



From the Hot Seat...

DIGITAL MODES

by Sam Sullivan N7RHE, President

We've all heard about the digital modes using your computer and we understand them, right? Not me, at least not totally. It's so confusing with Amtor, Packet, Pactor. BPSK31, QPSK31, Olivia, Shellscriber, MT63 (stealthy one used by MARS I think), MMFSK, and -- oh yes -- CW, and others. There are many programs available both as freeware and for sale like MMSSTV, MixW, MMRTTY, Hellscriber, DigiPan, etc for your computer.

But then there is the issue of interfacing your computer sound card to the transceiver. There are numerous interfaces available, the most common are Rig Blaster from West Mountain for \$70 for the very basic to \$250 for the really good one; The MFJ-1275 or 1279 from MFJ for \$100 to \$130 base. Or the best opportunity yet, the program this month is about digital operation and you can see and buy an interface kit for about \$55. Yes, a kit, what a 'Ham thing' to do.

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 Club meeting program or if you 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.

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Hot Seat	1	'TR3' Needs 'TLC'	4
Fort Flagler Work	1	Ham Got Blues	4
January Packet	1	Genl Mtg Minutes	5
Club Contacts&Info	2	Board Mtg Minutes	6
Sights & Sounds	3	Did You Cry?	6
Salem Hamfest	3	Public Svc Minutes	7
VE Team Info	3	ARRL Notes	7
What About Nov	3	Events Calendar	8
M&K FleaMarket	4		

Work Party at Ft Flagler

by Gary Bryan KG7KU

Mark your calendars for February 4th and 5th, for a volunteer work party at Fort Flagler, sponsored by 'Friends of Fort Flagler.'

Call Rita Danielson for information, 425-290-3440, or send an Email: gamatoad24 @ aol.com.

Packet: 'Too Much Fun,' Say Some

by Guy Molinari N7ZG, Education Committee Chair

The January 2006 meeting will feature a presentation by Clint Hurd KK7UQ on PSK31 and other digital modes. Clint spoke at the last SeaPac Convention held in June last year, so if you missed SeaPac due to Field Day preparation, his presentation at the upcoming Mike & Key meeting will be reprised especially for us.

The information will focus on interfacing a rig capable of SSB (A3J) emission to a computer sound card. Clint will discuss the PSK31 protocol in detail and will give an overview of other modes such as MFSK16 and PSK63. Hopefully this will also include a discussion of RTTY as well.

Also covered will be a walkthrough of the interface circuitry design, as well as an overview of an interface kit that Clint offers for sale on his website: www.kk7uq.hfradio.org. The cost of the kit is \$55.

I will be purchasing one myself at the January meeting and hope that others do the same. If there is enough interest, we could schedule a time where the club members could meet and assemble their kits. From what I can tell by reviewing the information contained on Clint's web site, this would be a good first-time project for those with little kit building experience.

I would expect that Clint will have some kits on hand for sale after the presentation has concluded.



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.



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K7LED Repeaters
146.82 output / 146.22 input
(PL 103.5)
Squak Mountain
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(PL 103.5)
Tiger Mountain

Email
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Send newsletter submissions to
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Webmasters	Jim Etwiler / Dave Smith	KD7BAT / KB7PSN	kd7bat@arrl.net	206-633-1512

Mike & Key Online -- Several club resources are available electronically:

- On the Web** — The club's site at 'www.mikeandkey.org' includes extensive information about club events: VEC testing, membership, past edition of the *Relay* and more.
- 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 will also save the club some money in printing and postage costs. To sign up, send a message to the editor: kg7ku@arrl.net.

Sights and Sounds by Sunrise

by Dawn Humphrey KC7YYB, Program Chair

Wow! What a grand ending for 2005! Not only did we have last minute sales to boost chances for the year end drawing, we had a great boost for the 2006 January prize kitty. Thank you each and everyone of you who have regularly participated in our raffles. I hope that you each have won at least once throughout the year, and if not, you at least were one of the ones drawn for the biggie. Again, my thanks.

It is my desire that the prizes are at least worth the \$1 you pay for the ticket. Sometimes I just run out of ideas, because there are just so many times you can offer a certain item, before it gets old. So, with that said, I am again asking for ideas for items that you'd like to see offered up as drawing items.

I try to make sure that there are at least 3 items up for grabs, and that at least half of the monies collected is put back for the year end and the next month's drawing. Sometimes we get a big kitty, and we can offer gifts in the \$5 to \$20 range, but remembering that, if they don't always qualify for the "big ticket" category, just remember that the more tickets that are purchased, the better quality the prize.

The speaker for January is Clint Hurd KK7UQ who was recommended by Ward Silver N0AX, and arranged for by Guy N7ZG. (See article on Page 1 of this *Relay*.)

The program theme in February will be Nominations for Mike & Key Club Offices. On this particular topic, I have two items to mention:

1...I enjoy doing your raffles. With that said, planning the programs isn't something that I really feel I have the expertise to do, so . . . when it comes to program chair, I recommend that the club implement a split office, OR make them into two entirely different positions.

2...In February, Dan and I plan to be in or on our way to Yuma, Arizona. That means I won't be able to accept or decline, if nominated to continue the role of Program Chair. I also will need someone to cover the February raffle for me. I will provide the prizes, tickets and starting moneys. If you are willing to help, please let me know so I can arrange for the transfer of the materials.

Another note, if you choose to nominate someone in my stead, please accept my thanks for giving me your trust and confidence in holding the office during the past year.

'Hey, What About November?'

by Gary Bryan KG7KU, Relay Editor

'No-one ever said what happened to the November '05 *Relay*...what's up with that?...' I keep hearing, and so I feel obligated to respond, 'I don't know, except that the November Relay was never published, due to technical

difficulties.' Then I go on to say, 'Paul McElroy K7STQ, who has been quite masterful as Editor, has taken on greater responsibilities which preclude his ability to support the volunteer duties of producing the *Relay*.' And that's when they usually say, 'Oh, okay--thanks.'

Wanted: Salem Hamfest Courier

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

The fleamarket down at Rickreall, Oregon is coming up on February 18th. If you are headed down to attend, I would like to engage your services as a courier by sending down a stack of flyers for our own Fleamarket in March. This is a good chance to publicize our event to hams in northwest Oregon. All that's required is that you plan on being there fairly soon after it starts and lay the stack of flyers out on the information table they usually have set up. (Of course, if you really want to be obnoxious, you can pass them out to vendors and attendees. I won't mind.)

Let me know by Email: mwdink @ eskimo.com or Phone: 253-631-3756, and I'll make arrangements to get you some flyers.

VE Team Information

By Scott Robinson AG7T

Jan K7YH has stepped down as the VE Exam Session contact person for our VE team. I thank Jan for his many years of service and his encouragement to examinees.

I have taken on the team contact responsibilities in addition to my VEC liaison duties. Folks with questions can email me at ag7t@arrl.net. I have also setup an exam session information line at (425)788-0452 . Candidates can call that number and receive information about our exam sessions.

The exam sessions are still on the Third Saturday of each month following the club meeting at the Renton Salvation Army building. We ask examinees to start showing up at 12:30PM, exams start at 1PM.

There will be exam sessions at the Flea Market on March 11, 2006. Note that examinees do not have to buy a ticket for the flea market to take exams. I'll need about 10 examiners to split up the morning and afternoon sessions. See me at the January or February club meeting if you are planning to help out or send me an Email: 'ag7t @ arrl.net.'

FLEAMARKET NEWS: < March 11 >

Fleamarket Workers Needed...

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

As usual, we are way behind on worker signups for the March Fleamarket. Area's in the deepest trouble are Announcing, Security, and Registration. We also need some fill-in at most of the other work positions.

I was listening the other day to a radio show about the Boys and Girls Club. I guess the annual dues for that fine organization is about \$25 a year. I thought that was kind of steep for kids but it sure wouldn't be out of line for a radio club. (I know I pay that much in dues for another local radio club that I rarely have a chance to participate in.)

However, you are LUCKY! Your radio club has the premier Ham radio gathering in Washington State (and some would say the Pacific Northwest). That gathering, our annual Fleamarket, draws people from throughout the western USA allowing you to look over lots of neat stuff you wouldn't otherwise get to see. The proceeds from the event also keep your dues dirt cheap and this club well funded.

Now, there is a "cause and effect" here. Insufficient workers means no Fleamarket. No Fleamarket means higher dues and less working capital. Less capital means less fun, and no Fleamarket also means a *very boring* March. Put simply and in mathematical terms and you have: "WORKERS=FUN". Do the math.

So, please sign up at the January meeting so I can have badges made up for distribution at the February meeting. If you can't make the January meeting, Email mwdink@eskimo.com or call 253-631-3756 so I can sign you up. If you aren't signed up by the January meeting, your badge will not be available at the February meeting and will have to be picked up the day of the event.

'TR3' Needs 'TLC' and a Home

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

I received a call from Don Trackwell, N7BOG who has a sick TR3 that is looking for a home. He isn't looking to sell it, he just doesn't want to trash it. He had another Ham look at it and that person says it has power supply problems but it could be just about anything.

Maybe you're looking for a project and have the expertise to handle this? He says he has a manual, as well, though I'm not sure that includes any schematics. Don is wheelchair bound so don't expect him to be able to make a delivery. Don lives in Kent at 11230 SE 219th Pl and his phone number is 253-854-6548. Give him a call if you have any serious interest.

Winter Ham Got the Blues

By Gary Bryan KG7KU, Secretary

It's cold outside -- they call it Winter
Where with the wind, rain and snow storms
More antenna's are coming down than going up
Oooh, I'm feeling blue

I'm inside most of the time
Trying to figure out what to do
The chores are much more like work than play
And, oooh, I'm feeling blue

All I can think is how low on the horizon
The sun manages to crawl
Daylight hours grind to bare minimum
And, oooh, I'm feeling blue

Are y'all feeling blue? Oh, yes, me too.

There's no way around it, I guess
So I'll just have to wait longer
Coax in the box, tools in the shed
And, oooh, I'm feeling blue

The other day I felt a little better
I placed my work boots by the door
And hung a short-sleeve shirt above it
Oooh, I'm feeling blue

December 21 is the shortest day
Good thing the days are not longer
I wouldn't be able to stand it
---Oooh, I'm feeling blue

December General Membership Meeting
Minutes - December 17, 2005:

Officers present:

- √ President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE)
- √ Vice President – Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q)
- √ Secretary – Gary Bryan (KG7KU)
- √ Treasurer – Jack Grimmett (N7IHS)
- √ Activity Manager – Dawn Humphrey (KC7YYB)
- √ Radio Officer – Paul Roth (N7DOH)

Trustees present:

- No. 1 – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV) Chairman
- √ No. 2 – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
- √ No. 3 – Guy Molinari (N7ZG)
- √ No. 4 – Dick Vance (K7NEX)
- √ No. 5 – Frank Tate (NA7O)

President Sullivan called the meeting to order at 10:05a.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 Dan N7QHC and seconded by Scott AG7T to approve the minutes of the October meeting as printed in the December *K7LED Relay*. Motion passed. Motion by Dave KB7PSN and seconded by Dick WA7NIW to approve the minutes of the November meeting as printed in the December *K7LED Relay*. Motion passed.

Officer Reports

President – Sam N7RHE: The next Mike & Key General Membership meeting is January 21. Budget presentation will occur later in the meeting, under New Business.

Vice President – Carolyn WV7Q: No new memberships.

Secretary – Gary KG7KU: A trailer-hitch style antenna mount is being added to the M&K website, a portion of the proceeds go to the Radio Club of Tacoma operations support.

Treasurer – Jack N7IHS: The Club's books are in good order. Gave P&L and Balance Sheet summary.

Radio Officer – Paul N7DOH: Progress continues with the new Repeater .

Activity Manager – Dawn KC7YYB: Raffle items are available, please participate. Today's program is the Annual Raffle.

Chairman of the Board – Brendan KD7IKV: Not present. Sam N7RHE -- The Mike & Key Board meets January 4, at Galliano's Cucina in SeaTac.

Standing Committee Reports

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

Education – Guy N7ZG: The January meeting Program will be conducted by Clint Hurd KK7UQ on PSK31 and other digital modes. You won't want to miss it.

Facilities – Brendan KD7IKV: Not present.

Public Service – Dick WA7NIW: Event listings can be found on the tables. The committee will be meeting following the program today, at the Ceder River Smokehouse, in Renton.

Strategic Planning – Frank NA7O: The Club Mission Statement has been submitted to the Board and will be printed in the next *Relay*.

Flea Market -- Mike N7WA: There are currently 53 sign-ups from the membership to support the Flea Market, only about HALF of the number needed. Please sign up. My thanks to all those who helped prepare Vendor Applications and Flyers for mailing. To save on postage, the mailing will occur before the end of this year. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 10, at the Dinkelman's residence, 7pm.

VE Exams -- Scott AG7T: VE Exams will be held following today's meeting and presentation.

Holiday Dinner -- Pam N7PRS: If you missed the M&K Christmas party on December 3, you missed something special. Thanks, everyone for your support in making this event a success.

Field Day -- Steven KD7IQL & Brendan KD7IKV: Not present.

Old Business -

Alligator Award- Calvin KC7IYP: I am still in the business of looking after reptiles. I am considering a class in the future entitled 'How to make your mark in the Ham Radio world -- in less than 92 seconds.' Perhaps a book will follow...'Basics of Alligator Attainment for Dummies.'

Mike K7OV -- As a leftover from Field Day, there still are Pins and T-Shirts. Contact Mike for your set.

New Business -

Budget- Sam N7RHE: The M&K Proposed 2006 Budget was printed in the December *Relay*, and is now open for discussion by the membership. General discussion followed. After sufficient discussion by the members, a motion to 'Accept the M&K Budget 2006 Proposal as printed in the Relay,' was made by Jim KN6TC and seconded by Mike K7OV. Motion passed.

Good of the Order -

Jim KD7BAT- At the last membership meeting there was a need to help the Salvation Army dispose of leaves which had been raked and bagged. Thanks to those who followed through by gathering and disposing of the bags. The Salvation Army saved about eighty (80) dollars by not having to hire someone to dispose of them. The Salvation Army has expressed their thanks to the Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club for having done this kind deed.

There being no further business, Mike N7WA moved and Dick K7NEX seconded a motion to adjourn. Approved and President Sullivan closed the meeting at 10:46a.m.

Attested: Gary Bryan KG7KU, Secretary

**December Board Meeting Minutes -
Held January 4, 2006:**

Officers present:

- √ President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE)
- √ Vice President – Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q)
- √ Secretary – Gary Bryan (KG7KU)
- √ Treasurer – Jack Grimmett (N7IHS)
- √ Activity Manager – Dawn Humphrey (KC7YYB)
- √ Radio Officer – Paul Roth (N7DOH)

Trustees present:

- √ No. 1 – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV) Chairman of the Board
- √ No. 2 – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
- No. 3 – Guy Molinari (N7ZG)
- √ No. 4 – Dick Vance (K7NEX)
- √ No. 5 – Frank Tate (NA7O)

Visitors in attendance: Jim KD7BAT, Dan N7QHC, Dave KB7PSN, Adrian KB7BVL, Meredith, Loras Gassmann

Chairman Brendan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Galliano's Cucina in SeaTac, Wash.

[Sec. Note- Due to Holidays, the Board in November approved meeting January 4 instead of December 28.]

Minutes: Motion by Dick K7NEX and seconded by Frank NA7O to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Motion passed. Motion by Dick WA7NIW and seconded by Dick K7NEX to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Motion passed.

Officer Reports

Chairman of the Board – Brendan KD7IKV: The next scheduled Board Meeting is January 25.

President – Sam N7RHE: Next General Membership meeting is January 21.

Vice President – Carolyn WV7Q: New applicant: Jeff Stevens KE7FRJ. Approved by the Board.

Secretary – Gary KG7KU: Nothing new at this time.

Treasurer – Jack N7IHS: Hand-out of the Budget with 'actual' Actuals for Year End 2005. Jack Burrell N7ZS found a good CD rate for Savings. Sam N7RHE: Requested signature cards be placed with Bank of America, to have Sam and Mike N7WA with signatures on file.

Activity Manager – Dawn KC7YYB: Guy has arranged for Clint Hurd KK7UQ to speak on PSK31 & other digital modes.

Radio Officer – Paul N7DOH: Work continues on the prospects and options for bringing the new repeater on-line. Weather precludes action at this time. The Board members entered into a general discussion of considerations for this effort. Work continues toward Western Washington Repeater Association (WWRA) coordination. Mitch Gill K7TUT performed an evaluation relating to Emergency Response to the current Squak Mtn 2-meter repeater site.

Committee Liaison Reports

Facilities – Brendan KD7IKV: Locating some of the keys have been difficult; an equipment inventory listing is in work.

Strategic Planning – Frank NA7O: Processes are in order.

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

Public Service – Dick WA7NIW: Progress continues in preparing the 2006 Puget Sound Guide.

Education – Guy N7ZG: No report.

Field Day -- Brendan KD7IKV: Generator and trailer requirements and options are still under consideration. The Board entered into a general discussion regarding the options. It was mentioned that perhaps a Homeland Security Grant Request could be written. Gary KG7KU, Dan N7QHC and Jim KD7BAT were directed to gather information from various resources to collect information.

Old Business-

Brendan KD7IKV - Led a discussion to clear up some questions relating to QSL cards. A stash of M&K QSL cards was released to Guy N7ZG, resolving the issue of having cards to send. Next issue was where to store the QSL cards received from contacted stations, and Gary KG7KU volunteered to store them with the Club files. The last issue was whether to send M&K QSL cards when/if the contacted station did not include a self-addressed-stamped-envelope (SASE, a standard courtesy), and the Board entered into general discussion. Jack N7IHS suggested that we should reply regardless, since the total number of cards each year may only amount to 10-15 which fall into this category. Frank NA7O suggested that this nominal cost be taken from the Board Discretionary Fund. Dick WA7NIW made the motion: *'To direct the QSL reply to stations who do not include a SASE, the cost of which to be offset using the Board Discretionary Fund, and with the proviso that such associated costs are subject to discontinuation at any time by a vote of the Board.'* This motion was seconded by Paul N7DOH, and the motion passed.

Brendan KD7IKV - Led a discussion relating to King County ARES/RACES usage of the M&K 146.82 repeater for exercises, drills and actual emergencies. Dick WA7NIW reported that a thorough search produced no documents which specifically state the agreement which currently exists. Brendan directed Dick to draft an agreement so as to formalize the current agreement. The Board members supported establishing a formal agreement. The Board members added that the usage of the repeater by the King County ARES/RACES group has been cordial, and that the courtesy of usage by Mike and Key Club members has been extended, when appropriate, during exercises.

Carolyn WV7Q - A reminder to the Board members to look for and introduce yourselves to visitors during the General Membership meetings.

Sam N7RHE - Reported that the Awards Banquet is just around the corner. The committee is slowly moving toward determining the Time and Place. A very preliminary time is April 8th. Place is yet to be determined.

Jack N7IHS - Issued a reminder that the Audit committee will need to perform the Audit soon. The Audit committee currently consists of Sam N7RHE, Brendan KD7IKV, Guy N7ZG and Kathy KB7QMO.

New Business-

Jack N7IHS - Asked the Board members to consider ideas on how to improve the process for conducting Email or Phone business which, by its very nature carries urgency or time constraints and disallows voting to be held until the next scheduled Board meeting.

Good of the Order- Nothing for the good of the order.

--There being no further business, Jack N7IHS moved and Frank NA7O seconded a motion to adjourn. Approved and Chairman Brendan closed the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Attested: Gary Bryan KG7KU -- Secretary

Did You Cry?

by Gary Bryan KG7KU, Secretary

In last month's *Relay*, Diane Dinkelman KB7DNE made a plea that pert'near broke my heart. I went through a whole box of tissues. The only hope, as I see it, in the case of getting more volunteers to help at the Flea Market, is that you sign up as soon as possible.

Public Service Committee Meeting Minutes - 12/17:

Meeting called to order by Dick WA7NIW, at the Cedar River Smoke House Restaurant in Renton, Wash.

In attendance: Dan, Dawn, Jim, Pam, Gary, Jim, Dave, Dick

Old Business: Pamphlet updates.

Gary: Net updates are going slowly due to people being too busy to get back to him before the end of the year. Proposing to move the ARES nets to the ARES page with references to emergency preparedness information. Another proposal is to move the ARES nets to their own location on the Nets page. Suggestion to include ARES region map for reference. Suggestion to include Band Plan information as a filler page if we need a new one.

Pam: Seafair Event list is coming from Art Kritzer. Other event information will be coming after the first of the year. Events happening early in the year (Prior to the Flea Market) should be printed at the bottom of the list with approximate dates (Feb. 2007) and contact information. The Auburn Santa Parade is being added to the Events list.

Hamfests: Waiting until the first of the year to get updated information.

Ad Sales: HRO, Top Hat, Seafair, Angle Lake Locksmith, Mount Baker ARC, have confirmed, RePC, ALF, and Buddipole will be contacted.

New Business: Discussion of Public Service Net format. Whether to take check ins, or not. How to make the net last a little longer so people don't miss it due to brevity. Also discussed having alternate net control stations.

ARRL Notes...Excerpt From:

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 25, No. 02
January 13, 2006

**==>FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON LEAGUE'S
"REGULATION BY BANDWIDTH" PETITION**

Comments are due by Monday, February 6, on the ARRL's Petition for Rule Making that asks the FCC to regulate the amateur bands by necessary bandwidth rather than by mode. The petition, designated as RM-11306, recommends what the ARRL calls "a shift in regulatory philosophy" to encourage and enable development and refinement of digital techniques and advanced technologies.

"This petition seeks for the Amateur Radio Service the flexibility to experiment with new digital transmission methods and types to be developed in the future while permitting present operating modes to continue to be used for as long as there are radio amateurs who wish to use them," the League said in its petition, filed November 14. The ARRL says the changes it suggests also will update the FCC's rules and eliminate the need for "cumbersome procedures" to determine whether a new digital mode is legal under Part 97.

The next step in this proceeding would be either a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) or a dismissal of the League's petition. An NPRM would kick off a further round of formal comments. For the rules to take effect, the

FCC would have to issue a Report and Order putting the changes into place and setting an effective date.

The ARRL is asking the FCC to replace the table at §97.305(c) with a new one that segments bands by necessary bandwidths ranging from 200 Hz to 100 kHz.

Unaffected by the ARRL's recommendations, if they're adopted, would be 160 and 60 meters. Other bands below 29 MHz would be segmented into subbands allowing maximum emission bandwidths of 200 or 500 Hz or 3.5 kHz, with an exception for AM phone.

- * 200 Hz would permit CW "at all speeds that human operators can decode" as well as PSK31.
- * 500-Hz bandwidth would accommodate RTTY and data modes and possibly some new image modes.
- * 2.8 kHz would remain the bandwidth for 60-meter operation on USB.
- * 3.5 kHz would accommodate SSB and digital telephony, image, high-speed data and multimedia.
- * 9 kHz is the ARRL's recommendation for double-sideband AM.
- * 16 kHz is "a reasonable compromise bandwidth" to continue to permit analog FM voice, data, digital voice and multimedia at 29.0 to 29.7 MHz.
- * 100 kHz, now permitted for RTTY and data in bands above 420 MHz, should be allowed starting at 50 MHz, with the exception of 50.0-50.3 MHz and 144.0-144.3 MHz to allow digital multimedia and high-speed meteor scatter work.

The ARRL says the Part 97 changes it's proposing constitute a balance "between the need to encourage wider bandwidth, faster digital communications and the need to reasonably accommodate all users in crowded bands." Conceding that its regulation-by-bandwidth regime would place increased responsibility on the amateur community to establish workable, accepted band plans, the League has expressed confidence that such an effort would be successful.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, has discussed the subject of regulating by bandwidth in three "It Seems to Us . . ." QST editorials: "Regulation by Bandwidth" in September 2004, "Narrowing the Bandwidth Issues" in April 2005 and "Self Regulation" in October 2005.

"This petition does not favor one mode at the expense of another," the ARRL concluded in urging FCC adoption. "It merely allows expansion of the repertoire of options that amateurs may pursue compatibly."

A copy of the ARRL petition is on the ARRL Website: <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/bandwidth/Bandwidth-Minute-64-Petition-FINAL.pdf>>

Comment via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. Under "ECFS Main Links" on the right-hand side of the screen, click on "Submit a Filing" to file comments. To view others' comments, click on "Search for Filed Comments." In either case, type "RM-11306" in the "Proceeding" field using capital letters and including the hyphen (but not the quotation marks).

Ham Nets & Events for 2006 -- January / February

Nets are on 146.82 unless indicated otherwise

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
15 2000 -- King County ARES (Weekly)	16 0545 & 1645 -- Weather Net 145.33 (M-F) MLK Parade at Westlake Ctr	17 2000 -- Snohomish County RACES 146.92 (Weekly)	18 2000 -- General /Tech Info 145.33 (Weekly) 2100 -- NWSOAR Net (Weekly)	19 2000 -- Computer & Packet Net 145.33 (Weekly) 2000 -- Amateur TV Net 147.08 (Weekly)	20 2000 -- Youth Net 145.33 (Weekly)	21 1000 -- M&K Club Meeting 1300 -- Ham exams
22 2000 -- Amateur TV Net 147.08 (Weekly)	23 2000 -- YL Net 145.33 (Weekly)	24	25 1900 -- Board Mtg	26 1900 -- Public Service Net 145.33 (Weekly)	27	28 0900 -- WA ARES HF Net 3.985 (Weekly)
29 2030 -- Snohomish Co. ARES 146.92 (Weekly)	30 1730 -- Puget Sound Traffic Sys. (Daily) 1800 -- WA Emerg. HF 3.985 (Weekly)	31	1 (February)	2	3	4 0900 -- NW Swap Net 145.33 (Weekly) Friends of Fort Flagler - Work Party
5 2200 -- NW Astronomy Net 145.33 (Weekly) Friends of Fort Flagler - Work Party	6 1830 -- WA ARES 3.985 (Weekly) 1930 -- PS Repeater 146.96 (Weekly)	7	8	9	10 <i>Relay deadline</i>	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 1000 -- M&K Club Meeting 1300 -- Ham exams Salem HamFest-Rickreall, OR