



From the Club President...

Officers, Budget, Repeaters & Such

by Mike Eakins K7OV, President

Hello again! It's December again and we have some new and exciting things to discuss this month.

First, we have lost our Vice President, Bert Nielson - AF7V, because of him moving across the country to a new and exciting life. He will be missed greatly! He was instrumental in the success of the GOTA station this year, and has stepped up in every aspect of managing this club and was a real asset to our membership.

So, we need to think of voting in a replacement for the duration of his term. So, please come to the December meeting prepared to nominate and vote for a replacement for him.

On to other news, the board has approved a new Budget that they will be presenting to you for approval. In that Budget, is a proposal for a new repeater package. Here's the problem. The old repeater packages we have just have not proved to be very reliable. When you consider that they are located on mountain tops mostly covered with snow in the winter, and that access can be next to impossible, a reliable repeater package is necessary in order to be available for emergencies such as the last wind and rain storm we had.

We have had an offer of a repeater from a friendly neighbor, but it is over 20 years old, and it doesn't make sense to me to put a repeater that is exceeding it's expected life on the mountain, as it could mean just a continuation of our intermittent problems. So, the proposal was made, and I support it, that we buy a new commercial repeater package for the sake of reliability and a useful life expectancy of between 10 and 20 years in the Amateur Service. I call on and hope the membership will support this effort. If we are to support emergency services with our repeater, this choice is highly recommended.

Now we come to another subject, that of where we will have our next Board meeting. The board is looking around for a place a little more

usable for our Board meetings. We welcome suggestions and you can pass them on to any Board member. The problem has been holding Board meetings in a quiet place where we can hear each other speak. Now that they want to charge a fee in the old place, we have been meeting in the restaurant area, and we are having a hard time. This next months Board meeting will be at my neighborhood 'Cabana' and will be on January 2, 2008. You can Mapquest a map using the address- 2060 SE 8th Place, Renton, WA 98055.
73, Mike Eakins – K7OV

Say Goodbye to K7TUT...

by Mitch Gill NA7US ex K7TUT

No, I am not leaving so don't start clapping and thinking about a having a party.

I have changed since Iraq. It took me months just to get interested in operating again as well as just about anything else that was fun. It has been and continues to be a long road back. I stared at antennas that I needed to put up but daily I would be too exhausted and could not even think straight.

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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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P.O. Box 4234
Renton, WA 98057-4234

Web Site

www.mikeandkey.org

Send dues to

Mike&Key ARC
P.O. Box 4234
Renton, WA 98057-4234

K7LED Repeaters

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

Email

info@mikeandkey.org

Send newsletter submissions to

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Reflector

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

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| Treasurer | Carolyn Pasquier | WV7Q | carolynp @ sprynet.com | 253-862-1157 |
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| No. 2 | Gil Drynan | W7GIL | gild @ seanet.com | 425-392-1668 |
| No. 3 | Terry Barham | WA7PML | barhata @ comcast.net | 425-227-9483 |
| No. 4 (CoB) | Steven Cook | KD7IQL | kd7iql @ arrl.net | 206-781-2293 |
| No. 5 | Hal Mueller | N3YX | n3yx @ arrl.net | 206-297-9574 |
| Logo Committee | Dan & Dawn Humphrey | N7QHC / KC7YYB | n7qhcdan @ juno.com | 206-243-0163 |
| 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 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.

Upcoming Club Activities-December

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA, Activity Manager

For the month of December, there is no program. There will be an extended time for eyeball QSO's and we will be holding two raffles. First, there is the normal monthly raffle. Then there is the year end raffle. The year end raffle consists of all the tickets that were bought from December 2006 to November 2007. You can't buy any tickets for the year-end raffle. Tickets from the monthly raffle will go towards the 2008 year end raffle.

Ongoing activities include preparations for the Flea market. The worker book continues to circulate at the Club meetings. Please don't make me beg for worker signups. There will be a Fleamarket meeting January 9th, 7PM at the Dinkelman residence. All are welcome.

We also need a volunteer to run the annual awards banquet by the December Club meeting. I've had two people express interest but I need a commitment.

Finally, I am looking for an experienced E-Bay seller. We received a donation of a keyer several months ago which was to be part of the raffle. I think the keyer (an AEA Morsematic MM-1) has more value as an auction item than as a monthly raffle item as I think these are somewhat of a collectors item. Please see me if you are willing to sell this for the club. Proceeds will go into the 2008 year-end raffle pot.

Communications Academy 2008

Contributed by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

The TENTH Annual Communications Academy will be held April 5-6, 2008 at South Seattle Community College. The theme for this year's conference is: "The Next Disaster is Ready for You -- Are You Ready for it?"

There will be a keynote speaker on both Saturday and Sunday, followed by five concurrent breakout sessions throughout each day. The new facility provides us with better conference and class room space, and a better location for vehicle displays.

This year, lunches will be incorporated into the registration price for the first time. (There are no readily available fast-food or casual dining restaurants in the immediate area.)

More information will be posted on the Comm Academy Web page soon-- www.CommAcademy.org. We are still working on curriculum, and are looking for ideas for speakers and topics. If you have suggestions, please forward them to Marina Zuetell, Program Chair, n7lsl@arrl.net.

Bell Ringing

Contributed by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

This year, the Salvation Army made the club an offer that was too good to be passed up. If we would spend one day doing some bell ringing for them, they would knock a bunch off the rent this year. With that, the sign up sheets went out and we had a team of volunteers.

Our target was the Fry's electronic store in Renton with a shift from 10AM to 6PM. Our intrepid bell ringers each took an hour, greeting every person walking through the door while working their fingers to the bone shaking that bell. It was a lot of fun (at least, everyone said so). We had candy out for little and big kids and we were indoors which was a real plus with the snow and wind outside. (It was a lot easier being over-dressed than under.)

This was a good place to do some people-watching. Many people give the money to their kids for the donation. Others walk in, pull a whole handful of change out of their pockets, then dump it on the kettle. Then there are those who walk right on by only to come back 30-60 seconds later to drop in a bill or two. We noticed quite a few \$5 and \$10 bills and then there were many small change donations. The surprises were the ones headed out the exit (we were at the entrance door) who made a special effort to come back over and donate. It was all welcome. We even had to shake up the kettle a bit every once in a while so the donations would fit.

I wish to thank the volunteers: Gil W7GIL Drynan, Kathy KB7QMO and Ryan N7TNI Martin, Jim NY1R Darby, Jim KD7BAT Ezwiler, Frank NA7O Tate, Eric N7DLV Synder, Ron WA7GAX Stein, and Carolyn WV7Q Pasquier and Lars. While I failed to get pictures of them all, I did get a few that maybe our editor can put in the Relay. I should note that Greg W7HRC Pietrucha also volunteered but I didn't have to call on him in the end.



Jim Ezwiler KD7BAT Carolyn Pasquier WV7Q & Lars

The Salvation Army thanks the Club for it's efforts and I thank those of you who volunteered. (And I think we filled that kettle up pretty good!)

Say Goodbye to K7TUT... [Cont'd from Page 1]

The radios sat where I had left them over a year before. My health was not great and my mind was still in Iraq. For two months I kept my bayonet under my pillow when I went to bed, woke up and reported to the hospital for appointments. Thank God that I am, as I write this, being released from active duty and returning to the National Guard. I will still be under a Doctors care for the rest of my life but I am healthy enough in the Armys eyes to stay in and that is what I wanted.

I need more things to spark my interest in doing normal fun activities and my family and friends have been great. It has just been hard to readjust and doing something new and different helps.

Now, I know I just told you a "oh woe is me" story but its not to feel bad for me but in order for you may understand why I decided to be vain again and change my callsign. K7TUT has been fun in the past but I lost alot of countries during pileups as when they heard my call in CW they would think I was sending TU which is the abbreviation for "thank you". I wanted to try QRP DXCC and that call was not giving me the edge I needed.

So being the cheap guy I am I decided to apply without paying W5YI the extra \$20 to get a new call. I was convinced by one of my oldest Ham friends that I should go for a 1X2. I read up on it and the key was to put in as many as you can and to get it in there early. I saw that W7KV was available in two weeks so I applied. Oops, I put it in too early but thats OK I was smart and modified my application on the day it became available. To my dismay, twelve others applied for the same call.

That's OK as my second choice was WT7N and only one other person had applied. My third through tenth choices I did not care about so they were just calls I found available. I thought I had a good chance at W7KV and was a shoe in for WT7N as I had applied exactly one minute after midnight east coast time. I now waited for three weeks as my long time Air Force buddy W3IK from Tennessee kept telling me that I was guaranteed WT7N. He had changed his callsign but used W5YI. I kept laughing at him as I constantly reminded him how I saved 20 dollars and it was an easy system.

Earlier I described to you about how sometimes it is hard for me to think straight. I believe that in this case my brain was not in the highest of gears. On the day that the FCC designated, W7KV and WT7N was given to someone else. But that was not the only thing; my application was gone! It was not until the next day that I appeared as KG8G. I really did not want an 8 callsign or anything but a 7 but there it was.

On CW its actually flows but try saying KG8G several times; its a mouthful. On HF SSB I was asked my callsign several times, people were pointing their

antenna towards 8 land and kept telling me what a mouthful that callsign was. I tried to use the call and maybe keep it but I found myself operating less and forget 2 meters! Oh I could just hear Steve and Brendan. Nope not going to do it! And to think, I paid full price for that stupid call!

Well, enough was enough. The price came down on Vanity calls but this time I was going to be smart. I was not going to compete against a group for a 1X2 or 2X1 callsign. I remembered that another friend had a unique call, NW7US. I looked at all the available 2X2s and found NA7US. It looked good, sounded good on SSB and was catchy on CW. So after 2 days as KG8G, I submitted and paid AGAIN for another call with NO other calls listed on my application.

My application appeared the very next day as PENDING but being smarter this time I delved into the application, checked and found that vanityhq had predicted that I would get the call and they were 97% correct! There it was, all of the applications had predictions unless there was competition with the exception of four apps that were "Off-lined by the FCC" and predicted to be dismissed.

Yep, mine was one of them and I had no idea why. I still don't. There is a NA4US and a NA5US (both vanity calls) so why did they hold mine up for review? I was nervous but as I delved into the FCC website, the app was active just no decision had been made.

Finally after 2 days the FCC showed that I was granted NA7US. NORTH AMERICA SEVEN UNITED STATES. It worked really well on the CQ WW SSB contest. I had several stations compliment me on the call during the contest, so its a keeper.

But even though I changed callsigns, do not fret. I am still your King in my own mind!

Ham Radio Classes Available

by Mike Eakins, K7OV, President

Have you ever wanted to get your Ham Radio License in order to volunteer during emergencies, or just have fun talking to people all over the world? Well, this is your opportunity!

Announcing Ham Radio Licensing classes on January 11th, 12th and 13th, 2008 sponsored by the City of Renton and the Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club.

The class registration cost is \$50.00 and includes all course materials, including the study book and the examination fee for one exam. This course is for the Technician Class License and is the current entry level license for Amateur Radio (Ham Radio) and will give you voice privileges on one short-wave band and all of the VHF/UHF frequencies available to ham radio. Some pre study will be required, to be completed on your own time.

Registration deadline is Jan 2 or when class is full, so early is better!

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December 2007

Ham Radio Classes... [Continued from Page 4]

Here's the schedule for the classes:

Friday Evening-- 7 to 9 PM

Saturday-- 8 AM to 5 PM (w/lunch break)

Sunday -- 8 AM to Noon, with testing at 1 PM

To register for the class, please contact Mike Eakins, K7OV at Phone: 425-572-5248 or at k7ov@k7ov.com (Preferred method of contact) with your name, address and telephone number. You will be instructed where to send your registration check, and how to get your training manual.

K7LED Relay

x_Treasurer – Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q)

x_Activity Manager – Mike Dinkelman (N7WA)

x_Radio Officer – Paul Roth (N7DOH)

Trustees present:

x_No. 1 – Frank Tate (NA7O)

x_No. 2 – Gil Drynan, (W7GIL)

_No. 3 – Terry Barham (WA7PML)

x_No. 4 – Steve Cook (KD7IQL)

x_No. 5 – Hal Mueller (N3YX)

President Eakins 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 Eakins 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 day was, "What was your favorite homebrew project?" Answers ranged from antennas to amplifiers.

Quorum present.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay* made by Littlejohn WA7HQG and seconded by Ivy WA7IVY. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

President – Mike K7OV. Next Board meeting is Nov. 28 at 7:00.

Vice President – Bert AF7V: No potential new members were present. Due to moving to Kentucky it is necessary for Bert to resign as Vice President.

Secretary – Dick WA7NIW: Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Carolyn WV7Q: The Club's books are in good order. Gave Balance Sheet summary. The Flea Market is starting to spend money. The Board will be reviewing the 2008 budget at its next meeting.

Activity Manager – Mike N7WA: No raffle today, but the BIG ONE is next month. Flea Market flyers are going to be going out soon. Sweepstakes is coming up.

Chairman of the Board – Steve KD7IQL: At the Board meeting we will be disposing of the club's old equipment trailer. There is a \$500 reserve, and so far nobody seems interested. There will be a Bylaws review committee formed. Anyone interested please contact Steve.

Radio Officer – Paul N7DOH: Nothing new to report. Will be filing our annual report with the State shortly. Still working on either getting an amplifier for the repeater, or a higher powered repeater. Also considering dual receivers for the repeater.

Relay Editor – Gary KG7KU: Not present, need articles.

Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: The web site is up to date, the membership application PDF has been fixed.

Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning – Frank NA7O: Nothing new, requested suggestions.

Facilities – Terry WA7PML: Not present. Jim KD7BAT reported that the Salvation Army Captain requested to meet with the Board regarding disaster planning.

Education – Hal N3YX: We are in the middle of a two weekend class at South Seattle Community College. It looks like there will be approximately 15 graduates.

Public Service – Gil W7GIL: We need a Chair for the committee. If we can't get going very soon on the booklet, we won't have one. We will meet after the club meeting.

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PSC Minutes for November 17, 2007

Meeting called to order by our new chairman Robert KD7WNV at 12:25.

In attendance: Gil, Dave, Robert, Dick, Hal, Dan, Dawn, Carolyn and Loras.

Old Business:

We started splitting up the tasks for the booklet.

Nets- Robert KD7WNV

Repeaters- KD7WNV

Hamfests- Dave KB7PSN

Exams- Dave KB7PSN

Events- Dick WA7NIW, Robert KD7WNV

Club Contacts- Steve KD7IQL will take the top half. Hal N3YX will take the bottom.

Advertising- Dick will talk to Seafair about their ad when getting information. Dave KD7PSN will take the initiative of contacting HRO while in Portland regarding an ad. Top Hat has renewed. Carolyn will handle the rest of the ad contacts. Hotpress, SteppiR, Icom, Frys. Others will contact ESCA, RACES, Seattle ACS, Shoreline ACS, MST, WWDXC, etc. depending on who they know.

Advertising rates are \$250 for a full page, \$150 for a half page. Additional \$25 for prime locations, inside front and back covers. Also discussed was the possibility of adding a repeater map. If we sell enough ads we will be able to add a sheet (4 pages) and would then have plenty of room for the map.

There was discussion of the terminology used on the Emergency Preparedness Websites page. There was a suggestion that we also cover Emergency Support groups. It looks like we will be massaging the name.

New Business: No New Business.

Meeting adjourned at 13:17; Attested, Dick, WA7NIW.

Fleamarket Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2007

No meeting held in December. Next meeting is Jan 8.

Mike&Key General Meeting Minutes

held 11-17-2007

Officers present:

x_President – Mike Eakins (K7OV)

x_Vice President – Bert Nielson (AF7V)

x_Secretary – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)

December 2007

General Meeting Minutes... [Cont'd from Page 5]

Technical – Steve KD7IQL: Still trying to get enough people together to get the committee going.

VE Exams -- Scott AG7T: Last month there were 18 tests given, 10 Technician, 4 General, 2 Extras were awarded.

Flea Market – Hal N7NW / Mike N7WA: Flea Market is on Hiatus until September.

Field Day -- Steve KD7IQL / Brendan KD7IKV: We finished 10th over all, 2nd in 6A, and 1st in Western Washington.

There was discussion about putting a known type of matching system on the old 20 meter beam and lengthen the boom to about 3-4 feet to see what we can accomplish with it. The main concern voiced was whether it could fit on the tower trailer. No problem, it will come apart.

Awards Banquet - Gary KG7KU:

Old Business: No Old Business.

Awards-

Alligator Award- Not being passed this month.

New Business - Gerald Kleinbrook N7EZU became a silent key on November 9.

Calvin wanted to know if we were going to participate in Renton River Days again.

Good of the Order –

There is room to put up 40 tents in the Boy Scout camp area at Fort Flagler for Field Day. No RV space there, if you plan to bring an RV, you need to make arrangements for a camp site directly with the park. At this time there are no hookup sites available.

The next Mike & Key General Membership meeting is December 15.

There being no further business, Scott AG7T moved to adjourn.

Motion passed, and President Eakins closed the meeting at 11:00 AM

Attested: Dick Radford WA7NIW, Secretary

Mike&Key Board Meeting Minutes

held 11-28-2007

Officers present:

- President – Mike Eakins (K7OV)
- Vice President – Position Open
- Secretary – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
- Treasurer – Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q)
- Activity Manager – Mike Dinkelman (N7WA)
- Radio Officer – Paul Roth (N7DOH)

Trustees present:

- No. 1 – Frank Tate (NA7O)
- No. 2 – Gil Drynan, (W7GIL)
- No. 3 – Terry Barham (WA7PML)
- No. 4 – Steve Cook (KD7IQL)
- No. 5 – Hal Mueller (N3YX)

Visitors in attendance:

Chairman Steve KD7IQL called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Galliano's Cucina in SeaTac, Wash.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the previous board meeting, was made by Hal N3YX and seconded by Mike N7WA. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

Chairman of the Board – Steve KD7IQL: Reported that the position of Vice President is open due to Bert's resignation.

President – Mike K7OV: Nothing new to report.

K7LED Relay

Vice President – Position Open: Steve presented Doug Sutphen KE7OQW, and Michael Holcomb KE7PLV to the Board for membership approval. Both were approved.

Secretary – Dick WA7NIW: Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Carolyn WV7Q: The Club's books are in good order. Gave Balance Sheet summary. Money is already coming in from the Flea Market.

Activity Manager – Mike N7WA: Bell ringing at Frye's on December 1. Lots of volunteers resulted in one hour shifts.

Radio Officer – Paul N7DOH: Nothing to report at this time.

Relay Editor – Gary KG7KU: Thanks for the articles, please write more.

Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: The web is up to date.

Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning – Frank NA7O: Nothing to report.

Facilities – Terry WA7PML: Not present, no report.

Education – Hal N3YX: The class held had 13 enrolled, 11 tested, 11 passed, approximately \$80 came in to the club, and we have materials left over. We have been charging \$50 per person, which includes the book and testing. It was suggested that a couple of the books be donated to Salvation Army for training their operators mentioned in the Captain Terry section of the minutes. Mike K7OV gave details on a class that is planned for Renton, January 11-13. Jim KD7BAT will contact Salvation Army regarding having some of their people attend.

Public Service – Gil W7GIL: The Public Service Committee is alive and well. The booklet sections have been divided up for update by the members of the committee. Robert, KD7WNV has volunteered to chair the committee.

Technical – Steve KD7IQL: Technical Committee is starting up. There has been a meeting, and there are ideas for projects.

VE Exams -- Scott AG7T: Not present, no report. Sessions are proceeding monthly.

Flea Market – Hal N7NW / Mike N7WA: Next meeting will be in January.

Field Day -- Steve KD7IQL / Brendan KD7IKV:

Awards Banquet - Gary KG7KU: There are a couple of venues available, a decision will be made at a later time once more research is done.

Old Business-No old business.

New Business-

Captain Terry of the Salvation Army visited our meeting. The subject of his meeting with us was regarding providing communications for them in their function within the community in food distribution during a disaster. Possible solutions had to do with teaming them with CERT, SATERN, and also getting some of their people licensed as operators.

The position of Vice President is open following Bert's resignation due to moving out of state. Mike K7OV will write an article for the Relay informing the members so that nominations and election can take place at the next General Business meeting.

Steve reported that there is a group willing to serve on the Bylaws committee. Jack N7IHS is the tentative Chair of the committee. There was discussion regarding publishing the Articles of Incorporation on the web, the Board decided against doing this.

Use of the upstairs at Galliano's Cucina is now considered a "banquet" with the corresponding charge. The room is not available for "meetings". General consensus is that we find a new meeting location. It might be possible to meet at the Salvation Army Food Bank building, but this will take some [Continued on Page 7]

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

doing as there are concerns regarding heat and lights. Going back to meeting in the Board Members' homes was suggested. There is also the possibility of meeting at the Cabana at Mike K7OV's condo complex.

December Board meeting is scheduled for December 26. This won't work, so the meeting was rescheduled for January 2 at Mike's Cabana. Mike will supply directions.

The budget for 2008 was discussed in comparison to 2007.

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

The meeting recessed at 9:00. We will continue at 7:00 PM Thursday Dec. 6.

Attested: Dick Radford WA7NIW – Secretary

Meeting reconvened December 6, 2007...

Officers present:

- _President – Mike Eakins (K7OV)
- _Vice President – Position Open
- x**_Secretary – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
- x**_Treasurer – Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q)
- x**_Activity Manager – Mike Dinkelman (N7WA)
- x**_Radio Officer – Paul Roth (N7DOH)

Trustees present:

- _No. 1 – Frank Tate (NA7O)
- x**_No. 2 – Gil Drynan, (W7GIL)
- _No. 3 – Terry Barham (WA7PML)
- x**_No. 4 – Steve Cook (KD7IQL)
- x**_No. 5 – Hal Mueller (N3YX)

Budget discussion continued once a quorum was present.

There was discussion of the repeater situation. It was noted that to be good stewards of the spectrum and to present a good public image we should have a good quality repeater on the air. Out of respect for our members who expect dependability, and our Radio Officer who does not have unlimited time to make frequent trips up to the site for repairs we should have a dependable machine.

Gil W7GIL moved that we accept the budget as presented, Hal N3YX seconded. Motion passed.

With the business of this special session completed, the meeting was declared adjourned by the Chair.

Attested: Dick Radford WA7NIW – Secretary

Celebrate our December CLUB Members

Contributed by Carolyn WV7Q, Treasurer

As of December 2007, these folks have been Mike & Key members for the number of years stated. Congratulations to all of you, and thanks for your participation and service. Each of you makes us who we are:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| John Becker K7PFR... | 35 Years |
| Ken Rau K7YR... | 35 Years |
| Raleigh Elkins WB7WNF | 28 Years |
| Norman Ahrens N7KWZ | 20 Years |
| Pete Kozlowski N7UIF... | 16 Years |
| David Smith KB7PSN... | 14 Years |
| Michael Ross KB7YXB... | 14 Years |
| Marilyn Olson KB7WSH... | 13 Years |
| Alan Hughes KB7SVU... | 11 Years |
| Tressie Hughes KB7BAL... | 11 Years |
| Ted Roubal KC7ZEO... | 10 Years |
| Ted Boessenroth N7YC | 7 Years |
| Edward Maher NL7VP... | 4 Years |

Consider A New Club Repeater

by Paul Roth N7DOH, Radio Officer

We have completed an evaluation of our current two-meter repeater on Tiger Mountain, and it is time to improve on our repeater systems. With this in mind, perhaps take a brief amount of your time to consider the purchase of a new Club Repeater. With It being budget time once again it may be time to plan for such improvements. The main issue regarding this proposed budget item is Reliability.

The intended site for this new item is our old Squak Mt. site. This site can enhance our current coverage and is equipped with substantial emergency power. Our current repeater can be utilized to increase receive coverage and as a hot-swap site. Squak Mt. is a unique site that can provide a needed coverage niche in the greater Puget Sound area. There are no other VHF Amateur Radio repeaters on this site, which further defines the need. This additional site will maximize service to our members and the Amateur Radio community.

A considerable amount of time is required to schedule a trip to perform service at this site. The proposed proven reliable repeater would be the least likely cause for a service call. These types of sites can be quite difficult to access and even inaccessible for significant durations. Another advantage of this budget item is the superior quality and raise in power. With more and more electronic gizmos producing ever-increasing RF pollution in our cities, this boost in output power can help carve a path through.

We are fortunate to have a Two-Meter repeater pair and an allocation for a high elevation site. We are one of the largest and most active Amateur Radio Clubs in the Pacific NW. Why then would we not have a high-quality reliable repeater on the most occupied band above 50MHz? 'Most occupied' usually means 'most hams have 2-meter rigs-- and where do you think they will be operating in an emergency? Where might you be operating trying to find help?

Counting Sunspots

-- from the ARRL Propagation Bulletin --
Contributed by Michael Dinkelman, N7WA

The sun has been blank for most of the past several months with the occasional sunspot making a short appearance. Have you ever noticed that the spot count is zero, then jumps to eleven when a single small spot shows up? Well, here is how you count sunspots.

A sunspot number of 11 means just one sunspot. The number is derived by counting 10 points for each sunspot group, then adding one point for each spot. So 11 is the minimum non-zero sunspot number. It is either 0 (Zero), or 11, or something higher, with nothing from 1-10. A sunspot count of 13 would mean there was one group of sunspots, but three spots were observed.

Ham Nets & Events for 2007 / 2008 -- DECEMBER / JANUARY

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| 09 2000 -- King Co. ARES 147.08 (Weekly) 2200 -- NW Astronomy Net 145.33 (Weekly) | 10 0545 & 1645 -- Weather Net 145.33 (M-F) 1730 -- Puget Sound Traffic Sys. 146.82 (Daily) 1900 -- Seattle ACS 146.90 (Wkly) | 11 2000 -- Snohomish Co. RACES 146.92 (Weekly) | 12 2000 -- General /Tech Info 145.33 (Weekly) 2100 -- NWSOAR Net 146.82 (Weekly) | 13 1900 -- M&K Public Service Net 146.82 (Weekly) 2000 -- Computer & Packet Net 145.33 (Weekly) | 14 2000 -- Youth Net 145.33 (Weekly) | 15 1000 -- M&K Club Meeting, Renton, WA 1300 -- Ham Radio Exams, Renton, WA |
| 16 2030 -- Snohomish Co. ARES 146.92 (Weekly) | 17 1800 -- WA Emerg. HF 3.985 (Weekly) 1830 -- WA ARES 3.985 (Weekly) 1930 -- PSRG 146.96 (Weekly) | 18 | 19 | 20 2000 -- Amateur TV Net 147.08 (Weekly) | 21 | 22 0900 -- WA ARES HF Net 3.985 (Weekly) |
| 23 | 24 2000 -- YL Net 145.33 (Weekly) | 25 | 26 1900 - M&K ARC Board Meeting [Rescheduled to Jan 2] | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | 01 JANUARY -- 2008 -- Happy New Year ! | 02 1900 - M&K ARC Board Meeting | 03 | 04 | 05 |
| 06 | 07 | 08 1900 Flea Market Meeting | 09 | 10 | 11 January Relay Article Deadline 23:59:59 | 12 |