’s meeting and presentation.

**Holiday Dinner** – Pam N7PRS and Adrian KB7BVL have stepped up to plan the event. Thanks, Pam and Adrian.

**Field Day** – Steven KD7IQL and Brendan KD7IQL: Generator replacement is being planned. Band chair positions

**Welcome, new members**

The Mike & Key Club warmly welcomes our newest members, who were approved in September:

John Marthens, NU6A, an Extra from Normandy Park.

Joel Lichtenstein, W8CQP, an Advanced from Seattle.

Jack Mitchell, KD7OEH, a Technician from Seattle.

are still open—especially the GOTA chair, which represents the public face of the club to visitors. There is a need for volunteers to help with testing and selecting logging software. Any ideas or suggestions are welcome.

The 2006 Field Day marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mike & Key ARC Field Day involvement.

**Old Business**

**Alligator Award** – Calvin KC7IYP: Takers are becoming very hard to find. Repeater users, especially new hams, should oblige with the “95-second rule.” With a cooperative spirit, the Gator will always have a new place to stay.

**New Business**

No new business.

**Good of the Order**

**Rita KD7CNU** – Plans are to attend (and join) the Fort Flagler Improvement Group meeting Oct. 8.

**Mike N7WA** – The Salmon Run is this weekend.

There being no further business, Tressie KC7BAL moved and Dick K7NEX seconded a motion to adjourn. Approved and President Sullivan closed the meeting at 10:43 A.M.

Attested: Gary Bryan KG7KU, Secretary

# How practice makes perfect

**Michael Dinkelman / N7WA**  
Senior Contributing Editor

Every wonder why the crew on CW Beach seems to know their way around their radios so well?

It's because they practice all year round—not just the fourth

full weekend of June.

The following CW Beach members were active in the 2004 CQWW DX contest and all will be receiving wallpaper for their efforts. By the way, those are all DX contacts made during a single weekend. Congratulations on the fine showing!

Chuck N7BV: 487 QSOs; 96,960 points. That's first place in the W7 call area for high-power, 15M single-band operation.

Guy N7ZG: 477 QSOs; 254,013 points. That's second place in the W7 call area for a low-power, all-band operation

Mike N7WA: 464 QSOs; 145,250 points. That's first place in the U.S.A. for a low-power, 20M single-band operation.

September 28, 2005

## Officers present:

President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE)  
Secretary – Gary Bryan (KG7KU)  
Treasurer – Jack Grimmatt (N7IHS)  
Radio Officer – Paul Roth (N7DOH)

## Trustees present:

No. 1 – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV) CoB  
No. 2 – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)  
No. 3 – Guy Molinari (N7ZG)  
No. 4 – Dick Vance (K7NEX)

**Visitors:** Jim KD7BAT, Adrian KB7BVL, Mike N7WA, Meredith

Chairman Brendan called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. at Galliano's Cucina in SeaTac, Wash.

Minutes: Jim KD7BAT – In the "Good of the Order" section of the last board meeting minutes, Donald K7AAE should have read Ronald K7AAE. Dick WA7NIW moved Guy N7ZG seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, as amended. Motion passed.

## Officer Reports

**Chairman of the Board** – Brendan KD7IKV: The next scheduled board meeting is Oct. 26.

President – Sam N7RHE: Next general membership meeting is Oct. 15.

Vice President – Carolyn WV7Q: Absent. Sam N7RHE: New applicant Pete Bradley, N7GBL, received approval by the board to be placed before the membership for acceptance into the club.

**Secretary** – Gary KG7KU: No mail. If you have official documents of the club and consider them to be of importance to include in the club secretary file, please forward to me.

## Board Mtg. Minutes

**Treasurer** – Jack N7IHS: Provided the Mike & Key Club 2005 budget summary. Board members are encouraged to look it over. At the next board meeting the initial formal review of the 2006 operating nudget will be accomplished.

**Activity Manager** – Dawn KC7YYB: Absent.

**Radio Officer** – Paul N7DOH: The new repeater is coming together with hardware and software in preliminary test mode. Activity will be forwarded to the board.

Brendan KD7IKV expressed appreciation for the updates Paul has been providing the board.

## Committee Liaison Reports

**Facilities** – Brendan KD7IKV: Discussion on options for power generator, its purchase and trailer placement.

**Strategic Planning** – Frank NA7O: Absent.

**Technical** – Dick K7NEX: Work continues on the newly received radios.

**Public Service** – Dick WA7NIW: Brendan KD7IKV- The committee is in early preparation of the *Puget Sound Guide* for 2006. Consideration is being given as to potential advertisers. Future developments regarding the *Guide* include posting it on the Web and possible dynamic updates driven by database.

**Education** – Guy N7ZG: Always looking for ideas and suggestions.

## Old Business

**Sam N7RHE** – I would like to see a Miuke & Key Club membership applica-

tion posted on the club's Web site in PDF format to make it easier for people to apply for membership. Jim KD7BAT volunteered to do this.

**Sam N7RHE** – Asked the secretary to look at the club's files to find the Memorandum of Understanding that formed an agreement as to the use of the club's 146.820 MHz K7LED repeater for the Sunday night King County ARES Net. Gary KG7KU will check into it.

## New Business

**Flea Market** – Mike N7WA: The first meeting of the Flea Market planning committee will be held at Mike N7WA's house on Tuesday, Oct. 4.

Mike also presented the board with a draft version of the Flea Market flyer and registration form, which reflected a very modest increase in prices. The cost of operating the Flea Market has increased several years in a row, and the club is only now increasing the admission and seller registration fees. The board approved the new pricing.

**Sam N7RHE** – The club still needs rotor cables for Field Day '06. Jack N7IHS can order a roll as he is in need of a short piece for his own equipment.

Others suggested "12 connectors" also be purchased. The board approved allowing Jack to proceed with ordering the cable and connectors.

## Good of the Order

Nothing for the good of the order.


There being no further business, Sam N7RHE moved and Dick K7NEX seconded a motion to adjourn. Approved and Chairman Brendan closed the meeting at 7:58 P.M.

Attested: Gary Bryan KG7KU – Secretary



# Ham Nets & Events October / November 2005

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
<b>9</b> 2000 — King Co. ARES (weekly)	<b>10</b> 0545 — VWeather net: 145.33 (M-F) 1645 — VWeather net (M-F)	<b>11</b> 2000 — Snoho. Co. RACES: 146.92 (weekly)	<b>12</b> 2000 — General / Tech info: 145.33 (weekly) 2100 — NWSOAR net (weekly)	<b>13</b> 2000 — Computer & Packet net: 145.33 (weekly) 2000 — Amateur TV net: 147.08 (weekly)	<b>14</b> 2000 — Youth net: 145.33 (weekly)	<b>15</b> 1000 — Club mtg. 1300 — Ham exams
<b>16</b> 2000 — Amateur TV net: 147.08 (weekly)  SCCA Rally Mount Hood, Ore.	<b>17</b> 2000 — YL net: 145.33 (weekly)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 1900 — Pub. Service net (weekly)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 0900 — WA ARES HF: 3.985 (weekly)
<b>23</b> 2030 — Snoho. Co. ARES: 146.92 (wkly.)	<b>24</b> 1730 — Puget Sound Traffic Sys. (daily) 1800 — VVA Emerg. HF: 3.985 (weekly)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 1900 — Board mtg.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 0900 — NW Swap net: 145.33 (weekly) 
<b>30</b> 2200 — Northwest Astronomy net: 145.33 (weekly)	<b>31</b> 1830 — VVA ARES: 3.985 (weekly) 1930 — PS Repeater: 146.96 (weekly)	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  Veterans Day Parade Auburn
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
					Relay deadline	