



From the Hot Seat...

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES.*

by Sam Sullivan/N7RHE President

As my time as president comes to a close after two years, I would like to thank all of you for your support. Hopefully I've brought on new ideas and at least carried on the good qualities that are the hallmark of this club. This club is a good collection of experience and knowledge that we must share with the new members of our profession.

Again, elections are this month and we need nominations to continue the growth of new ideas to ensure further growth in the club. Please support your new officers and give them your ideas and concerns. This past two weeks we (the board) have noticed that our standing committees need to be infused with activity also. The new equipment trailer project and VHF/UHF field day antenna replacement effort has struggled, Why? Because the technical committee is essentially nonexistent. The Public Service committee is going strong and the Education committee is setting up for upgrade classes. As I wrote last month, "let George do it" doesn't solve these problems, you do. So, volunteer to be on a committee or run for office.

Last week was the annual flea market. I don't have a report yet but hopefully enough people came to help and make our vendors want to come back again. We've got a great reputation and we want to remain the best west coast flea market.

For education ideas or to join the committee, contact Hal KE7BYN or Guy N7ZG. For the technical committee contact Steve KD7IQL. 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.

* The words and music were written by Leo Robin and Ralph Rainger.

FleaMarket 2007 Wrap-up

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

It's tough doing this right after the event but this is when stuff is fresh in my mind (just excuse the rambling style). Hopefully, Gary hasn't sent the Relay to the presses just yet. These are things that touched me this weekend [March 9 &10].

- Organizationally, this was a tough year. We had no one take up the hospitality Chair and we lost our Public Announcing Chair at the last minute. Fortunately, Ted N0YC stepped up to chair announcing and, with the help of his crew, I think he had fun. Hospitality remains an issue. I threw some food on the tables and I think everybody got some. I think it would have been sorely missed and it was my hope to show that this can be done without the need for an RV (don't get me wrong, it was always nice having Wayne's). So, if that's what was scaring someone away from taking this job - please step up anyway because I think it could have been a lot nicer with someone who had a bit more time for a personal touch.

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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.



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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.

FleaMarket Attendance

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

Following are the attendance figures for the past five FleaMarkets. Totals are based on ticket roll start and end counts and include Juniors (free).

2007

Gate: 2024 (includes 163 Jr) Vendors: 490 Total: 2514

2006

Gate: 1749 (includes 85 Jr) Vendors: 528 Total: 2277

2005

Gate: 1740 (includes 76 Jr) Vendors: 510 Total: 2250

2004

Gate: 1841 (includes 120 Jr) Vendors: 489 Total: 2430

2003 (no breakdown)

Total - just above 2500, (not sure how total was derived but that's what was reported)

FleaMarket 2007 Wrap-up... *[Cont'd from Page1]*

- Also on the organizational side, worker signups aren't what they should have been. If we didn't have volunteers from outside the club and extremely hard working volunteers, this event would have failed. I was very disappointed in the numbers for Friday morning setup and at the 2PM opening. That's our biggest rush. We had lots of workers Saturday morning but Friday was light from my perspective.

- Tables sales, though starting slow, ended up fairly normal and we were left with about 10-15 unsold tables. We didn't sell all the booth space on the second floor. ICOM cut it's purchase in half but fortunately HRO showed up (and from some accounts did a bang-up business). Will they decide to return in 2008?

- For those who weren't there, you missed two heart-sinking phrases. One, "we might not have any pallet jacks" and two, "the elevators broken". Fortunately, with the help of Mike KA7CSE and his phone book, Hal managed to contact a number of different pallet jack vendors and cobble together an inventory of about 10 jacks – the last which arrived about an hour into setup. The elevator breakdown had to do with a worn door guide and careful, but manual, closure got us through Saturday morning setup. The elevator man arrived to provide repairs during the event itself.

- We had a new phone system! Gil W7GIL worked with the fairgrounds to use their internal PBX instead of running our own wires. There was that slight issue of misdirected calls at the start but Gil worked the kinks out.

- All the worker areas seemed to run like a well oiled machine and I had to fight very few fires. Tickets, PA, County Store, Security, Registration, and Pallet Crew all seemed very well organized which speaks well for their chairs and their workers. (If we could just get a few more of the latter.)

- Pssst, don't tell anyone but only two of the ten winning door prize tickets were claimed. I guess nobody likes free money?

- Maybe somebody can tell me if people who are "into" 4x4 are naturally boorish, inconsiderate, and hard to work with? Or is it just the ones who setup on Saturday next to our event while we try to load out?

- Ever eat too much Chinese food after working two long hard days? Me too and I'm looking forward to doing it again in 2008. Now, I was only kidding about that idea we raise dues to \$50 a year and then forget about doing the FleaMarket..... (though it sure would be easier on my feet).

- I vote that we only get thick crust (pan?) pizza from Pizza Hut in the future. That thin crust "stuff" was pretty bad for lunch on Friday.

- I didn't see a single thing that made me reach for my wallet this weekend. Not even a twinge. Can't say the same for many of you. (and I don't want to spread rumors but think Andrea and Paul were joined at the "J-pole" for most of Saturday morning).

- I think many of us feared being buried in abandoned CRT's after this years event but I didn't see a single one left behind while taking tables down.

- Sound like the VE team was busy with around 60 for the day. Scott says many were planning on trying HF that evening. (Betcha they weren't planning to do CW though).

- Bert KE7HDU is one of our newer members and was around most of the two days at Announcing (as well as doing flyers for me earlier in the year). Bert tells me he works for a Gaming company (hope I got that right) and has been involved in organizing CONVENTIONS for said types. He says our event and people are pretty mild compared to those folks (yeah but how about compared to them 4 wheelers next door?).

- Ok, ok, ok....., I'll put the address and GPS coordinates of the fairgrounds on the flyer next year for the navigationally challenged.

- Many thanks, again, to Hot Press for the hats this year. I picked up a few for distribution at the next Club meeting.

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FleaMarket 2007 Wrap-up... [Cont'd from Page3]

- You ate a lot! Nearly 100 hotdogs. Almost three gallons of chili. Five pounds of meatballs. One hundred 'individual size' bags of chips. Cookies, doughnuts, muffins. Cases of pop. Then, there was all that soft-serve ice cream..... no, just kidding.....)

- Final numbers are still being tallied but the first blush attendance through the gates looks like a bit over 1900 which would be the largest in years if it holds.

- The 2008 event is March 7th and 8th. Why don't you walk that request for 'time off' right over to your boss on Monday morning? (Your boss will love your new-found planning skills.) See you then.

Sights & Sounds by Sunrise

by Dawn KC7YYB, Activity Chair

Well, folks, this is the final article from your Activities Chairperson. It has been fun, challenging, and a great way to get to know club members better. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You, to all of you who faithfully supported the raffles, making our year-end drawing a very nice event, with many gifts in the event.

That being said, I'm hoping that last month's article didn't scare anyone off from running for this position.

I was told by a couple of people that it sounded as if I were "angry". I'm sorry if that's the way I came across. If any emotion at all was intended to be portrayed it was concern that whomever gets this post, understands all of the requirements needed to fulfill the post.

I know that I failed miserably at the PROGRAM side of the job, and someone else might better fill that than I did. The raffle part of the job was something that I took pride in doing and thought that it needed some explanation as how I'd done it, but when I'm out of here, the new person will have their own way of doing that part of it. So, please reconsider running in case my article put you off. We only have one or two interested at this time, and to make it a good "horse race" we really ought to have at least one or two more.

We will probably be absent from this meeting, so I'm in process of finding someone to fill my final obligation.

73, Dawn KC7YYB

K7LED Relay

Mike & Key Annual Awards Banquet - Set For April 14, 2007 -

by Gary Bryan KG7KU

Sometimes curiosity can get the best of us. My desire to help with this year's Banquet extends from, first, the need for someone to step up and Chair the Committee, and second, I have never done this before. It is a new growth area for me. Please note, however, that I very much look forward to serving the Club in this capacity.

And this is where you come in. I will need help. I will need people to attend. I will need you to spread the word and encourage as many people to participate as possible. Let this bit of 'curiosity' bring out the best in all of us.

Details regarding location (Muckleshoot Casino in Auburn), cost and sign-up sheets will be available at the March 17th Club meeting, and through Emails. Mark your calendars. Set aside April 14th for an evening of socializing, food and fun. See you there!

9th Annual Comm Academy

by Hal Mueller KE7BYN

The Ninth Annual Comm Academy will be held on March 31 and April 1 at Seattle Pacific University. Comm Academy is the region's premier emergency communications training event.

If you are already serving as an emergency communications volunteer, you know how valuable Comm Academy is for training, and for meeting the people you will operate with in a disaster. If you aren't already working in EmComm, this event is a great place to get started. And if you are a new ham, the technical sessions alone will get you jump-started and help you have more fun on the air.

This year's Academy has four concurrent session tracks, totaling 36 hours of presentations. Topics cover disaster preparedness, field radio communications, emergency communications antennas, pandemic flu, disaster recovery, recruiting, training, and national level emergency communications management and planning. Technical topics include digital communications like Airmail and APRS, generators, and antennas. Saturday will include static displays of Comm vans and emergency support vehicles from agencies and volunteer groups throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Saturday's keynote speaker is John Cline W5USN, who has over 40 years of experience in anti-terrorism, emergency planning, and response and recovery operations with the US Navy, US Forest Service, and as director of the Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services. [Continued on Page 5]

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Communications Academy... [Cont'd from Pg 4]

Sunday's keynote speaker is ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer WJ1B, speaking on future directions for ARRL in EmComm and public service.

Registration cost is \$18 for the weekend, if you register by Thursday, March 15, \$24 if you register by March 30, and \$28 if you walk in and register at the door. Lunch is available for \$6.50 a day (\$7.50 after March 15) at the Seattle Pacific University Food Court. The total cost for the weekend is \$31, meals included, if you pre-register this week.

Register online at <http://www.commacademy.org>.

New Hams and OM's

by Dan Humphrey N7QHC

When I originally thought about writing this article, I was going to refer to us long-winded OM's as "Old Geezers", but my XYL nixed that idea.

This is a word to the wise to the new Amateur operators out there about us OM's [old men in ham language]. When listening to some of our conversations, try not to glaze over, because sometimes we've just been at the "game" so long, we tend to forget what it was like "back then", when we were first exposed to ham radio.

If you hear an OM talking about "impedance", or "reactance", just know that it does not apply to your handheld, or rubber ducky. If you hear talk of "dipping the plate" they are not talking about washing the dishes. If you've heard about and want to know about "slow-scan TV" don't go down to the local video store, because chances are they won't be able to tell you. Instead find an "Old Geezer" [sorry, Dear] OM at the club meeting, and

ASK QUESTIONS! Get involved. That's the only way other than reading to find out what it's all about. There aren't really stupid questions, just unenlightened curiosity, that most of us will welcome, and be glad to share our expertise, and experiences with you. Warning: You might still be overwhelmed at first, but you'll eventually fit right in with the OM's and begin ogling the goodies at the swap meets, and actually know what they are and if it is something that fits into your shack. Remember if asked to climb a tower for an OM, ask "Why?" If the answer is that "he's too old", it may be too old also, thereby unsafe. But, if he says, "his wife won't let him", go ahead and climb the tower and enjoy the view while you are there.

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Many Old Geezers [oops] OM's still use Morse code, and many love to contest. To them, rare DX means outside the North American continent. For you though, it might mean anything outside of this state, and that's okay. Now that you can use 10 Meters [phone-voice] 28.300 to 28.500 your DX may be just this continent, until the sunspot cycle improves propagation. Until then there are several local groups you can perfect your radio skills with, and glean information from the participants there.

One group called the Northwest 10 Meter net, meets 3 times per week on 28.380 at 7:30 PM Pacific time. The Radio Club of Tacoma meets Sunday evening 7:30 on 28.375. They welcome new check-ins. Another group is the Chief Seattle Chapter of the 10-10 International, it holds its nets at 8:00 PM Monday and Thursday on 28.430. Since I'm Chapter Head, I try to be there for this one.

Whatever your interest in Ham Radio, I hope you will become active and enjoy your new privileges. "Use them or lose them!" is still a threat to our radio service. I say along with the rest of us "Old Geezers" and some of the younger OM's "Welcome!" and don't be afraid to "get your feet wet" jump right in!

Saving Amateur Radio Repeaters

by Daniel Stevens KL7WM

[Editor's Note-- Current news regarding HB2335 can be found on the ARRL Western Washington (WWA) Section Website: www.arrl.org/sect/wwa .]

March 7, 2007.

In the process of working on a site lease for a repeater the Federal Way Amateur Radio Club (FWARC) ran into a tax law that could terminate many amateur radio repeaters. We pay Sales Tax in Washington. Sales Tax laws are with a group of laws called Use Taxes. For example, if you buy something out of the State of Washington for use in this state you owe "use tax" on that item. This is hard for the state to collect, but the tax is still owed. An example is an "out of state" Internet purchase. Many car owners have had to pay sales tax on a vehicle they brought into this state.

One Tax, is a Radio Site Leasehold Excise Tax on private radios on public sites and land. It is 12.84% of the fair market value (FMV). If the amateur repeater owner is paying \$100 per year for use of the site, then the leasehold tax is calculated on the value another commercial radio user would pay. Cellular companies may pay \$2,500.00 per month for similar space. The tax is calculated by multiplying the FMV of \$2,500 by the leasehold tax of 12.84% to get a tax of \$321 per month. The amateur radio repeater leasehold [Continued on Page 6]

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Saving Repeaters... [Continued from Page 5]

excise tax paid by the owner is \$321.00 per month or \$3,852.00 per year. Tax on a FWARC repeater is twice the annual budget for the FWARC.

Many amateur radio repeaters are in public sites with minimal or no rent. If amateur repeater owners are forced to pay the Radio Site Leasehold

Excise Tax, they will be forced to remove the repeaters out of these sites and many will go off the air permanently.

Repeaters are the backbone of amateur radio. Most repeaters are in VHF bands and UHF bands, so all operators can use repeaters. Most new operators get a 2 meter radio first. DXers will use 2 meters to tell each other when and where a rare DX station is on. EMEers verify schedules on 2 meters. Amateurs use repeaters for talk-ins to events. Repeaters are used in public service events as parades, races, festivals, emergency preparedness and disasters. Repeaters are a valuable part of amateur radio. Repeaters do things cellular phone cannot do. Repeaters broadcast a message so a whole group can hear at once. This feature saves repeating the message over and over.

One can join or leave a radio conversation without difficulty. This is very difficult with phones. If repeaters move out of good high sites, to poorer lower sites, the effective range of repeaters will be diminished from 60 to 100 miles currently, to an average of less than 20 miles. Lincoln, Nebraska requires three repeaters to get across town. They have no high mountains or enough high buildings for repeaters. We are very fortunate in Washington. If HB 2335 does not pass, Washington amateur radio communication may become like Lincoln, Nebraska.

Members of the FWARC have worked with Ed Bruette, ARRL Western Washington Section Manger, to change the law. HB 2335 was introduced by Representative Skip Priest of Federal Way to the House of Representatives. The bill exempts amateur radio repeaters that are made available for emergency communication from Radio Site Leasehold Excise Tax. The bill was assigned to the House Finance Committee. On Friday, March 2, 2007, was the public hearing for this bill. An army of amateurs showed up and the committee received too many emails to count.

Friday, March 2, 2007, HB 2335 was "unanimously" approved and sent out of the committee. Finance Committee Chairman, Representative Ross Hunter, said, "I expect that we will get this bill on the "suspension" calendar since it had no opposition in committee.... I would expect it to come up for a vote in front of the entire Full House, sometime this week."

You can track the progress of this bill at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2335&year=2007>

Amateurs need everyone's help. Contact your state House of Representatives and the Speaker of the

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House, Representative Chopp, to ask for their approval on HB 2335. Everyone has two representatives for their home voting location. Your Legislative District Representatives can be found at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/memberemail/Default.aspx?Chamber=H>

The Speaker of the House is <http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/chopp/> We need everyone's help. It is very important that we contact our Legislative District House Representatives NOW! There is a state wide response from amateur radio operators, but any voter can contact their Legislative District House Representatives to get HB 2335 passed.

Thank you, Daniel Stevens, KL7WM

Mike&Key General Meeting Minutes

held 02/17/07

Officers present:

President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE)
 Vice President – Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q)
 Secretary – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
 Treasurer – Jack Grimmitt (N7IHS)
 Activity Manager – Dawn Humphrey (KC7YYB)
 Radio Officer – Paul Roth (N7DOH)

Trustees present:

No. 1 – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV) Chairman of the Board
 No. 2 – Pam Bryan (N7PRS)
 No. 3 – Guy Molinari (N7ZG)
 No. 4 – Steve Cook (KD7IQL)
 No. 5 – Frank Tate (NA7O)

President Sullivan called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. at the Salvation Army building in Renton, Wa.

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.

The question of the month was whether anyone is interested in the new operations at 135 and 500 Khz. Not much interest, mostly due to lack of space for the antennas.

Quorum present.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay* made by Little John WA7HQG and seconded by Scott AG7T. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

President – Sam N7RHE: The next Mike & Key General Membership meeting is Mar. 17, 10:00 AM.
Vice President – Carolyn WV7Q: No potential new members were present to be voted on. New pins are available. [Continued on Page 7]

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General Meeting Minutes... [Cont'd from Page 6]

Secretary – Dick WA7NIW: Nothing new to report at this time.

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

Radio Officer – Paul N7DOH: Nothing new to report at this time. Waiting for the roads to clear to the mountain top.

Activity Manager – Dawn KC7YYB Today's activity will be the Flea Market presentation, drawing for door prizes, and nominations for officers

Chairman of the Board – Brendan KD7IKV (Not present) [The Mike & Key Board meets Feb. 28, 7:00 PM, at Galliano's Cucina in SeaTac].

Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: Some gear has been made available, more to follow.

Relay – Gary KG7KU

Standing Committee Reports:

Technical – Steve KD7IQL: Nothing new to report at this time.

Education – Guy N7ZG No report, off contesting.

Facilities – Brendan KD7IKV: No report.

Public Service – Pam N7PRS: Not present, Steve KD7IQL reported that the pamphlet is at the publisher.

Strategic Planning – Frank NA7O: No report.

Flea Market -- Mike N7WA: As of now there is no volunteer for Hospitality at the Flea Market, we need someone to step up and take this on. More to follow in the presentation.

VE Exams -- Scott AG7T: Reported that 18 showed up at January session, 7 received new licenses, and 10 received upgrades. Due to the expected influx of applicants in the next couple of months, the VE team has the large room at Salvation Army for the next few months.

Field Day -- Steve KD7IQL & Brendan KD7IKV: We have the Big Unit for Field Day, just no Wayne, so we need a cook. Subject of 2 meter and 432 Mhz antennas. More to follow. Michelle, WA7PVE volunteered to cook.

Awards Banquet -- Gary KG7KU

Old Business:

Alligator Award -- Dean has it, and seems to like it. Calvin can't get it away from him.

New Business -- Election information, there is a vacant position among the Trustees and we will need to find someone to fill out the remaining year of the term for position 2. Gil Drynan, W7GIL was elected to fill out the term.

Nominations so far are:

President – Carolyn WV7Q

Vice President – Alan KB7SVU

Secretary – Dick WA7NIW

Treasurer – Mike N7WA, Jim KD7BAT,

Activities Manager – Michelle WA7PVE

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Trustees – Frank NA7O, Terry WA7PML, Guy N7ZG, Sam N7RHE, Michelle WB7AYU, Joe K7JAL

Good of the Order –

Harry W7JWJ spoke on the subject: Dare to be an Elmer. Jim K7PHZ suggested that we compile a list of interested persons.

Alan KB7SVU showed a Slinky Antenna similar to the one that Mitch K7TUT is using in Iraq. It is 12 feet long and works from 80 through 10 meters. He found it on Ebay.

There was a discussion regarding three proposed laws regarding use of "wireless devices" while operating a motor vehicle. None of them excludes Amateur Radio operators. There are steps in progress on the Section level to propose inclusion of a single line excluding Hams from the law.

There being no further business, Steve KD7IQL moved to adjourn.

Motion passed, and President Sullivan closed the meeting at 10:48 AM.

Attested: Dick Radford WA7NIW, Secretary

Mike&Key Board Meeting Minutes

held 02/28/07

Officers present:

President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE)

Vice President – Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q)

Secretary – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)

Treasurer – Jack Grimmer (N7IHS)

Activity Manager – Dawn Humphrey (KC7YYB)

Radio Officer – Paul Roth (N7DOH)

Trustees present:

No. 1 – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV) Chairman of the Board

No. 2 – Gil Drynan, (W7GIL)

No. 3 – Guy Molinari (N7ZG)

No. 4 – Steve Cook (KD7IQL)

No. 5 – Frank Tate (NA7O)

Visitors in attendance: Jim Etwiler, Loras Gassman, Adrian Roth, Dave Smith, Mike Dinkelman, Dan Humphrey,

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

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the previous board meeting, was made by Sam N7RHE and seconded by Steve KD7IQL. Motion passed.

Officer Reports

Chairman of the Board – Brendan KD7IKV: Nothing new to report at this time.

President – Sam N7RHE: Thanks for your support during my past terms.

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Board Meeting Minutes... [Cont'd from Page 7]

Vice President – Carolyn WV7Q: New applicants: Jacqueline Van Winkle KB3NPK, Charles Schaffer KE7KIV, Jeff Wandling KE7JVD. Approved by the Board, to be recommended to the Club at the next General Membership meeting.

Secretary – Dick WA7NIW: Nothing new to report at this time.

Treasurer – Jack N7IHS: Brought new license plate for the tower trailer.

Activity Manager – Dawn KC7YYB: Two fish bowls will be turned over to the club at the end of Dawn's term for the next Activity Manager's use for the raffle.

Radio Officer – Paul N7DOH: Will bring some radios and antennas to the Flea Market so we should be covered.

Committee Liaison Reports

Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: The web site is up and running.

Facilities – Brendan KD7IKV: Nothing new to report.

Strategic Planning – Frank NA7O: Ready to purchase trailer, get it wired and generator installed by Field Day.

Technical – Steve KD7IQL: Nothing new to report at this time.

Public Service – Brendan KD7IKV: The booklet is at the printer. We should have time to get a check to them before the Flea Market.

Education – Guy N7ZG: Not present. Nothing new to report

Field Day – Brendan KD7IKV / Steve KD7IQL: We have a band chair for 20 meters, Hideki Sato. Steve will contact the bug sprayer and check with Fort Flagler about spraying. We need to get 2 meter and 70 cm antennas for the VHF station.

Awards Banquet – Gary KG7KU

Old Business- None.

New Business-

The tower trailer doesn't have a breakaway device to activate the brakes in the event that it comes unhitched.

We need to get one of these, they are about \$55 to \$60. Jack N7IHS moved that we direct Alan Hughes to buy the switch and Dick WA7NIW seconded. Motion passed.

Mike and Key has been asked to run a table at the Communications Academy where we operate some mode for the public to see. We will find out if there is adequate interest among the members.

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

There being no further business, Dawn KC7YYB moved for adjournment. Motion Passed and Chairman Brendan closed the meeting at 7:29 pm.

K7LED Relay

Attested: Dick Radford WA7NIW -- Secretary

Public Service Committee Minutes

February 25, 2007

The Committee met at Brendan's house to finalize details of the pamphlet. Publication was achieved for distribution at the Mike & Key FleaMarket on March 10.

FleaMarket Reflections

Contributed by Diane Dinkelman KB7DNE

It was the Day before FleaMarket and volunteers at the fair - were running and busy and working with care.

Tables and chairs were put in a straight row in preparation for our Electronic FleaMarket show.

The workers were ready and knew all their chores. Visions of Sellers in their heads did roar.

The Chairmen and Helpers with badges on their chest were settling in for two days without rest.

When 2:00 came, out at the Gate arose such a clatter. Everyone jumped to see what was the matter.

When what to their eyes should appear?
But hordes of trucks and cars coming near.

All ran to their stations with a mad dash as the guard threw open the gate with a big flash.

Registration was prime and ready to go. We wanted them all in before the show.

With new and old Sellers lively and slick We knew in a moment that we had to be quick.

More rapid then code the closer they came We whistled and shouted and called them by name.

Hi Frank hello George howdy Mary, how is Bill There goes Edward and his little brother Phil

To the Registration booth they all did arrive Got their packets and continued to drive

Onto the next stop they move down the road to the pallet crew to stop and unload

When all was set-up and the tickets were selling, the doors were opened and Buyers came in yelling

The Sellers were ready thanks to us Volunteers And they sold their items without any fears.

After the event and all were long gone we had Chinese with laughter and song.

We looked at each other and gave a big cheer. All knew we would be back again next year.

Field Day, the Family Vacation

By Carolyn Pasquier WV7Q

One of the unique glories of the Mike and Key Club is its orientation to family activities. The overall philosophy is that every family member is a potential Ham. Those die-hards that can't be enticed at home, may find themselves involved just by socializing with our friendly group. The Flea Market, the Picnic, the parades, the Christmas Party are all planned with family participation in mind. However, none is so strategically planned for family as Field Day. The Mike & Key doesn't do Field Day in a parking lot, or in a member's backyard. We go to a wonderfully fascinating State Campground.

Fort Flagler on Marrowstone Island is marvelously laden with history and heritage, saltwater beaches (complete with shipping lanes), hiking and biking trails, abandoned cannon bunkers, and miles and miles of the pure outdoors. To accompany this great camping experience, the club brings along tents, antennas, towers, and ham equipment that all can help assemble into workable stations. Whether you bring a tent, the minivan, a motorhome, or stay in the barracks, your family will experience the vacation of a lifetime.

Traditionally, my family begins planning for Field Day as soon as the Christmas rush is over. It has become a traditional family get-together, much like Christmas, giving us two exciting times to look forward to each year. This year there will be fourteen of us, 5 Hams and 9 potential hams. This year, Field Day is June 23 and 24. (We start building stations Friday, June 22)

My challenge to you is to mark it on your calendar now, and start inviting your family members to join you. Don't stop there, invite your neighbors, your coworkers, your brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, anyone that has shown an interest in ham radio. It takes 2 operators per shift to handle the traffic, be sure to ask those non-hams to sign up and operate with you. If you're a new Amateur, you will learn in 2-3 days, what could otherwise take years. If you've been a Ham for a while, your experience will be welcomed.

The atmosphere is electric, the food is terrific, and the camaraderie is unequalled. You'll have the time of your life, and your family and friends will thank you.

Are You A Writer?

by Gary Bryan KG7KU

If you have ever considered dabbling in some creative writing... or if you have come across some material that you feel other Hams would be interested in, be sure to drop me a line for consideration in its inclusion in the Club Newsletter. Email: kg7ku @ arrl.net.

Excerpt from the ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 10, March 9, 2007:

==>HAM RADIO ANTENNA BILLS IN PLAY IN THREE STATES

Lawmakers in three states -- Arizona, Maryland and Oklahoma -- are considering Amateur Radio antenna bills that would put the essence of the limited federal pre-exemption known as PRB-1 <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/PRB-1_Pkg/prb-1.pdf> into each state's statutes. The Arizona and Maryland bills go a step beyond most PRB-1 legislation. They not only would require that municipal land-use or zoning regulations "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication per PRB-1, spelled out in the FCC's Amateur Radio rules in §97.15(b), they would extend the same protections to certain private communities where deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) apply.

The Arizona amateur antenna bill, House Bill 2595 <<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/48leg/1r/bills/hb2595p.pdf>> calls for "reasonable heights and dimensions for accommodation of Amateur Radio station emergency service communications antennae and structures." After stripping a provision to exempt Amateur Radio licensees from the \$25 vanity license plate fee from the bill, the Arizona House Appropriations Committee voted out the measure with a "do pass" recommendation. The bill already has a Senate sponsor.

In Maryland, essentially identical bills are under consideration in both legislative chambers: House Bill 941 <<http://mlis.state.md.us/2007RS/bills/hb/hb0941f.pdf>> and Senate Bill 68 <<http://mlis.state.md.us/2007RS/bills/sb/sb0068f.pdf>>. These measures would require local zoning authorities to comply with the PRB-1 limited federal pre-exemption calling on municipalities to "reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio communication." The bills' provisions also would apply to homeowners' associations (HOAs) that have not already enacted antenna restrictions by the time the bill becomes law.

Affected HOAs would not be permitted to "restrict or prohibit the design, placement, screening, height or use of Amateur Radio equipment on the property of lot owners." The measure would exempt HOAs having antenna restrictions in place when the bill goes into effect, however.

Among other things, the Maryland bills' preambles cite the value of Amateur Radio to the public welfare, pointing out its "invaluable emergency radio communication services in the state and across the United States before, during and after floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, forest fires, earthquakes, blizzards, train accidents, chemical spills and other disasters."

In Oklahoma, House Bill 1037 <http://webserver1.lsb.state.ok.us/2007-08bills/HB/HB1037_HFLR.RTF> has been voted out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation and onto House floor for a vote. The measure provides that municipal ordinances shall comply with §97.15(b) by permitting Amateur Radio antennas or antenna support structures "at a height and dimension sufficient to accommodate Amateur Radio service communications." The measure already has a sponsor in the Oklahoma Senate.

To date, 23 states have adopted PRB-1 legislation <<http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/statutes.htm>>. PRB-1 does not specify a minimum height below which local governments may not regulate but does require reasonable accommodation, but four states -- Alaska, Wyoming, Virginia and Oregon -- enacted legislation that specifies heights below which municipalities may not regulate.

Ham Nets & Events for 2007 -- MARCH / APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
11 2000 -- King Co. ARES 146.82 (Weekly) 2200 -- NW Astronomy Net 145.33 (Weekly)	12 0545 & 1645 -- Weather Net 145.33 (M-F) 1730 -- Puget Sound Traffic Sys. 146.82 (Daily)	13 2000 -- Snohomish Co. RACES 146.92 (Weekly)	14 2000 -- General Tech Info 145.33 (Weekly) 2100 -- NWSOAR Net 146.82 (Weekly)	15 1900 -- M&K Public Service Net 146.82 (Weekly) 2000 -- Computer & Packet Net 145.33 (Weekly)	16 2000 -- Youth Net 145.33 (Weekly)	17 1000 -- M&K Club Meeting 1300 -- Ham Radio exams
18 2030 -- Snohomish Co. ARES 146.92 (Weekly)	19 1800 -- WA Emerg. HF 3.985 (Weekly) 1830 -- WA ARES 3.985 (Weekly) 1930 -- Puget Sound Repeater Group 146.96 (Weekly)	20	21	22 2000 -- Amateur TV Net 147.08 (Weekly)	23	24 0900 -- WA ARES HF Net 3.985 (Weekly) Public Service: Chillly Hilly Bike Ride - Bainbridge Island Doo Wop Rally - Montesano-Brooklyn Area
25	26 2000 -- YL Net 145.33 (Weekly)	27	28 1900 - M&K ARC Board Meeting	29	30	31 0900 -- NW Swap Net 145.33 (Weekly) Comm Academy
01 April Comm Academy	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13 Relay deadline	14 Mike and Key Awards Banquet