



From the Hot Seat...

Greetings From Your President

by Mike Eakins K7OV, President

First, I want to thank all of you who expressed confidence in me by voting for me to hold this office. I have large shoes to fill in following Sam Sullivan N7RHE, and his predecessors into this office. I view Sam as a friend, and he most certainly was and is a great friend to our club and our club members. I aspire to reach his level of competence in the duties of this office, and I feel honored to be here, and hope you will feel as fondly about me, as you do Sam when the time comes for another to hold this office.

As time passes, more opportunities will arise for us to step forward and volunteer. Yes, I know you have all heard the volunteer spiel over and over again. Why do you think that is? Well, it is because we need you! Yes, we need you! You are the lubrication or grease, if you will, that makes our engine or effort work smoothly. As the year progresses, there will be opportunities with the Flea Market, Field Day and other areas in which you can help. It does not matter if you are new to the hobby, or an old-timer, the need is there! It is a time to get to know other club members, and make new friends. It can even be a time to help out your communities. Please, consider volunteering as the need arises.

I am proud to be here, and I hope to make you all proud of our club as well.

73,

Mike – K7OV

From Out The Sands: Iraq Update

by Sgt. Mitch Gill KI9TU / K7TUT

I was reading about the Flea Market and looks like it was another success. I wish I could have been there but in a way I'm kind of glad that I was not since Tyler went. He has already warned me about next year... "Dad, we are bringing the truck next year!" Oh Lord, not again! He was upset that I did not give him any money this year and neither did his Mom. He will be working soon and can pay for his own stuff now! I am getting his Swan all fixed up so that's as far as I go. At least I hope that's as far as I can go. But, sigh, knowing Tyler and my dream of him being a General, I am just ripe for the picking but please don't tell him.

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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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Web Site

www.mikeandkey.org

Send dues to

Mike&Key ARC
P.O. Box 4234
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K7LED Repeaters

146.82 output / 146.22 input
(PL 103.5)
Squak Mountain
224.120 output / 222.520 input
(PL 103.5)
Tiger Mountain

Email

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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 activities and events, such as: VEC testing, membership, past editions of the *Relay* and more.

Reflector — The Club's 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.



GET THE BUG

by Steve Cook KD7IQL Field Day 2007 Co-Chair

This year we will see many new operators on HF, than ever before. We need to provide an environment where they can learn by doing whether this is CW, Digital or SSB.

The line up for this year:

Mike Dinkelman (N7WA) will be running things on the beach again this year. We are still working on the number of stations they will be running this year. If you want to operate CW, talk to Mike.

We might be looking for a 10/ 80 Meter band chairmen this year. Talk to Steve, Brendan or Allen for details.

The 15 Meter Station is in the good hands of the Pasquier clan again this year.

New on 20 Meter this year is Hideki (WU7J). He has stepped up to take on this task as of one of our main stations.

The 40 Meter Station is in the good hands of Dean (N7NKO).

Back again is Mike (KD7LAX) taking care of the VHF station. Stop in. They always have a good time. The past couple of years, there has even been some CW from the VHF tent. Gasp a strange sound from the bluff.

Digital was a good thing last year and we are going to run it again this year. Hal (N3YX) will be in charge of the digital this year. We are still not sure where the station will be located.

Dave (AD7GG) ran an outstanding GOTA station last year and is returning this year. This year we get points for every 20 QSO completed per person for a max of 100 per operator. We still need coaches to help with the GOTA. Talk to Dave (ad7gg@arrl.net) about helping with GOTA. We will need both coaches and operators. If you just received your ticket, this is a good place to get on the air without the pressure of working a pile up.

Safety is under the watchful eye of Scott (AG7T). **All of Scott's decisions are final.**

Food:

Remember that Friday is a potluck dinner. The club will provide the meat. For more information, check with Michelle (WA7PVE). You are responsible for your own meals and drinks Saturday and Sunday. There might be leftovers from Friday night's dinner, but do not count on it!

Accommodations:

There are 2 choices: the *wagon wheel* for the RV or tent set or the *barracks*.

If you are camping in the wagon wheel this year, be sure to check in with the wagon master and let them know how many are in your party including the number of kids.

If tenting is not for you, then try the barracks. There is always something fun to do at the barracks. Puzzles, beads, games, breakfast (for those staying in the barracks), and much more. If you would like to stay at the barracks contact Rita (KD7CNU) for availability.

Hurry space is limited!

Special Bonus Points:

We want to work on getting as many bonus points as we can this year. Jeff (KE7FRJ) will be helping us on that endeavor. So if you want to work a satellite contact, natural power or a demonstration mode like ATV, APRS or SSTV, let Jeff know.

We are looking for someone to copy the W1AW message this year. Also we need people to send message traffic this year. If we send 10 messages we get 100 points.

Youth credit is back again this year 20 points for each youth operator that makes a least one QSO. Max of 5 youth for credit.

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Field Day 2007- Get The Bug... [Cont'd from P.3]

Information Table:

Ted (N0YC) will be helping us with the information table. This is our public face to the "non-ham" community. This is a good spot if someone would like to interact with the public and talk to them about amateur radio.

If you want to help in any way, please contact the Field Day Chairmen:

Chairman Steve (KD7IQL)
Chairman Brendan (KD7IKV)
Chairman Allan (KB7SVU)

Upcoming Club Activities

by Mike Dinkelman N7WA, Activity Manager

Hello to all. Thanks (I think) for the opportunity to serve you again as Activity Manager. When I went to the meeting last month, I really had no intention of doing this again. In fact, I turned down the nomination. However, when I later saw three relatively new members step up to take Board positions, it inspired me to reconsider and I volunteered. I look forward to working with some new blood.

I won't bother with the usual 'Bio' write-up that most new Board members provide, since I've done it so many times before. However, I will provide you with my philosophy of the position. *Activity Manager is the MOST important position in the Club!* Sounds rather self-serving and self-important but if this club doesn't have a viable slate of activities and programs, what good is the Club? It just becomes a place to hold 12 business meetings every year. That leads me to my second point, I believe *the Activity Manager takes point on all activities, not just finding programs and selling raffle tickets* (more on that later). This means ensuring the Club's social activities are being actively managed by an organizer who has the resources and direction needed to do a proper job plus mentoring if needed. Now, on to upcoming activities...

So far, I think we are in good shape for the next two major Club activities - Field Day and the Club Picnic. Field Day is being organized by Brendan/KD7IKV and Steve/KD7IQL. They've done it before and are well experienced but I think they would like to see some new blood themselves. Maybe you would like to consider latching on and learning the ropes yourself? Take a lesson from them, it doesn't need to be a one person job. Find a partner or two and make it a group project. Either way, make sure you have Field Day on your calendar and make it a three day weekend for maximum enjoyment, June 22-24.

The **Club picnic is coming up August 18th**, following the regular Club meeting. It will be held at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park in Renton which is over on Lake Washington. The park has boat-

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launches, picnic shelters (we have one), playground equipment, tennis courts, horseshoe pits, sand volleyball courts, fishing pier, swimming area, 1.5 miles of paved walking trails along the shoreline, and is ADA accessible. Dave KB7PSN is organizing. The Club provides the hamburger, hotdogs, and pop. You get to bring potluck. Dave will be providing more information and signup sheets over the next couple months. You can easily Google a map (the URL is too long for here).

In August, I will be looking for a volunteer to take on the Christmas party. The organizer of the last two Christmas Party's will not be able to do it this year so the organization and feel of the event are open to new or old blood. See me if you have an interest and I would be happy to discuss the possibilities.

Another of my duties is to find programs for the regular Club meeting. **For April, the program is DXing 101 presented by myself.** I've given the program twice at other venues so hopefully, the third time will be the charm. (One hates to soil one's own nest.) Those of you who have attended my programs before know they are better described as interactive discussions where I prefer acting as a facilitator for audience participation. Whether you are a hard-core DXer on the Honor Roll or just a newbie KE7 who just got HF privileges, there will be something there for you as student or teacher.

The **May program** will be a presentation by **Mark Sheppard N7LYE** who is Seattle ACS Director and Radio Officer for the City of Seattle, The ACS is an Auxiliary Communications Service (100+ member RACES group) that has activated for support in the city for WTO, many large scale exercises, and the recent severe winter weather. Mark also provides support for the Western Washington Medical Services Team, which lends extra communication support to regional hospitals and other vital medical infrastructure, and is one of the moving forces behind the annual Communications Academy. I thank Hal KE7BYN for finding Mark and asking him to present.

Of course, the **June program** will be about **Field Day** but I am still looking for more programs to fill in July, September, October, and November. Maybe you have something you would like to present or you would like to have presented? I know lots of people who can talk on pretty much anything. Give me your ideas.

Finally, the club raffle. Those who know me know that I dislike selling raffle tickets. I'll procure the raffle items and I'll even run the raffle if needed, but I expect to delegate the job of selling tickets at the club meeting. So let me know if that sounds like fun to you. Together, and with your involvement, let's make this an interesting year. -Mike N7WA

How to Have Fun

by Bert Nielson KE7HDU, Vice-President

Let's face it, I got into Ham Radio because it sounded like fun. I wasn't thrilled about having to study for tests and buying expensive gear, but the opportunity to participate in all that amateur radio had to offer was what kept me going in my efforts. In fact, the biggest problem that I face now is not one of "there's nothing left to do", but "what do I do next?" (Although "what can I afford next?" often seems to pop up too).

Here's my list of things that I am working towards (in no particular order):

- Getting a good HF station on the air
- Restoring the old Novice station I have in the garage
- Putting up a tower (although buying a home has to come first)
- Working VHF weak signal
- Working space stations (ISS, OSCARs, etc.)
- Mountaintopping with a backpacking rig
- Etching and making more of my own circuits
- QRP operation
- HF Mobile
- Antennas, Antennas, Antennas
- Building my CW speed

In addition, there's plenty of recurring things:

- Field Day
- Hamfests
- Elmering
- Nets
- Club Meetings

And this list is by no means comprehensive. I haven't mentioned contesting, digital modes, SSTV, ATV, etc. These just haven't made it onto my list yet.

So what's the key to having fun? Trying something new. I've heard plenty of folks at club meetings say they have never done this or that in answer to the introductory question. If your answer has ever been "No, I've never done that"; ask yourself, "Why not? Wouldn't it be fun?"

Technician Licensing Class Offered By Snohomish County Hams Club

Contributed by Jeff Stevens KE7FRJ

The Snohomish County Hams Club is holding a Technician licensing class the third weekend in April. For more information, go to their web site online at: <http://www.wa7law.com/>.

Here in Iraq I have gone from a minor disaster to a major one. As many of you know I lost the power supply and when that was replaced by a Ham in Oregon, NS7C, I found that the tuner had been damaged beyond repair and am now waiting for one that MFJ donated for the operation here. Last night I confirmed a severe problem with the 706. I lost 20 and 30 meter receive and it was a slow loss meaning that the problem may spread and I will be totally off the air. I will be doing some testing with the tuner but I fear that the problem is more extensive.

Once again the desert here seems to have claimed another rig. If it's just 20 and 30 meters I can operate on 40, 17 and 15 meters when they are open. 20 and 30 have been good bands but I will work around those bands. I just can't justify spending on another radio as I already bought a 440SAT (that I am not sending here!) over time from an understanding ham in the states. That radio is for Tyler and I to use as our camping rig for the summer.

The slinky antenna has been great and I highly recommend it as an easy setup for portable operation and would work well at home if you have restrictions. I have worked every continent on it and 2000 miles is not even an issue. The other antenna right now is a three element Bobtail pointed towards the states that was built and sent to me by WN4OAA (John). John and I have known each other for 30 years but have not seen each other since he encouraged me to get my General back in 1980 while stationed in Germany with him. I will be seeing him this summer when I travel back east to see my parents. The bobtail is a wire beam, three elements with gain.

I can still work the EU stations but have also now heard more from Japan and lower Europe on the other side. I have two other antennas coming; one a vertical which should open up 40 meters more (now badly needed) and the other is a radical design antenna that is cut for 20 meters and I may not be able to test. Hopefully the other ham here who has not gotten his license yet will be able to test and use it as I am leaving all of the antennas (except the bobtail) here for his use.

I am also in the process of developing a short film on the operation here that I may get the help of a professional. He works here in the Guard and does all the filming for the Brigade as well as works for a TV station in Minnesota. It won't be superb quality but it will be fun making it and seeing how it turns out. I will show it at a meeting when I get back.

In addition I have been invited to the "5 Days in May" by the QRP/ARCI to do a presentation and I suspect that there will be more as I get closer to coming home. [Continued on Page 6.]

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Iraq Update... [Continued from Page 5]

I have written numerous articles for several magazines and ezines and will be writing one for QST or CQ depending on whether one of them decides to print it. QST will have first option since I am a member of the ARRL and want to support them as much as possible. If they choose to print it I am going to donate the money back to them to use as they see fit.



Mitch KI9TU/K7TUT: "It doesn't matter, she matters!"

Moonbounce was a possibility here and I would have been the first to do it from Iraq as it has never been done from here before. I had some great advice from the biggest gun out there, W5UN. The problems I encountered are several; the rig runs 10 watts and I would have to buy at least a 160 watt linear and either buy or build an antenna. Working 7 days a week and 12 hour days as I will be back to that schedule any day makes building not possible. Of course you are all aware of my building skills and a 10 element 2 meter

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beam would be, how should I put it, a challenge. With that, it was just too costly for me right now and with the radio on the fritz, I just did not feel comfortable.

It is a shame, as the top of the chemical bunker gives me a 360 degree shot of the horizon and there is no doubt I could have done it. I probably could have solicited manufacturers to donate the equipment but I just don't like doing that. I feel bad enough that every time I even inquire about some products I end up getting it sent over for free. I have power supplies, tuner, keyer and antennas from manufacturers as well as from Hams. But maybe when I get back I will attempt bouncing off the moon.

Well, as I was writing this the tuner arrived from MFJ. They sent an intellituner which was a shock. I will test it out before I finish this article but let me just say this. MFJ was solicited by another Ham about the tuner and the owner, Martin, didn't even bat an eye and told him he would send it right away. I got Martins email as he didn't even ask for that and wrote him. Let me just say this, if you need something, check MFJ first and then look around. Any company that does what they did without even asking for a thank you or solicitation or anything at all deserves business to go his way.

I have also attached a photo to give you something else to look at besides my ugly mug. This is one of the cutest little girls I have ever seen and keeps me supporting what many think is a lost cause. Nothing is lost when you give a child an opportunity. Whenever people talk about the war no matter which side of the debate they are on, I will point to that little girl's picture and tell them, "It doesn't matter, she matters!"

UPDATE- As you are probably all aware, Iraq has shut down all amateur radio operations. They were even considering having all hams send their equipment to the Iraqi Amateur Radio Club to be secured. Ha! That will never happen. It has been fun and it was a great time and I have absolutely no regrets and I have appreciated everybody's help and support. I promise that I will write some more as there are always interesting things I can tell you about when it comes to Ham Radio over here. 73.

- Sgt.Mitch Gill KI9TU/K7TUT.

Mike&Key General Meeting Minutes

held 03/17/07

Officers present:

- _President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE)
- _Vice President – Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q)
- _Secretary – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
- _Treasurer – Jack Grimmert (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)

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General Meeting Minutes... [Continued from Page 6]

President Sullivan called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM 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. Today's introduction question was, "Have you ever made a contact using an Amateur Radio satellite?" A Quorum was present.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay* made by Brendan KD7IKV and seconded by Tressie KD7BAL. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

President – Sam N7RHE:

Vice President – Carolyn WV7Q: Presented membership applicant Chuck Schaffer KE7KIV. He was approved by the membership.

Secretary – Dick WA7NIW: We have received notices for the Yakima and Stanwood hamfests. Also a request for Ham Radio communications for a Walk and Roll 5k and 10k event to benefit the disabled.

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

Activity Manager – Dawn KC7YYB: Raffle has 2 General Class study books, a VHF/UHF antenna book and a soldering gun.

Chairman of the Board – Brendan KD7IKV: Thanked everyone for their help at the Flea Market.

Radio Officer – Paul N7DOH: Snow is still on the ground at the mountain top. Littlejohn reported that the repeater "goes nuts" for a couple of minutes a couple of times a week at approximately 1:00 AM.

Relay Editor – Gary KG7KU: Requested content for the Relay.

Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: The email link on the web page has been fixed so it points to the correct location.

Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning – Frank NA7O: Trailer is being picked up today

Facilities – Brendan KD7IKV:

Education – Guy N7ZG:

Public Service – Gil W7GIL: No Public Service Committee meeting today. Woodinville parade is March 31.

Technical – Steve KD7IQL: See Steve after the meeting to get the Technical Committee going again.

VE Exams -- Scott AG7T: Reported on the VE testing at the Flea Market.

Flea Market – Hal N7NW / Mike N7WA: Hal thanked all the volunteers who made the event possible. Feedback from the vendors was good again. There was discussion of how we can improve Talk In next year. It was proposed that we install an antenna on the roof, possibly leaving the coax from year to year.

Picnic – Dave KB7PSN: Picnic will be at Gene Coulon Park after the August meeting.

Awards Banquet - Gary KG7KU: Presented the plan for this year's banquet which will be held on April 14. Menu selections need to be turned in by March 30, and we need a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 75 people. Price is \$15 per plate for members and spouses. Sign up sheet needs to be filled in. Ward Silver N0AX will be our guest speaker.

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Field Day -- Steve KD7IQL / Brendan KD7IKV: There will be a work party at Alan's to get everything ready for this year's event. Date to be announced later. We need someone to handle the Information table, and someone to tow the tower trailer to Field Day. This will require a vehicle that is wired for trailer brakes. Little John made a request for more people to come early enough to help with setup.

New Business –

Elections: Brendan took nominations for President. Mike K7OV, Alan KB7SVU, and Bert AF7V all told us a little about themselves. Mike K7OV will be our new President. Nominations for Vice President were Alan KB7SVU, and Bert AF7V. Bert AF7V is our new Vice President.

Nominations for Secretary were opened. Dick WA7NIW was reelected without opposition.

Nominations for Treasurer were opened. Mike N7WA, Jim KD7BAT, and Carolyn WV7Q were nominated. Carolyn WV7Q is our new Treasurer.

Nominations for Activities Manager were opened. Mike N7WA was elected without opposition.

Nominations for Trustee were opened. Frank NA7O, Terry WA7PML, Hal KE7BYN, Alan KB7SVU, Dawn KC7YYB, and Tim K7ANE.

Our new Trustees are: Position 1 -- Frank NA7O. Position 3 -- Terry WA7PML. Position 5 -- Hal KE7BYN

Good of the Order –

The Mike & Key Board next meets March 28, at Galliano's Cucina in SeaTac.

The next Mike&Key General Member meeting is April 21. There being no further business, everyone moved to adjourn. Motion passed, and President Sullivan closed the meeting at 11:54 AM

Attested: Dick Radford WA7NIW, Secretary

Mike&Key Board Meeting Minutes

held 03/28/07

Officers present:

x_President – Sam Sullivan (N7RHE)

x_Vice President – Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q)

x_Secretary – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)

x_Treasurer – Jack Grimmert (N7IHS)

x_Activity Manager – Dawn Humphrey (KC7YYB)

x_Radio Officer – Paul Roth (N7DOH)

Trustees present:

x_No. 1 – Brendan Burget (KD7IKV) Chairman of the Board

x_No. 2 – Gil Drynan, (W7GIL)

 _No. 3 – Guy Molinari (N7ZG)

x_No. 4 – Steve Cook (KD7IQL)

x_No. 5 – Frank Tate (NA7O)

Visitors in attendance:

Chairman Brendan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.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 Cook KD7IQL. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

Chairman of the Board – Brendan KD7IKV: Thanks for your support during my term as Chairman.

President – Sam N7RHE: Thanks to the Board for support during the last 4 years as both President and Vice President.

Vice President – Carolyn WV7Q: It's been fun. We have one applicant to consider for membership, Thomas Smith E7JOY. Approved by the Board.

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

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Board Meeting Minutes... [Continued from Page 7]

Treasurer – Jack N7IHS: Thanks for putting up with me for the past years. The Club's books are in good order. Gave Balance Sheet summary and explanation of this year's budget status. Since the rule change regarding prompt submission of receipts for reimbursement, receipts have been coming in promptly.

Activity Manager – Dawn KC7YYB: No activities are set up, all materials have been turned over to the new Activities Manager.

Radio Officer – Paul N7DOH: Scheduled to go up the mountain to the 220 site at the beginning of May. Discussed the antenna situation for the new repeater. With the suggested antenna, we might not need the amplifier that has been discussed in the past.

Relay Editor – Gary KG7KU:

Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: Reported problems with email coming from the web. The links pointed to mikeandkey.com instead of mikeandkey.org. Due to technical problems, we will have to reload all the files for the web site because of how the ISP handles things. It was also suggested that we renew mikeandkey.com so that it doesn't go to someone else. Jim and Hal will look into taking this on.

Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning – Frank NA7O: Nothing new to report at this time.

Facilities – Brendan KD7IKV: The cabinet area is in better shape than before, much was taken to the dump, and the radios have not been hooked up since Field Day.

Education – Guy N7ZG: Nothing happening at this time. There is a definite need for new courses. Requests for General Class classes.

Public Service – Gil W7GIL: Public Service Committee is on vacation this month. Asked about Policies and Procedures, By Laws, etc. These documents will be emailed to new board members by the Secretary.

Technical – Steve KD7IQL: Reports a couple of people interested in working on the Technical Committee.

VE Exams -- Scott AG7T: No report.

Flea Market – Hal N7NW / Mike N7WA: Attendance seemed to be up, everything went well. Our pallet jack vendor promised to do better next year. Figures will be available when all the bills are in.

Field Day -- Steve KD7IQL / Brendan KD7IKV: Have contacted the sanitation people regarding where to send the bill after Field Day. Fort Flagler has been contacted regarding some changes to our use of the space during Field Day. The VHF and UHF antennas are being constructed and will be available for Field Day. We will need to get coax, adapters, and a mast section.

Awards Banquet - Gary KG7KU: The banquet will be held on April 14, we have about 35 people signed up and need a total of 50 people for the buffet, otherwise it is per plate. Menu selections need to be in by April 1, actual head count has to be in by April 11. Ward Silver N0AX will be our guest speaker.

Old Business:

Frank NA7O reported that we now have a 6 by 10 foot trailer that tows just fine. The generator that we purchased will be installed in it starting tomorrow. There is an outdoor power distribution box, GFCI protection, and the only items left to be purchased are the fuel tank and a battery charger to handle operation of the electric fuel pump, radiator fan, etc.

K7LED Relay

New Business- No new business.

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

There being no further business, Frank NA7O moved for adjournment. Motion Passed and Chairman Brendan closed the meeting at 8:22pm.

Attested: Dick Radford WA7NIW -- Secretary

Addendum:

The new Board met briefly following the final meeting of the old board. Committee liaison positions were decided on as also listed below. Steve KD7IQL was elected Chairman.

No. 1 – Frank Tate (NA7O) Strategic Planning

No. 2 – Gil Drynan (W7GIL) Public Service

No. 3 – Terry Barham (WA7PML) Facilities

No. 4 – Steve Cook (KD7IQL) Technical

No. 5 – Hal Mueller (N3YX) Education

Meeting adjourned.

Attested: Dick Radford WA7NIW, Secretary

Public Service Committee Minutes

[The Committee did not meet in March.]

Mitch Gill 'Speaks' At The M&K Awards Banquet

[Ed. Note- The following article is the complete text of the Email Sgt. Mitch Gill KI9TU/K7TUT sent so as to be read before the Club at the Annual Awards Banquet, Saturday, April 14, 2007, at the Muckleshoot Casino in Auburn, WA.]

Hi to All the Mike and Key members,

As you are hearing this being read I am in Fort Bliss Texas. I was evacuated out of Iraq due to chest pains and flown to Germany for testing. After a catheter procedure it was found that I have some moderate blockages in my arteries. As of the 2nd of April when this email was written I will be treated right now with medications. All of the other issues around my back injury and skin lesions will be addressed there as well. I am hoping to be back for next months meeting but there are no guarantees how long they will keep me.

As some of you are aware the Iraqi government shut down all Amateur Radio in March. I made over 1200 contacts and 81 countries including a very few in the US. All in all it was one of the most rewarding times I have had in amateur radio and I was shocked by the generosity of hams from around the world to include corporations such as Martin Jue of MFJ Enterprises and the advice and emails of support I received from several of you as well. It was and is appreciated.

One of the lessons I learned over here is that even though the war may not be popular, the soldiers have been treated with dignity and kindness that is sometimes overwhelming. From the grandmothers who made us quilts to corporations who gave us brand new clothes (We leave Iraq with nothing but what we were [Continued on Page 9])

Mitch Gill 'Speaks...' [Continued from Page 8]

wearing) to kids who wrote cards and letters and to people like yourself who sent us food, movies and the list goes on. I am proud to have served my country and I just pray the good Lord will allow me now to serve some of these veterans coming home who have lost limbs or are having trouble adjusting to coming back.

If you see me and I act a little different, just be patient with me. It takes us awhile to readjust out of wearing weapons, being cautious about everything and loud bangs. I am coming home a little broken but nothing that will not heal.

Tyler and I are looking forward to being there for Field Day as well as my wife. She wanted me to express her thanks to all of you for everything you have done. Some with prayers, some with thoughts, some sent packages and some helped me with antennas. I can't thank you enough.

God Bless you all. Keep supporting the troops as even though you may not support the war, we believe in what we are doing and without your support, we would not be able to handle the stress that is placed upon us.

Congratulations to all those who are receiving awards tonight and I am jealous that I cant be there to enjoy the food. I have not had a decent meal in a year and the meat in Iraq we believe is camel as it does not taste like steak. Oh by the way, did I tell you I was building an antenna? I am going to have to use a blow torch and solder.....but that's for another story!

See you soon. -Mitch K7TUT

Mike&KeyARC Banquet A Success

by Gary Bryan, Banquet Chair

My thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the 2007 Annual Awards Banquet. The event was well attended and everyone was treated to a talk by Ward Silver N0AX, and had a great time and great food at the Muckleshoot Casino, Chinook Banquet room on Saturday, April 14.

Especially noted were those who helped put on the event, Gil Drynan W7GIL who did an excellent job as EmCee for the evening. My thanks as well to Dave Smith KB7PSN for handling the details of the items for the Raffle.

Last but certainly not least, my thanks to the Leadership Team of the Club for their positive energy and support. There was a very good draw from the members who attended, in a great show of support.

It was a privilege to serve the Mike and Key Club in this capacity. I learned much about Banquets, and this experience provided opportunity for me to give back to the Club in the form of service. Thanks again.

-Gary KG7KU

Disaster Avoided

Contributed by Mike Dinkelman N7WA

A beam on a tower is a wonderful tool towards enjoyable Amateur Radio. Just as long as you know it isn't worry free and that proper maintenance is essential. Mike KA7CSE was up on his tower working on the rotator last year when he noticed his boom to mast plate looked a bit odd. Hmmm, one of the bolt holes has a crack. No, make that two bolt holes. Three, four, five, SIX! All six bolt holes had cracked. (The tower and antenna had been put up by the previous owner of the property and been up for many years.)



Fortunately, Mike has excellent tower work credentials and was able to replace his boom to mast plates without taking the whole thing down and using heftier materials. There is no way the antenna would have stayed up in the windstorms of the past December so he dodged a bullet on this one. Take a good look at the picture (sorry it's a bit blurry but the cracks are very evident). It is time to schedule some work on the tower for this summer.

Ham Nets & Events for 2007 -- APRIL / MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
15 2000 -- King Co. ARES 146.82 (Weekly) 2200 -- NW Astronomy Net 145.33 (Weekly)	16 0545 & 1645 -- Weather Net 145.33 (M-F) 1730 -- Puget Sound Traffic Sys. 146.82 (Daily) 1900 -- Seattle ACS 146.90 (Wkly)	17 2000 -- Snohomish Co. RACES 146.92 (Weekly)	18 2000 -- General /Tech Info 145.33 (Weekly) 2100 -- NWSOAR Net 146.82 (Weekly)	19 1900 -- M&K Public Service Net 146.82 (Weekly) 2000 -- Computer & Packet Net 145.33 (Weekly)	20 2000 -- Youth Net 145.33 (Weekly) <i>Public Service: Oregon Trail Rally - April 20-22, Hillsboro,OR</i>	21 1000 -- M&K Club Meeting, Renton, WA 1300 -- Ham Radio Exams, Renton, WA <i>Public Service: Daffodil Parades - Tacoma-Puyallup-Summer-Orting March of Dimes Walk America - Point Defiance Park, Tacoma</i>
22 2030 -- Snohomish Co. ARES 146.92 (Weekly)	23 1800 -- WA Emerg. HF 3.985 (Weekly) 1830 -- WA ARES 3.985 (Weekly) 1930 -- Puget Sound Repeater Group 146.96 (Weekly)	24	25 1900 - M&K ARC Board Meeting	26 2000 -- Amateur TV Net 147.08 (Weekly)	27	28 0900 -- WA ARES HF Net 3.985 (Weekly) <i>Public Service: Oak Harbor Parade - Oak Harbor, Whidbey Island, WA</i>
29	30 2000 -- YL Net 145.33 (Weekly)	01 MAY	02	03	04	05 0900 -- NW Swap Net 145.33 (Weekly)
06	07	08	09	10	11 May Relay Article Deadline 23:59:59	12 <i>Public Service: Husky Crew Races - 8am University of Washington</i>