



From the Club President...

Opportunities To Serve Aboard

by Mike Eakins K7OV, President

Greetings one and all! Well, it's March again, and a chance to elect new ones to the Mike and Key Board. I have enjoyed working with the Board over the last year, and I feel we've gotten a lot accomplished. We've approved a new budget for the year which includes a new repeater package. We've successfully hosted our annual Flea Market, and had very good reviews about this effort. I want to acknowledge Hal N7NW, Mike N7WA and his wife Diane KB7DNE for another well done and successful effort.

As we go on, no doubt we will face many challenges as a club, because that is the way life is. I would encourage you all to support your Board members with volunteerism and expressing your wishes about the direction this club should go. You have done so in the past, and I expect this will continue on into the future. I wish to express to everyone I came into contact with this last year, my heartfelt thanks for your input. This is a wonderful club because it is filled with wonderful people!

I will not be running for any offices this year because of changes in my personal life, but I expect to be around helping where I can, such as at Field Day and in our clubs' training efforts. I look forward to many years of association with this club and thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President this year. I hope you will continue to give your support to whom ever the new president for this next year will be.

73, Mike – K7OV

Communications Academy 2008

Contributed by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

[Ed. Note-- This article is reproduced from the Jan '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.)

More information can be found 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.

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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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K7LED Repeaters

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

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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: VE 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](mailto:kg7ku@arrl.net).

Flea Market Focus: Open Letter

by Diane Dinkelman KB7DNE

Flea Market Comments Received

Contributed by Jim Etzwiler, Webmaster

"Thanks for another well done event. My son and I have been coming for years and enjoy it each time. Again, thanks!" --Lawrence Hughes WA7GOK

I just wanted to say thank you. I had a great time, got to meet KE7FFG. Took home a five dollar dual trace scope that works perfectly, a 2-Meter rig, and VHF SWR meter --all I could want for very reasonable money. Thanks again and I'll see you all again next year. --Ole Johnson AD7NV

Flea Market '08 -- Attendance Report

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA, Event Co-Chair

The Relay is going to bed this weekend and I know everyone wants to know the "numbers". Here they are plus the numbers for the past few years. These 2008 numbers are not official or final. This is just a rough cut from the gate count plus vendor counts that still haven't been reconciled (but expected to go up).

2008:

Gate: 1831 (includes 137 Jr) Vendors: 532 Total: 2364

2007:

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

2006

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

2005

(corrected from what was reported last year)

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

2004

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

So, that's down from last year - a rather exceptional year - but flat or up from 2004 on. Maybe it was the price of gas or maybe 2007 was just a very good year. (2007 was a big jump over the previous 3 years). I was a little disappointed until I reviewed the last several years worth of data. Doing that puts it into a better perspective.

I think we are holding our own against the national trend of declining Hamfest attendance. We did OK, especially with the pressure of climbing fuel prices. Still, anybody with ideas as to how we can get the word out to more hams - feel free to speak out - especially if there are any marketing experts out there!

It's over for another year and it is bitter sweet. It starts for me in October. There is our first Fleamarket meeting. , Then I dig out all my Fleamarket items left over from the year before. I enter all Pre-registrations for the last Fleamarket and ones mailed or e-mail to me right after the event and during the summer. Then Michael N7WA, my loving husband, sends out his publicity letters to last years Sellers. I get busy updating forms and having them printed. I get myself set-up for the coming year. Then registrations start coming in. Tables must be assigned, Sellers' packets made up, and more meetings. After Christmas the first floor is almost or is full. Then the real interaction with the Sellers begins.

Diane you got any tables? Diane are they on the first floor? Diane I need another Helper. Diane I want a table on the Second floor.

Now can I talk my great crew into coming back? The Orange gate needs a couple and the Gold gate needs another couple and of course there is the pallet gate. I can't forget Registration. Then as always my faithful crew says Ok we will do it another year. The schedule is made volunteers badges handed out.

Finally I'm ready for the big day. My crew arrives and are at their posts, the gates are open and the Sellers arrive. Two grueling days of long hours early mornings. Finally the Sellers are all in. It's nice to see them again and visit with them. Later that day they are all out. The day is topped off with a wonderful Chinese dinner thanks to Hal N7NW. It was fun but it's good to have it end.

My thanks to my wonderful crew, which puts up with me and to all the other departments that we interact with. It is fun working with all of you.

Until next year, Diane KB7DNE
Chairman for Registration.

random incoherent fleamarket thoughts...

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA, Event Co-Chair

[Ed.Note-this article is presented 'as is,' or rather 'as was.' No attempt was made to revise, correct, or otherwise disturb the 'spirit' in which it was written. The flavor and sense of fatigue seemed appropriate for the context which it provides.]

The Mike and Key 2008 Fleamarket event is history. It's 10PM and I should be in bed (this will be a very short article). It's time to heal and recuperate - my feet hurt and bending over is not a pleasant experience. However, I am sure I am not the only one as there were a lot of you busting your humps the last couple days. I thank you for your efforts.

It seemed an odd event in a number of ways. Some that stuck out.... [Continued on Page 4]

March 2008

random incoherent thoughts... [Cont'd from P.3]

Didn't it seem like the tables populated very slowly over the two days? They filled up but I know a bunch of people were wondering if it would ever happen. I have a theory. We're just too darn good at what we do. The customer no longer worries whether they can get in the door. We just DO IT. Thank you.

It sure was quiet after 6:30PM on Friday. This, I blame on the advancing age of us and our clientèle. Sleep has become a priority over haggling about dusty old radios. Thank you for hanging around until 7:30 anyway.

Is it time to get rid of the prize drawing? That must have taken up a cumulative hour and a half of my time today. Something's wrong there for 5 minor hourly drawings. For the PA guys who had to put up with the hassle, thank you.

Would it work? - I dunno but it sounded pretty righteous when Hal said "maybe it's time to tack on a recycling fee" when we looked at all the leftovers up stairs. (To bad Hal, those vendors caught on to you sticking those dumped items back on their pallets after they left and just dumped 'em outside.) It was worth the try and a laugh though - thank you.

I think this was the first year I didn't hear Diane scream about the 4x4 people. THANK YOU!

That was some bodacious Chinese food and good company. Thank you.

Who the heck flies in from Japan to WORK this event? Thank you Atsushi.

We had a lot of newcomers step into what were very uncomfortable roles - thank you.

That's enough, I guess, for now. Did I say thank you? Thank you... everyone.

Sights and Sounds by Sunrise
by Dawn Humphrey KC7YYB

Boy oh boy, what a busy time this month. As I write this, we're heading into the home stretch for the flea market this weekend, and after the wrap-up, I'll be putting the finishing touches on getting our awards banquet all together.

Thinking back on times past, this used to be a kind of semi-formal affair. I'm thinking that it would be pretty nice to dust off the sport jackets or suitcoats, and drag out a tie, shine up the shoes and yes, ladies with our men all spiffed up, we can shed the slacks that we've been so comfortable in, and buy or borrow some nylons, (if you're like me, the last vestiges of panty

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hose never got replaced) and polish up the lowest heeled pumps that you can wear without your feet killing you, and put on one of those oft admired but seldom worn party dresses. Look for Dan to be wearing his **wooden tie!** **There will be a prize for the best dressed person or couple at the banquet.** Judging will be done by vote of the group.

Now that being said, considering that many of us are hovering around or over the 50 mark, I am pretty sure that those of our group below 50, still enjoy getting dressed to party, so this won't be difficult for them, especially those still working.

So, I'm asking all of you who I'm hoping will be coming, to put on those party duds, and let's really show these younger ones that we still remember how Friday nights used to mean something besides the end of the work week.

One last note for us ladies, myself included. If we've gained or lost a few inches or pounds, this might be an opportune time to catch one of the sales at KOHL's or somewhere. HeeHee - works for me!

Remember Awards night is also time for some gag awards, so if you have one of those you'd like to present, be sure and get with Gary at the meeting, or early before the festivities begin so he can put it on his agenda. Thanks, and 73...KC7YYB Dawn

Mike&Key General Meeting Minutes
held 02-14-2008

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)

President Eakins called the meeting to order at 10:00AM at the Salvation Army building in Renton, Wa. All members and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President 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 introduction question this month.

[Continued on Page 5]

M&K Gen'l Meeting Mins... [Cont'd from Page 4]

Quorum present.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay* made by Sam N7RHE and seconded by Gil W7GIL. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

President – Mike K7OV.

Vice President – Mitch Gill NA7US: Steve KD7IQL filled in with membership applications. David Brinkman N7UNN, and James Boldway KE7PBB were approved by the membership. Welcome to our new members.

Secretary – Dick WA7NIW: Nothing to report

Treasurer – Carolyn WV7Q: The Club's books are in good order. Flea Market money is coming in, the Education Committee is also active. Gave Balance Sheet summary. Also spoke about the availability of new vests with the club logo on the back. They are available from Dan and Dawn for \$50.10 and look great. Checks to be made out to Top Hat Novelties. The Audit Committee also reported that the club's books are indeed in good order.

Activity Manager – Mike N7WA: Our largest activity, the Flea Market is coming up and is the subject of this month's program. Worker badges are available for those who signed up by last month. Workers get in free.

Chairman of the Board – Steve KD7IQL: Trustee #3 has resigned and we need to fill this position at this meeting to cover the remainder of his term which expires in March of 2009. We will also be taking nominations for club offices which will become open in March.

Radio Officer – Paul N7DOH: Not present, no report.

Relay Editor – Gary KG7KU: Thanked Dave Smith for his assistance getting this month's issue posted to the web. always, articles are needed.

Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: Not present, no report.

Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning – Frank NA7O: No report.

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

Education –: Hal N3YX: Nothing to report.

Public Service – Robert KD7WNV reported that the booklet is ready for the printer, and will be available for distribution at the Flea Market. We will also be revitalizing the Public Service Net, and discussion will take place at the PSC meeting following the club meeting.

Technical – Steve KD7IQL: Nothing to report.

VE Exams -- Scott AG7T: Last month there were 21 tests given. There were 12 Technicians, 4 Generals, and 2 Extras were awarded.

Flea Market – Hal N7NW / Mike N7WA: Gave a brief history of the Flea Market over the past 26 years, and brought some pictures from past events. He also made a pitch to interest people in helping out at the event.

Field Day -- Steve KD7IQL / Brendan KD7IKV: There is an opening for a Band Chair for 20 meters.

Awards Banquet - Gary KG7KU: Banquet will be Friday March 28. Details are in the Relay.

Picnic- Need chair.

Old Business:

Alligator Award- Michelle WA7PVE presented the alligator award to Jeff KE7FRJ, since Dean was too easy of a target.

New Business – Steve took more nominations for club offices.

Trustee #3 was opened for the remainder of the term. This position needs to be filled immediately.

Nominees are--

Michelle WB7AYU

Jeff KE7FRJ- elected to position #3.

Additional nominations are--

President - Tim K7ANE

Vice President - Steve KD7IQL

Secretary - Ivy WA7IVY

Treasurer - Carolyn WV7Q

Activities Manager - Michelle WA7PVE

Trustee #2 - Steve KD7IQL

Trustee #4 - Gil W7GIL, Tim K7ANE

Good of the Order –

The Mike & Key Board next meets Feb 27, at Round Table Pizza in Issaquah at 7:00

The next Mike & Key General Membership meeting is March 15. This is the General Election meeting, so all need to attend to choose our officers for the next year.

It was suggested that we have some signs to put out to let people know what is going on during our meetings.

Michelle WA7PVE suggested that we give out an operating award for anyone getting WAS during the year (with cards), and/or most DX cards for the year.

Ivy reported getting a new couch and now has a chair and couch that are available to anyone who wants one.

Hal Goodell reported meeting Pop Brown's former neighbor while visiting at a hospital.

There being no further business, Scott AG7T moved to adjourn. Motion passed, and President Eakins closed the meeting at 11:20 AM.

Attested: Dick Radford WA7NIW, Secretary

Mike&Key Board Meeting Minutes

held 02-27-2008

Officers present:

- x_President – Mike Eakins (K7OV)
- _Vice President – Mitch Gill (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)
- x_No. 3 – Jeff Stevens (KE7FRJ)
- x_No. 4 – Steve Cook (KD7IQL)
- x_No. 5 – Hal Mueller (N3YX)

Visitors in attendance: Jim Etwiler, Jack Grimmet, Loras Gassman, Adrian Roth, Terry Barham, Dan and Dawn Humphrey.

Chairman Steve KD7IQL called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the previous board meeting, was made by Gil W7GIL and seconded by Frank NA7O. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

Chairman of the Board – Steve KD7IQL:

President – Mike K7OV: Nothing to report

Vice President – Mitch NA7US: An application from David Whitlock KE7QLM was presented to the Board for approval. Approved by the Board.

Secretary – Dick WA7NIW: Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Carolyn WV7Q: The Club's books are in good order. Gave Balance Sheet summary. A question arose regarding what happens when one member of a family becomes a life member. Does the second person revert to a single, or still get the half price as part of the family. There was discussion of the Banquet.

Activity Manager – Mike N7WA: Flea Market is coming up, and we are down to our last 20 tables and 1 booth. The program for the March meeting is Elections.

Radio Officer – Paul N7DOH: There appears to still be a lot of snow on top of the mountain, and it could be there until April. There has been an attempt to remind people of proper repeater procedure which seems to have helped.

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

Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: Updates are in order for the Officers page, and the next meeting.

Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning – Frank NA7O: Has solicited suggestions for long range plans from the members and has been greeted by silence.

Facilities –: Jeff KE7FRJ: Has just received the keys that go with this position, and limited instruction as to what to do with them.

Education –: Hal N3YX: The City of Seattle is looking for someone to teach Ham Radio classes and is looking for bilingual instructors. This sparked a discussion on interoperability.

Public Service – Gil W7GIL: The pamphlet has supposedly gone to the printer and should be ready in time for the Flea Market.

Technical – Steve KD7IQL: Nothing to report.

VE Exams -- Scott AG7T: Not present, no report.

Flea Market – Hal N7NW / Mike N7WA: Ready to go.

Field Day -- Steve KD7IQL / Brendan KD7IKV: The new rules have been released along with a new logo and promotional phrase, "Ride the Wave".

Awards Banquet – Dawn KCYYB: Awards info has been given to the Awards Committee so items can be ordered.

Old Business-No old business.

New Business-

Suggestion was made to continue with the disposition of the old equipment trailer. It has been offered to the club members with no material response. It was suggested that we post pictures at the Flea Market and offer it for sale at that time. If it doesn't sell there, it was suggested that we post it on Craig's List.

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

There being no further business, Mike K7OV moved for adjournment. Motion Passed and Chairman Steve closed the meeting at 8:08 pm.

Attested: Dick Radford WA7NIW -- Secretary

Celebrate Our March Members...

As of March 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...

Jim Carpenter	K7PHZ	35 Years
Clinton Pozzi	N7HAM	19 Years
Dan Humphrey	N7QHC	17 Years
Robert Crooker	KB7PEC	15 Years
Kathy Martin	KB7QMO	14 Years
Jack McCall	W7TMW	10 Years
Jim Etwiler	KD7BAT	9 Years
Don Hickman	WF7Z	9 Years
Frank Michels	KA7ZRM	9 Years
Dorothy Lowell	KB7WSO	8 Years
Bruce Lane	KC7GR	4 Years
Gail Richardson	KI4JVM	3 Years
Charles Schaffer	KE7KIV	1 Year

Repeater Etiquette

by Mike Eakins K7OV, President

Since we are experiencing a growth in our area with new hams, it seems fitting to do a short review of operating techniques that bring peace and tranquility to the repeater scene. Our 2 meter repeater has become a gathering place for 'rag chewers' especially during drive times, which is exactly what we want. Our club has expended a lot of time and expense to install and maintain our repeater, and it is gratifying to us that this resource is being used, both for 'Nets' and for 'Rag Chewing'.

So, if you are new to the ham radio scene, you may be asking, "What are the rules?" Most hams get their operating habits by listening to what is going on in the bands they are interested in working, and the Repeater system is no different. But, sometimes this can lead to bad habits, especially if you are copying a new ham! It can be sort of a "Blind leading the Blind" situation. And, being an old timer is not necessarily a safe bet either.

So, I thought we might benefit from a review of what would make for a friendly and useful repeater without bringing in chaos. Also, since I am just as guilty of not always operating properly, I felt qualified to speak on this subject.

Our repeater has a courtesy tone that, when it goes off, resets the repeater time out timer, which is about 90 Seconds. This is so that people have a chance to break into the repeater. This can be very important if the breaking station has emergency traffic.

We award the "Alligator" award to club members who times out the repeater to remind us all that we all need to observe the timeout limits. Most newer radios have a time out timer setting that can help you keep from violating the repeater timer settings. Also, unless you are breaking into a conversation, you should not tailgate the timer (I'm guilty of that!) but if there is more than two stations chatting, then they should always observe the courtesy tone before resuming a transmission.

Something else that a lot of us are guilty of, is making such a long winded comment that we need to stop and reset the timer before continuing on. In a repeater environment, this is not a good practice. Conversations that require that much air time, probably should be done on simplex if possible, or maybe on an H.F. band, but really are not a good thing to do in a repeater setting.

If there are more than two stations chatting, is it good practice to note the rotation and stick to it so that tailgating doesn't occur and people are not left out in

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the conversation. Leaving people out may cause them to forget and tailgate the courtesy tone. If we all follow these guide lines, it will keep our repeater a friendly place to visit when we have the time.
73, Mike – K7OV

Northrop Gruman and University of Illinois Researchers Make History With All-Carbon Nanotube Radio

Contributed by Jim Etwiler KD7BAT

BALTIMORE, Feb. 1, 2008 (PRIME NEWSWIRE) -- Northrop Grumman Corporation (NYSE:NOC) and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign have created the first fully-functional, all-carbon nanotube transistor radio, demonstrating that carbon nanotubes can be used as high-speed transistors, while consuming only one-thousandth the power required by current transistor technology.

"Leading researchers have long theorized that carbon nanotube transistors possess the kind of material properties that could allow for very low power, high-speed transistors," said Dr. John Przybysz, a senior consulting engineer at Northrop Grumman. "Carbon nanotube technology changes the way we look at power requirements for military sensor systems because they perform equally with other microwave transistors but use a lot less power than current semiconductor devices."

"Since carbon nanotube transistors use less power, the implications for battery operated radio frequency electronics is dramatic. Instead of a battery lasting two days, the same battery providing power to sensor systems built with carbon nanotube transistors may last up to two weeks," said Przybysz.

"By using thousands of perfectly aligned, single-walled carbon nanotubes as a type of semiconductor thin film, our researchers have become the first to successfully bring together all of the pieces required for building real radio frequency analog electronics, including amplifiers, mixers, and resonant antennae," said Dr. Hong Zhang, lead for carbon nanotube development at Northrop Grumman.

Northrop Grumman and the University of Illinois researchers have published their findings with the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The document is available on the Web at www.pnas.org.

[Continued on Page 8]

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Carbon Nanotube Radio... [Cont'd from Page 7]

"Carbon nanotube devices made up all the active, vital components of the prototype radio system we built," added Zhang. "The user listens to regular radio broadcasts that flow directly from a carbon nanotube transistor to a pair of headphones or speakers."

"Typical nanotube devices are structured such that they use a single tube to carry current, but the array format provides thousands of conduction channels in each device. Carbon nanotube arrays have high current capacities and enable high power gain at low impedances. That's a significant advantage," said Dr. John Rogers, founder professor of the Materials Science and Engineering department at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Roger's team created these large arrays of carbon nanotubes.

Funding was provided by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy.

From:

http://www.irconnect.com/noc/press/pages/news_releases.html?d=135451

From The QST Archives...

Contributed by Hal Goodell N7NW

[Ed. Note-- Although most may think that the M&K Flea Market yields not much more than Boat Anchors, this treasured find shows otherwise-- read on...]

I picked up a box of old QST's from 1941 through 1947 that were left at the fleamarket. I skimmed through a couple of them, they really give a good feel for Amateur Radio as it existed before, during and after WW2. here is the "It seems to us" editorial from April 1945. as written by the ARRL secretary Kenneth B. Warner, W1EH. --Hal N7NW



K7LED Relay

APRIL '41 QST "IT SEEMS TO US--"

Contributed by Hal Goodell N7NW

HOW TO WRITE AN EDITORIAL

We've been staring at this cursed sheet of blank paper for nigh on to an hour, wondering what to write about. Some days you just can't make a Muse. Maybe it's the weather – it's a beautiful golden day outside our window and we suddenly remembered golf, for the first time in months. Songbirds are reported as far north as Washington and it won't be long before somebody up here sports a robin. Ah, spring! Offices shouldn't have windows. We must get on with the job.

"The camera addict can go around snapping pictures all his lifetime without invading the prerogatives of another human being. The model-builder can build a thousand OO-gage railroad cars and not a soul need to know of his existence. Even the motorcyclist on a Sunday afternoon spin is only utilizing one track of a road created impartially for the use of every citizen. But the transmitting radio amateur can't shoot so much as a watt into the air without some significant part of the world being affected."

Nice sentences, contributed by deSoto as a possible theme for an editorial. They would be all right if we know where to go from there. But we don't; not to-day. We look over the old notes:

"To many of us our day-by-day pursuit of amateur radio has become such a commonplace and accepted activity that we are not always fully aware that it is the world's most extraordinary hobby." Get in something here about superficial comparisons with other hobbies. "Unlike all the others, it is the only one where a high order of social and technical responsibility is a requisite." Better clean up that sentence first. But where's the impulse to moralize on a topic like that on a day as immorally gaudy as this one?

We dig into our tattered Idea Folder. Tripe, mostly. A note solemnly asserting that the Worcester courthouse doorway bears the motto, "Obedience to law is liberty." Can't remember to-day just why we thought that was worth filing; it had something to do with the value of restraint by free men. . . . A reminder to tell you again what you get for A.R.R.L. membership. "The old story

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IT SEEMS TO US... [Continued from Page 8]

is always valuable," the note says. True, but must we write it to-day? Two rejected drafts of complete editorials, held for hard times, but now thoroughly dated. . . A scribbled memo paraphrasing something apparently cribbed from another magazine; all it says is, ". . . Get a suspension from the F.C.C. and go out of amateur radio the same way that Balaam rode from Jerusalem to Jericho." We recall the general idea from our Sunday-school days, but how do we use it this month? . . . Old speeches: "Fellow amateurs of the Radio Club of Cuba: It is a happy privilege to be here amongst you in Cuba, and I must thank you deeply for receiving me with that warmth which everywhere characterizes the true radio amateur." We remember why we thought that worth saving. It's a very real thing, that warmth of amateur feeling, as we know from visiting many foreign conferences. Some day, when a kindly Muse will sit upon our knee and dish out inspiration, we aim to get out a real piece on the subject. Meanwhile this weather would only make us tiresome.

Well, then, what about something on how the amateur, alone of all services, does not have to get a construction permit and prove that his individual station will be in the public interest, convenience and necessity, because our League has established that fact for the whole institution of amateur radio? I's a good thought, worth a ponderous Warner editorial, but can you take it to-day? No; it's spring.

We ransack our mind. Must be something in these many recent Washington trips to talk about. . . Trouble is that so much of it is confidential national-defense stuff. We'd love to be able to cut loose with something on the amazing development of microwave technique, but we can't. We'd like to be able to tell you about the work of the defense communications board but this is truly national defense and every person participating in the work has taken an oath that he will not even disclose the subjects that have been under consideration. It's pretty tough on us to be able only to mumble vague generalities about a proper appreciation of the amateur's value and about interesting plans that may later be announced. The only thing we can say plainly is not to worry; Uncle Sam isn't going off half-cocked on the amateur question. When the story is written some day it will be a good one. But it won't fill *this* month's page.

K7LED Relay

It seems to us that it should be interesting to speculate on the reasons why certain outstanding technical developments have never yet found a real acceptance in amateur radio technique. For instance, how many of those clever electronic keys do you suppose have been built by hams? And Jim Lamb's hetero-tone -- do you hear of it any more? And 'phone break-in and volume compression? And even that versatile confection, extended variable-frequency crystal control, is rarely mentioned. We might, in fact, point at the whole broad field of newer u.h.f. developments, particularly frequency-modulation and television, with a passing glance at amateur facsimile, and suggest - -

How's that, Miss Schmalz? The weather report, you say? Fair and warmer, we suppose; let's hear it! "Cloudy to-night, moderate to heavy snow to-night and to-morrow, colder to-morrow?" Impossible. You're sure?

What a pity we're not writing this to-morrow --- maybe QST could have an editorial. But Roddy, the M.E., says he can't wait any longer for copy. . . Blizzard, eh? No robins and no golf this week-end. Oh, well, maybe there'll be some nice temperature inversions somewhere this evening, and a bit or aurora, and a hot time on Five! --K.B.W.

***** **...Excerpt from...** *****

The ARRL Letter Vol. 27, No. 9 March 7, 2008

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "When the flush of a new-born Sun fell first on Eden's green and gold" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Following five days of no sunspots, we saw one (number 984) on March 5 and 6, but it is fading off the west limb of the Earth-facing portion of the Sun. Solar activity is still very low. Sunspot numbers for February 28-March 5 were 12, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 13 with a mean of 3.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 70, 69.8, 68.6, 69.2, 68.4, 68.3 and 69.3 with a mean of 69.1. Estimated planetary A indices were 22, 27, 19, 8, 5, 4 and 8 with a mean of 13.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 17, 18, 13, 8, 4, 3 and 7, with a mean of 10. For next week, NOAA and the US Air Force predict planetary A index of 5, 15, 15, 10, 10, 15 and 10 for March 7-13. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts unsettled to active conditions March 7, active geomagnetic conditions March 8 and unsettled conditions March 9-13. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>>.

Ham Nets & Events for 2008 -- MARCH / APRIL

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 2000 -- Amateur TV Net 147.08 (Weekly)
16 1915 -- Kids Net Net 145.49 (Weekly) 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	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	27	28	29
30	31	01 APRIL	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11 Relay Articles Due	12