



From the Club President...

A New Year, With Much In Store

by Mike Eakins K7OV, President

Well, here we are in a new year! Wow, has time flown by this year for me! As I sit here writing this [Saturday, Jan 12], I and Tim Kane, K7ANE just finished up another day in our three day Technician Class training. This time we have 12 students, and I am sure they will all pass. Tomorrow we will finish up around noon, and our esteemed team of examiners, lead by Scott, AG7T, will test them, and I feel confident that we will have 12 new hams to join our ranks. This can be tiring, but I really enjoy it, especially when a class shows so much interest in the hobby.

Some will join us in our club, and maybe take on some club activities, some will be DX hounds, some will work with emergency services for various cities and municipalities, and at least two of them are Salvation Army people, rounding out our class, but all are very interested in ham radio. I, for one, look forward to having them in our ranks!

I want to take the opportunity to remind you all, that we need help in the upcoming Flea Market coming up just about two months away. Dink needs help with setup, I need help in announcing, Gary needs help with the pallet crew, and the list goes on! Please, volunteer early so that we don't worry about getting the job done. Many hands make light work! Not only that, but helping has some perks, such as free entry, pizza, and getting to know your fellow club members.

73, Mike – K7OV

From the (Interim) V.P.

by Mitch Gill NA7US

Ham Radio is a hobby and the word hobby makes you think of amusement, relaxation and enjoyment. This club is an extension of our hobby. It is a place where we, who all love this hobby, gather together to meet with other like minded individuals for the purpose of saying hello, talking about how we have had fun, teaching others things they have learned and to conduct the business of the club.

I am not intentionally ignoring the public service side of the hobby or those that hold office because, for many, it is their relaxation and enjoyment even when it is work. Yes, even though holding office can be work (except for the VP position who just has to smile and wave at his subjects...oops sorry, I was reminiscing of my role as King), it is something that some of us enjoy doing because we do love this hobby and we do enjoy this club. [Continued on Page 3]

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The *K7LED Relay*, published monthly, is the official newsletter of the Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club. Mike & Key ARC is an ARRL-affiliated club dedicated to the growth and betterment of Amateur Radio.

The club meets at 10 A.M. the third Saturday of every month at Salvation Army Headquarters, 720 S. Tobin Street, in Renton (near the southeast corner of Renton Airport). Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is invited to participate in the Mike & Key ARC and its activities. Annual dues are \$12 for individuals and \$18 for families.



Postal Address

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

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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No. 2	Gil Drynan	W7GIL	gild @ seanet.com	425-392-1668
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Webmasters	Jim Etwiler / Dave Smith	KD7BAT / KB7PSN	kd7bat @ arrl.net	206-633-1512

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

On the Web — The Club's site at 'www.mikeandkey.org' includes extensive information about Club 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 - January

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA, Activity Manager

Well, first I tried to get Ward Silver N0AX in to talk about his trip to Brazil. Alas, he had other commitments but maybe in April or May.

Then I thought about locking the doors and using the program time to harangue you all until I filled up every slot in the Fleamarket signup book but you're all bigger than me and I don't tolerate pain well so I decided THAT wasn't a good idea.

So, we're gonna try something different. The program is going to be a combination "Show and Tell" with some discussion about stubs, bandpass filters, and ferrite chokes. It'll be mostly show and tell using a network analyzer to put up pretty pictures about the afore mentioned interference reduction devices. We'll stick some stubs on the analyzer and see what they can do for us. Same with bandpass filters (commercial and homebrew). Ever wondered what happens when you wind a speaker wire around a ferrite core? We'll show what it looks like (bring your own core if you like).

The program will be low on theory and high on demonstration. As always, audience participation is paramount so feel free to Elmer during the program.

Fleamarket Signups

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

Every year, I hope I don't have to write this article. Every year I end up writing it. Isn't madness defined as doing do the same thing but expecting a different result?

So, another Fleamarket event approaches. I've been telling you about it since September. I've been bringing signup sheets to all Club meetings since October. With two months to go, we have 58 people signed up to work the event including the Chairpersons and a few non-club members. We need more than 100 workers (not including Chairpersons) to staff this event. Considering we have nearly 200 club members, this is absolutely DISMAL.

We just passed a rather large operating budget with lots of money for things like repeaters. That budget expects a rather large influx of money from the upcoming fleamarket. If that is to happen, we need workers. We need YOU!

Areas in the most dire need (in descending order) include Announcing, Tickets, Setup, Country Store (Friday), Pallet Crew, Registration, and Security.

I will have the signup sheets at the next two meetings. You can also send me email inquiries about open slots and I would be happy to put you in the book. Note that this is the last month you can sign up and pick up your badge at the February meeting. Else you have to wait until the event.

Your event Chairs have been working this event for 4 months. It's your turn to support the club by committing to work a few hours in March. Now, how hard can that be when you also get to attend the **best Ham event in the Northwest** as a side benefit?

Eyeball QSO's -- With Food

by Mike Dinkelman N7WA

Food and Radio Amateurs just seem to go together. Over the years, I've been to a number of breakfast, lunch, and dinner gatherings where a bunch of Hams just get together to shoot the breeze while enjoying a cup of coffee or a meal.

A fellow club member mentioned a couple months ago how their group (one I didn't even know existed) was getting kinda thin due to Silent Keys. I did know of another such group that has been similarly decimated. The thought then occurred that it might be a good idea to advertise.

Now I don't belong to any such group so I can't speak for the few I know of, but if you belong to such a group and are looking for new blood, consider putting your schedule, location, and the type of group you have into a Relay article. Heck, I'll even write it as long as you give me the 'info.'

Maybe..., you might even want to START a group (there used to be one before our monthly Club meetings). Whatya say?

From the (Interim)VP... [Continued from Page 1]

The business side of the club is where things can sometimes get to be perceived as the "not so much fun" part. Our club is made up of some of the finest men and women I have ever had the pleasure of knowing and everyone brings something to the table. Some bring just their smile and fun personality while others bring their opinions; others their desires and wishes of where the club should go in the future. All, every single one of you, bring something that makes this club what it is. All have a say.

This club is a hobby club and that hobby has a variety of areas that hams can enjoy. This club holds one of the most successful flea markets in the Northwest and brings in more money than our dues could ever cover. It allows us the ability to have Christmas parties, awards banquets and Field Day. It allows us the ability to provide repeaters for our members and to others in the Northwest all the way down to the coffee we drink and the donuts we eat at the meetings (donations are appreciated).

We have the unique ability in this club to do more. With that I have provided a list of ideas that I think we should consider for the New Year both to generate more dollars and to provide additional fun and services for the members as well.

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January 2008

From the (Interim)VP... [Continued from Page 3]

1. Provide chili for sale at the annual flea market. We have a member whose chili is well known to all the members. This could provide an additional \$1000 to the club minus the \$900 cost for the gas mask to be provided to each member who works the flea market. Those members who come to the flea market but have not signed up to assist will unfortunately not be provided the same but are encouraged to come and enjoy. This would provide a net gain of \$100 more to the clubs bottom line unless additional port-a-potties are needed.
2. Charge \$25 a year to non-members to use our repeaters (with the exception of public service who we will only charge \$24). Net gain will depend on how many people pay but even four people a year could bring another \$100 to the club!
3. If we have a pilot in the club with a plane we can attach a banner advertising the club. If he donates fuel and time the banner may cost as little as \$500 but those hundreds of new members may bring enough money to cover the cost if its sunny outside. OK sun is rare and may not be that great of an idea.
4. Increase membership fees to new members to \$200 dollars a year and then provide a FREE handheld to each new member. Radio cost \$125 dollars plus \$25 fee for use of the repeater. That's \$50 dollars for each new member to our bottom line.
5. Charge all members \$10 to operate during Field Day; with the exception of CW Beach where we will pay the operator \$5.00 to come down and join us.

And you all thought I would just sit up front for my three months and smile. HA! Not me. I am going to start stirring that pot and see where the wind blows (so I can obviously step away from the wind whenever I need to and yes the pun is always intended). You all voted for me. HA HA HA HA! You thought the joke was on me. HA HA HA. Just wait and see what I can really do in three months. Chili anyone?

Public Service Committee Minutes December 15, 2007

Meeting called to order by Robert at 12:13 PM.
In attendance: Robert, Brendan, Dave, Dan, Dawn, and Dick.

Old Business:

Everyone is working on their projects. Robert needs people to report progress on their ad sales. If there are any problems let Robert know. It is important to know how things are going so we will know how many pages we are going to produce, and to get content ready for them. Dick has the old spreadsheets from the various sections of the booklet and will send them out for those who are taking those sections this year.

K7LED Relay

New Business:

It was decided that we should do the final edit and layout session on Saturday (Feb 9), the week before the February club meeting at 1:00 PM. This will give Brendan all day Sunday to finalize things. We will try to get the documents to the printer the week of the 11th.

Everyone, get ads with digital logos and such to Brendan ASAP. If you need a proof, or design work, let him know.

Meeting adjourned 12:38; Dick, WA7NIW

Mike&Key General Meeting Minutes

held 12-15-2007

Officers present:

x President – Mike Eakins (K7OV)

x Vice President – Mitch (NA7US)

x Secretary – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)

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 10:03 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. There was no introductory question this month to keep the meeting shorter due to voting in a new Vice President, and approval of the Budget.

Quorum present. There were 46 members, 43 ARRL members, and 5 guests.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay* made by Scott AG7T and seconded by John WA7HQG. A correction was noted regarding the Flea Market. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

President – Mike K7OV.

Vice President – Mitch NA7US: Presented Bob Ledoux KE7JPI, and Doug Sutphen KE7OQW for membership. Both were approved.

Secretary – Dick WA7NIW: Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Carolyn WV7Q: The Club's books are in good order.

Activity Manager – Mike N7WA: Flea Market meeting will be January 8. Thanks to all those who helped out with bell ringing for the Salvation Army.

Chairman of the Board – Steve KD7IQL: We need to elect a new Vice President at today's meeting.

Radio Officer – Paul N7DOH: We need to get a new repeater for our high location to provide the reliability we need in such a location with its access problems. This new proposed repeater will be capable of higher power to provide the coverage we are coordinated for, and the durability for long time key down operation. There was considerable

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M&K General Meeting Minutes...[Cont'd from Pg4]

discussion on this topic. It was suggested that a block diagram of the proposed system be provided so that we can understand just how the system works. This type of repeater is in use by a couple of clubs in the area that are operating at lower elevations and was selected for its reliability.

Relay Editor – Gary KG7KU: Not present, no report.

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

Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning – Frank NA7O:

Facilities –: Terry WA7PML:

Education –: Hal N3YX: There will be a Technician class license class January 11, 12, and 13 at Fire Station 14 in Renton. More information will be available via the reflector. Enrollment will be open until January 2, or until we reach the capacity of the facility.

Public Service – Gil W7GIL: Robert KD7WNV reported that the Public Service committee met last month and divided up the tasks for updating the booklet. The committee will meet again today after the regular club meeting.

Technical – Steve KD7IQL:

VE Exams -- Scott AG7T: Last month there were 18 tests given and 10 Technician, 3 General, and 2 Extra class licenses were earned.

Flea Market – Hal N7NW / Mike N7WA: Next Flea Market committee meeting is January 8. Need worker signups

Field Day -- Steve KD7IQL / Brendan KD7IKV:

Awards Banquet - Gary KG7KU:

Old Business:

C.O.B. Steve opened nominations for Vice President to replace Bert. Nominees were Mitch NA7US, Tim K7ANE. The nominees made brief statements about themselves. After the ballots were counted, Mitch NA7US became our new Vice President.

Awards- Alligator Award-**New Business**

The budget summary was presented in the Relay, and there are copies available for review. This is not a line by line review. It is an up or down vote. Hal N3YX moved and Gil W7GIL seconded that we approve the budget as presented. There was discussion regarding the bug spraying for Field Day which is not available at this time. There was a question regarding charges for the camping fees which was explained by the Field Day chair. There was a question as to whether spending money on a new repeater is something the club wants to do. There was a question regarding if it would be possible to sell the old repeater and recover some of the value. Discussion ended, and the motion was passed.

Good of the Order –

The Mike and Key lost a valued Life Member last Tuesday. Steve Tillet, K7KOT passed away from Cancer. He will be greatly missed.

The Mike & Key Board next meets on January 2, at the Cabana at Mike K7OV's QTH. The address is 2060 SE 8th Place, Renton at 7:00 PM.

The next Mike & Key General Membership meeting is January 19, 2008.

There being no further business, Tom K9TXJ moved to adjourn. Motion passed, and President Eakins closed the meeting at 11:18_AM

Attested: Dick Radford WA7NIW, Secretary

Mike&Key Board Meeting Minutes

held 1-2-2008

Officers present:

President – Mike Eakins (K7OV)

Vice President – Mitch Gill (NA7US)

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 7:20 p.m. in the Club House at Falcon Ridge.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the previous board meeting was made by Mike K7OV and seconded by Paul N7DOH. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

Chairman of the Board – Steve KD7IQL

President – Mike K7OV: There are 8 students registered for the upcoming Technician Class.

Vice President – Mitch NA7US: No new applicants.

Secretary – Dick WA7NIW: Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Carolyn WV7Q: The final budget for 2007, as the money was actually spent has been completed. While the budget as approved allowed us to spend more than we expected to take in, we actually spent less than we took in. There was a mathematical error in the budget as published in the Relay. When it was discovered and corrected, it reduced the deficit by \$200.

Activity Manager – Mike N7WA: There is no Chair Person for the Banquet at this time. If nobody comes forward, the Banquet could go the way of the Christmas Party this year. What kind of programs do the members want? What can the Mike and Key teach you? Mike wants to know what kind of programs people want to have.

Radio Officer – Paul N7DOH: Still hoping that the wind and snow didn't damage anything on Tiger. There have been reports of antennas up there with a foot and a half of ice and snow hanging off of them. Lots of strange sounding signals from the repeaters up there but as the snow melted off they returned to normal. There was discussion of taking a survey of club members to determine use of the club's repeaters.

Relay Editor – Gary KG7KU: Not present, no report.

Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: Not present, no report.

Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning – Frank NA7O: Not present, no report.

Facilities –: Terry WA7PML: Not present, no report.

Education –: Hal N3YX: Not present, no report.

Public Service – Gil W7GIL: Not present, no report.

Technical – Steve KD7IQL: Is going to try to get a group together to go through the cabinet at Salvation Army and make sure that all the equipment is operational. We need someone willing to handle talk in on the repeater.

VE Exams -- Scott AG7T: The power went out at 15 minutes before the end of the session.

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January 2008

M&K Board Meeting Mins... [Cont'd from Page 5]

Flea Market – Hal N7NW / Mike N7WA: The next meeting is Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 at the Dinkelman residence. Sign ups are a bit ahead of last year at this time.

Field Day -- Steve KD7IQL / Brendan KD7IKV: Nothing to report at this time.

Awards Banquet - Gary KG7KU: Not present, no report.

Bylaws Review – Jack N7IHS: Will be

Old Business-

The Audit Committee will be going over the club's books before the January meeting.

New Business-

The Board still needs to select a new meeting location. There was discussion on this subject. There will be more discussion on the Board reflector. The choices seem to be Salvation Army on Tuesdays, Salvation Army Food Bank, Mitzel's, and Burien Elks. There may be more places, but that's all that came up so far. Since only half of the Board was in attendance, we will get everyone else's opinion.

Mike K7OV will attempt to contact Captain Terry at the Salvation Army regarding his questions to us regarding providing communications for them between their headquarters and their food bank. It was moved by Mike N7WA and Seconded by Mitch NA7US to provide books and testing for two of their people to attend one of our license classes. Motion passed.

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

There being no further business, Mitch NA7US moved for adjournment. Motion Passed and Chairman Steve closed the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Attested: Dick Radford WA7NIW -- Secretary

Steve Tillett K7KOT, Silent Key

by Hal Goodell N7NW

On December 11, 2007, Steve Tillett, K7KOT, passed away due to lung cancer.

Steve was one of the small group of hams that reorganized and rejuvenated the Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club in 1970, becoming one of its charter members. Steve was very active in the club during its early years, holding many offices. Steve was a Pop Brown Award recipient in 1972 and was the 1979 past president.

The club used to hold its annual Christmas Party at the McMicken Heights Improvement Center. Steve loved to dance and would get the dancing going with his signature broom dance. When the music started, no one would venture out to the dance floor, until Steve grabbed a broom, and started dancing with it. That seemed to get the party going.

Steve was very active in field day operations from the beginning years when the club operated from Cougar Mountain and after moving to its current site on Marristone Island. Steve enjoyed CW and was one of the original CW Beach rats.

Steve's interests in ham radio were multiple. He loved to CW rag chew and work VHF DX. In 1985 Steve completed his two meter WAS and received certificate #69. His two meter WAS was achieved via meteor scatter, aurora and moon bounce contacts.

K7LED Relay

Steve had not been able to be involved in club activities in the later years due to the demand of running his own business. But he usually was able to attend the annual Awards Banquet. In the past few years, Steve was able to again become active on the radio bands. He was active on 160 through 10 meters using a Vertical SteppIR (40 through 6) and a trapped 160/80 dipole.

Steve was always a builder and known for his capability to package his projects. His latest station is an example of his skilled packaging abilities. (See picture) He was quite proud of this station and had plans to erect additional antennas for VHF and UHF operations.



Picture: Steve K7KOT's Station

Steve was a proud supporter and life member of the Amateur Radio Relay League. Steve believed in giving back to the ARRL which has done so much for Amateur Radio and was a donator to the ARRL Diamond Club.

Steve was my friend for 47 years and will be dearly missed. Rest in peace my friend and till we meet again. 73's.

Communications Academy 2008

Contributed by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

[Ed. Note-- This article is reproduced from the Dec '08 Relay]

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.) **[Continued on Page 7]**

Comm Academy 2008... [Continued from Page 6]

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.

Courier Needed

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

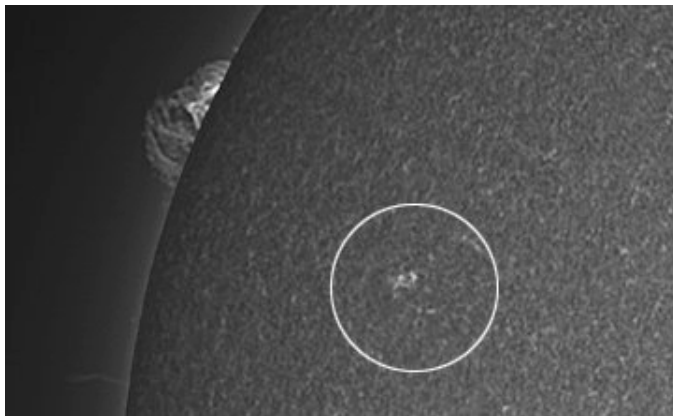
Next month, in February, is the Hamfest down in Rickreall (Salem) Oregon. I am looking for someone, planning to attend, that can take along some flyers for our Fleamarket. Please let me know so I can get you the flyers either at the upcoming Club meeting or drop them off at a mutually acceptable location.

SOLAR CYCLE 24 BEGINS:

from Spaceweather.com
 contributed by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

Solar physicists have been waiting for the appearance of a high latitude reversed-polarity sunspot to signal the start of the next solar cycle. The wait is over. On January 4th, a magnetically reversed sunspot emerged at solar latitude 30 N, shown in this photo taken by Greg Piepol of Rockville, Maryland:

For reasons explained in a recent story found at Science@NASA, this marks the beginning of Solar Cycle 24 and the first step toward a new solar maximum. Intense solar activity won't begin right away. Solar cycles usually take a few years to build from solar minimum (where we are now) to Solar Max (expected in 2011 or 2012). It's a slow journey, but we're on our way!



Picture: Solar Cycle 24 Begins with a Flare.

Someone's Been Reading My Mail

By Mitch Gill N4TUS

After several years of writing in newsletters and web-zines it seems that someone has taken notice and wants me to write professionally. I have been approached by the editor of a large communications magazine to possibly write a series of articles or create a column. I am not going to tell you the name of the magazine right now or the type of article for two reasons.

First, I have no contract yet so it may not happen (but it looks good right now) and second, I fear that if you knew, some of you would be writing letters or sending emails to the editor telling them that you will cut off your subscription (if you have one). Or you might tell them that you would never buy a magazine with articles written by a megalomaniac who claims to be your King. So you will just have to wait.

In addition, there is someone interested in my book on my experiences in Iraq. Right now I have an editor friend who is going through what I have so far and making recommendations. This one I am not as confident will happen but time will tell.

Through my tour in Iraq I have had the pleasure of becoming friends of several authors, editors and owners. All of them are Hams and one of them is really the one responsible for the latest. I am very humbled (I know its rare that I am ever humbled but this is one of those times) that someone thought that much of my writing. I will tell you that the articles are not on Ham Radio but I will just leave you guessing for now.

Ok Ok. I will take a chance and let you know what it is but if any of you write the editor I will resign in March as your interim VP. Oh wait, that's the date my tenure ends. Oh well. Anyway, I am in discussions right now with Popular Communications on writing an article or series of articles on monitoring the borders.

The editor approached me through the efforts of Richard Arland, W3OSS (he is an author who has written for the ARRL and writes several columns for various magazines). Rich was one of those who kept close contact with me through emails and it is a pleasure to call him a friend. I am meeting him face to face for the first time this month when I travel to Atlanta and I am looking forward to that.

So, I know what you are thinking. You are thinking that I have a big enough chip on my shoulder and oh Lord now he is replacing it with a two by four. Well that's not true but I do have to admit as the King I am considering knighting myself. Just think, you can now call me either Your Majesty or Sir King.
 [Continued on Page 8]

SomeonesReadingMyMail...[Cont'd from Pg7]

But don't think that I have forgotten you my loyal subjects. I am already considering Brendan and Steve as Court Jesters as Village Idiot has already been taken by "one who will not be named" but knows who he is.

See you all in February. Don't forget my taxes and tribute are due that month and no a pin from the 2002 Field Day is not as good as gold.

Celebrate Our January Members...

by Carolyn Pasquier WV7Q, Treasurer

As of January 2008, 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 Rehnstrom	WA7HQG	37 Years
Dick Lundstrom	WA7UEW	35 Years
Joyce Stroehner	N7JPW	21 Years
John Black	W7HIL	18 Years
Michael Hansen	KG7MX	17 Years
Mike Hansen	AC7UR	17 Years
Lewis Navarre	W7QMP	16 Years
Frank Henshaw	K7VMG	14 Years
Fred Lowell	N7PZ	11 Years
Mark Whitaker	KD7KUN	7 Years
Hal Mueller	N3YX	3 Years
Joe Lankford	K7JAL	3 Years
Jeff Stevens	KE7FRJ	2 Years
Bill Morton	No Call Yet	1 Year
Jacqueline Van Winkel	KB3NPK	1 Year
Ron Stein	W7GAX	1 Year
Terry Barham	WA7PML	1 Year
Thomas Smith	KE7JOY	1 Year

Reporting Received Signal Strengths

by Sam Sullivan N7RHE

When receiving signal strength reports, you hear numbers like S3, S9, 20 over S9, etc. Where do these numbers come from? They're just numbers from the S meter of the talking ham's rig.

Over the past couple years we've found that many older "Cadillac" receivers like the National NC 100 series, Collins 75 S series and the like of the 50's to mid 60's units, when aligned and with their S meter's indications properly set (yes they had S meter

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adjustments), generally held close to the true S9 "standard" on most of the bands (6 meters usually the exception due to reduced sensitivity). Sometimes a compromise S meter setting had to be used for the best results across the bands on a particular receiver.

So what does this reading indicate?. The reading is an indication of the received voltage at the 50 ohm antenna jack of a receiver. But you can't know the actual received voltage level unless the S meter is truly reporting levels relative to the S9 signal strength standard.

What is that, you ask? For many decades, the consensus among hams and manufacturers was that S9 equaled 50 micro Volts (μV) at the receiver's 50-ohm input connector. If we express this received signal strength level in units of dBm (power relative to one milliwatt in a 50 ohm load), it is -73 dBm. Recently, the International Amateur Radio Union defined S9 to be 50 microvolts as a STANDARD, rather than just a consensus or commonly accepted assumption

QST product reviews list receiver sensitivity for an S9 indication on at least one HF band, usually 40 meters. Not all instruction books list S9 on the specification sheet, so the reviews might be the only source. The 1986 review of my ICOM 735 listed S9 measurements on all the bands, typically 52 μV . The table below lists the measured input signal strength levels, in units of both dBm and microvolts, required to obtain an S9 S-meter indication on three popular solid-state and one classic tube-type rigs. The newer ICOM 735's meter almost exactly meets the standard, while the older three rigs have "optimistic" S-meters.

So, do you know what signal level S9 is on your rig? Bring your rig and power supply to my QTH and we'll measure S9 for you. Yes, prior appointments are necessary, ha.

	Icom 735	Kenwood TS-140	Drake TR7	Collins KWM-2A
3.8 MHz	-73 dBm 50 μV	-78.6 dBm 26.2 μV	-83.7 dBm 14.6 μV	-80.5 dBm 21.1 μV
7.2 MHz	-73 dBm 50 μV	-80 dBm 22.3 μV	-84.4 dBm 13.5 μV	-87.4 dBm 9.5 μV
14.2 MHz	-73 dBm 50 μV	-79.5 dBm 23.7 μV	-86 dBm 11.2 μV	-87.4 dBm 9.5 μV
21.3 MHz	-73 dBm 50 μV	-77.8 dBm 28.8 μV	-85.3 dBm 12.1 μV	-87.4 dBm 9.5 μV
29.0 MHz	-72.4 dBm 53.6 μV	-77.1 dBm 30 μV	-85.3 dBm 12.1 μV	-86.3 dBm 10.8 μV

January 2008

40 Years and Counting

Contributed by Club Member Jim W7FKI, down in Tennessee

**From *The Mountain Press of Sevier County*,
December 18, 2007**

Ten-Tec has been a great member of our Community in its four decades. In our rush to bring in more industry and create more jobs, we sometimes overlook the companies already here that are making products, giving people jobs and being good citizens, with very little fanfare or recognition. Ten-Tec Inc. has been in operation for nearly 40 years. The Sevierville company, which makes items mostly for the ham radio users but also supplies government agencies with communications equipment, has been at it here since 1968. Next year will mark its 40th anniversary as a good corporate citizen and job producer in Sevier County.

Over the four decades the company's records show close to 1,000 people have been employed at one time or another. Many of the current employees have been with Ten-Tec for almost as long as the company has been in business. Inside the tan brick building facing Sevier County High School on Dolly Parton Parkway, some 70 employees are making sophisticated components and equipment for amateur radio operators as well as government agencies.

In the face of intense overseas competition, Ten-Tec has survived and flourished in part because of its attention to detail. Every piece of equipment - not just every 50th or every 100th like many makers of electronics - is inspected and tested before it leaves the building. Those who buy from Ten-Tec know they are getting a quality item, backed by an American company that guarantees its excellence. With so many electronic items made overseas these days, it's refreshing and encouraging to know some of them continue to be produced in this country, and right here in Sevier County.

Each September Ten-Tec hosts thousands of ham radio enthusiasts from all over the country, who gather on the lawn of the Sevierville plant and tour Ten-Tec to see the latest products and how they are made. They buy and sell their own equipment and talk about their exciting and interesting hobby. That's a convention that surely benefits the community in the way a trade show at the events center or Gatlinburg Convention Center would.

We must never take for granted the companies that do business in our community. While there always should be an effort to attract new employers, ignoring or disregarding those who are already here is unfair and unwise. That doesn't suggest Ten-Tec has been ignored or taken for granted, but how many long-time Sevier County residents even knew what was being made behind the brick walls of this company's production facility, how many people worked there or who buys what they make?

Congratulations, Ten-Tec, for your contributions to the economy of Sevier County. Not many businesses can claim to have been in operation four decades, especially those that manufacture products. May the next 40 years be just as prosperous, for you and for Sevier County.

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Elections Are Coming

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

Heck, as long as I have to write one article (elsewhere in this Relay) begging for volunteers, I might as well do another.

March is busy month for this Club. First, we have a big Fleamarket. Then, we come in a week later and try to elect a slate of officers to see us through the year. For the next two months, the Board will be entertaining nominations for Officers.

Now, I haven't heard any rumors about anybody going away but I do know that two Trustee positions will be opening up, the Secretary position is opening up (Dick/WA7NIW has reached his term limit), and I don't think Mitch is planning to stay on as Vice President past this short period (though I could be wrong). I'm pretty sure the Activity Manager spot will be opening up as well.

You might consider becoming a leader in this club. It'll cost you one night a month. (Frankly, you'll have more fun at a Board meeting than in front of the TV.) You'll get to know the inside workings of the club and help to guide it. You'll be able to say you DID SOMETHING.

You'll also earn my utmost respect... ok, I know that last one isn't worth too much. If you aren't leadership material, we all secretly fantasize that we are, maybe you know someone that really is. Push 'em. Put your faith in them. Nominate them.

It's your Club. You joined it. Why did you join if you don't even want to consider participating? Please consider becoming an Officer. Thanks.

The Spiral Fracture Antenna

Part One: A Beginner's Reference

By: Jeff Wandling, NT7R

Before I begin. . . I have been writing this article for three months now. This article is about my best effort to begin operating on HF bands for the first time. It was an exciting time for me. And it was dangerous, as we will discover.

I have to apologize in advance for the excessive enthusiasm. The initial excitement has evolved into modest "Hey, cool man." from the original "Hey everyone! Look at me! I'm on the RADIO!"

The QSL cards are flowing steadily now. It's all good.

This is part one of a saga. This is the saga about getting on the air, how to "get off the fence" and how going to the hospital with a freak accident started by a swarm of bees finally put me on the HF bands.

Oh, a Grand Saga this is! There's nothing more ham-like than to tell the story of how they became a Amateur Radio Operator in their own words. There is nothing like that First Whiff of burnt Rosin on the dipole center feed connector. "Mmmm."

We all have the same story, except each of us make our stories unique. . . and so gosh darn special.

How do these stories begin? How do they all begin?

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[This well-written article is included in part as an excerpt. The full article appears on the Club Website -- www.mikeandkey.org . Enjoy! ..and my apologies for the brevity of its inclusion --Ed.]

Ham Nets & Events for 2008 -- JANUARY / FEBRUARY

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