



From our Club President...

Field Day Preparations Underway

by Dick Radford WA7NIW, President

Next month the Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club will be participating in what could be termed our biggest event of the year. Compared to the Flea Market, it is spread out over more time, and more territory. There are many aspects to this event. These include, but are not limited to Transportation, Housing (tents, campers, etc.), Feeding, Set up, Operations, more feeding, more transportation (more on this one later), Tear down of the installation, the housing (packing up the tents, etc.), and transportation back to where everything came from.

Now is the time to be making nearly last minute plans to make this event go smoothly. For those who wish to stay in the Barracks, remember that space is limited so please contact Rita Danielson ASAP to make sure you have a place.

There is still a need for people to volunteer to help with many different tasks involved in this event. Since we are not in the Wagon Wheel this year and are spread out over a wider area, there will be a need to work out transportation for people from one location to another during the Field Day event. Some kind of shuttle service would be useful to move people from the various camping areas to the Bluff, and CW beach.

Please take the time to contact our Field Day chairs to let them know what you can do to make this year another outstanding Mike and Key event.

--Dick, WA7NIW

Newly Minted Hams

by Tim Kane, K7ANE

Recently, on May Day, twelve new Technician Class hams received their shiny new callsigns from the FCC. They all passed their exam on Sunday, 27 April, at the Red Cross Chapter in Seattle. Every day since they anxiously queried the FCC's ULS database daily to learn what magical letters had been assigned to them by the federal callsign gods. Today their hard work and patience paid off.

The gods have spoken: Marsha is now KE7TSU, Pat KE7TSZ, Mike KE7TTA, Brad KE7TTB, Laura KE7TSX, Kayren KE7TST, Jan KE7TSY, Gabe M. KE7TSS, and Don KE7TSW. Our upgrade student, Karin, retained her previous call KC6UCD, forever "stigmatized" as a California transplant. Walk-in tester Laura M. is now KE7TSV. *[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.



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K7LED Repeaters

146.82 output / 146.22 input
(PL 103.5)
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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.



Field Day 2008

Ride the Waves

We are getting ready for field day this year. We are still looking for help in making this Field Day a great success.

Outstanding needs --

Camp Master

Cooks and BBQ's for Fridays Potluck.

Steven Cook (KD7ILQ) Field Day Chairman

Barracks Mom Says: 'I'm Baaaack'

by Rita Danielson, KD7CNU

Hey Boys and Girls, it's that time of year again, so LISTEN UP. Time to let your 'Mom' know if you'll be staying with her again this year at Ft. Flagler during the Club's Field Day event. I've heard from some of you, but not all. If I don't hear from you at the May meeting, or by email, then I'll have to assume you won't be joining us, and that means I will release your bed to someone else.

Since we won't have the Wagon Wheel this year, we will use the recreation hall for the evening meals as we did last year. The BBQ grills can be set up outside and tables set up inside. If it's nice, we can move some of the tables outside for those wanting to have a true 'camping' experience. There is a fire pit outside the barracks so we can still have our bon fire in the evening. Just remember to bring your non-treated fire wood.

For those of you staying in the barracks, we will have it available Thursday thru Sunday. If you stay Thursday night, bring something to grill, I'll have the charcoal for the grill, you just bring your meat and fixings. I may even be nice and throw together a salad and some brownies. Check in time is noon Thursday, and check out time is noon Sunday. We must leave it cleaner than when we moved in.

I will have a list of things to bring and what not to bring at the May meeting. If you have any questions before then, please email me @ gamatoad24@comcast.net We will have a few new members to our 'family' this year. Some traveling from

K7LED Relay

the east coast to join us. We have one with a new ticket, so she'll be able to get on the air this year. Congrats, Sheila, KE7OPI.

See you at the meeting. Looking forward to serving you again this year.

Good night, my children. See you soon.

-- Rita KD7CNU, 'Barracks Mom'

M&K Meeting May Program

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

When you tune into the Ham Radio Bands and they sound empty, it can be one of two things -- either the propagation is bad or... nobody is transmitting. The Northern California DX Foundation Beacon system solves the latter problem.

At the May program we will discuss the NCDXF beacon system, how it works, how it can be useful to you, and software that makes it easier than ever.

Newly Minted Hams... [Continued from Page 1]

The Mike and Key ARC and the King and Kitsap Counties Chapter of the Red Cross co-sponsored this Technician Class training course over that weekend. The class ran from Friday night, through mid-day Sunday. The instructors were two M&K members, our immediate Past President, Mike Eakins, K7OV, and yours truly, Tim K7ANE.

This was our first joint training effort with the Red Cross in Seattle, and it worked great. They provided a well-equipped classroom at the centrally-located chapter headquarters. Just south of I-90 and east of I-5 in the Rainier Valley, access and parking were easy for students from around Puget Sound.

Nearly half the class was made up of Red Cross disaster services staff members and volunteers, including the Material Support Manager, Laura Gallez. Laura welcomed the class on behalf of the Red Cross, and made a pitch for any who might like to join the RC Emergency Communications Team, which operates within her group.

The class also included two teenagers, ages 13 and 15. Coincidentally both are named Gabe. Both also come from ham families and each earned his Tech ticket. One got the class's highest grade on his exam -- 100%. Both dads, W2PK and W9SK, were proud of their son's achievement.

We had one "upgrade" student in the class as well, Jan, KC6UCD, a longtime Novice class ham, and high school teacher. A middle school teacher from the class also got her Tech ticket and plans to introduce ham radio into her classroom. What a great plan!

The class used a new PowerPoint presentation for the first time, incorporating substantially expanded and improved graphics, charts, audio-clips and visuals to help the students learn the facts and understand the technical topics covered. Due to its announced length [Continued on Page 4]

Newly Minted Hams... [Continued from Page 3]

at least one trainee before the class expressed his fear that it might induce "death by PowerPoint."

A lot of what we instructors used to have to draw up on the board -- with our widely varying degrees of artistic abilities and board writing legibility -- was now presented in professional graphics and readable presentation fonts. The students gave it a "thumbs up" at the end of the course, as did the instructors.

On Sunday afternoon a VE team headed by instructor Mike K7OV, tested the 12 students from the class and two others who had pre-registered for only exams. The other VE's included M&K's Radio Officer, Paul N7DOH, and Red Cross instructor and active Comm Team member, Rick KUØW. As a brand-new VE I also acted as a proctor and runner, letting the students know the results of their exams. For our first team effort together, all went very well. The results went out to the ARRL first thing Monday morning.

One class member has already bought a nice Tri-band Kenwood handheld, and two have sent in their M&K membership applications.

More hams on the way...

Report: 'Extra' Class Study Group

Submitted by Michael Dinkelman, N7WA

The Extra Class study group has met 3 weeks at the time of this writing, and covered 4 of the 9 sub-elements. We will be tackling the 5th subelement (and probably the most difficult) prior to the Club meeting. The class consists of 11 students (6 club members) and we have been meeting at the Red Cross HQ in Seattle thanks to Tim K7ANE. Paul, N7DOH and I have been "playing" teacher along with myself though the students have been good at teaching me some stuff as we go along.

I'm will be encouraging them all to try the test in May even though we will have only gone through half the material as many of them are looking ahead in the study books. It's been a fun activity though it makes for a long Wednesday. I hope the students are getting as much out of it as I am. (So far, nobody has tried to collect on their double money back guarantee.)

Now, where are those formulas for Intermodulation Distortion?

Mike&Key General Meeting Minutes

held 04-19-2008

Officers present:

- x** President – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
- x** Vice President – Tim Kane (K7ANE)
- x** Secretary – Ivy Nelson-Groves (WA7IVY)
- x** Treasurer – Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q)
- x** Activity Manager – Jack Grimmett (N7IHS)
- x** Radio Officer – Paul Roth (N7DOH)

Trustees present:

- x** No. 1 – Frank Tate (NA7O)
- x** No. 2 – Steven Cook (KD7IQL)
- x** No. 3 – Jeff Stevens (KE7FRJ)
- x** No. 4 – Robert Grinnell (KD7WNV)
- x** No. 5 – Hal Mueller (N3YX) -- COB

Call the meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance.

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 please remain at least 25 feet from the door.

Members and guest introductions. No question

Quorum present.

Is there a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay*? N7rhe; steve iql

Officer Reports:

President - Dick WA7NIW: No report

Vice President - Tim K7ANE: 2 new membership applications were voted in by the membership: Frank Qualls KD7QER and David Greene KE7RDD.

Secretary - Ivy WA7IVY: 2 pieces of correspondence

Treasurer - Carolyn WV7Q: Carolyn encourages the membership to get the Relay by email, thus saving the club funds; the club is solvent.

Activity Manager - Jack N7IHS: Flashlight day for the raffle; today's presentation is concerning satellites.

Chairman of the Board -Hal N3YX: No report

Radio Officer - Paul N7DOH: No report

Relay Editor - Gary KG7KU: Thank you for all the articles for the Relay. Everyone is encouraged to write up a short article for inclusion

Webmaster - Jim KD7BAT: No report from Jim. Jim is hospitalized and should be out of the hospital shortly. Motion was made by Mike N7WA to send a card to Jim and seconded. Motion was passed.

Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning - Robert KD7WNV: No report

Facilities and Publicity -: Jeff KE7FRJ: No report

Education and Training -: Hal N3YX: Technician Class finished last week; another starts next week at the Red Cross (contact Tim if you want to attend). Perhaps we should do a general upgrade course and perhaps a formal extra class. We need some additional instructors. Mike N7WA: A free Extra workshop, starts on Wednesday at 7pm through June 18th at the Red Cross building - club members first. Let Mike know if you want to attend.

Public Service - Frank NA7O: Meeting at Cedar River smokehouse after the meeting; working on reviving/changing the Thursday night net. Robert mentioned upcoming events.

Technical and Special Interest - Steve KD7IQL: No report

Other Committees (as appropriate)

VE Exams -- Scott AG7T: 10 examinees last month; 7 technician; 2 general; 1 extra

Flea Market - Hal N7NW / Mike N7WA: No report; key to the back room is still missing.

Field Day -- Steve KD7IQL / Brendan KD7IKV: Mike K7OV will be working with GOTA; Robert 20m; need someone to help with cooking at Camp Wilson; see Rita about space in barracks; Tim and Jack and Brendan are

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Genl Meeting Minutes... [Continued from Page 4]

helping Steve with Field Day; We will need someone to work with transportation and as "camp master". Go to the league website for t-shirts and pins. There are still openings for RV spots, but the hook up sites may be gone - check the website. Rita: There is no tent camping near the barracks. June program will discuss FD in detail.

Awards Banquet - Gary KG7KU: The president would like to thank those who put on the awards banquet. Service Awards from the banquet were given out. This year's Pop Brown winner: Jack N7IHS; Field Day MVP: Tim Kane;

Old Business: There was no new business.

Alligator Award- Jeff is the current holder; no change in ownership

New Business

Jeff NT7R: His Grandfather was a ham in the 1930's. He brought in his W7BRS stuff for other people to take a look at. He would also like to hand out a flyer when someone becomes an extra on how to become a VE. This would benefit the club. The VE committee will take this suggestion under advisement.

Tim K7ANE: Tim suggested that the club have a Lending library of basic books. For \$300 we could have a good basic library. Advisory motion for establishment of a lending library, and \$100 per year to maintain the library. Perhaps under the facilities or technical committees. We might be able to keep them in the closet. Discussion about tracking of items. The membership present thought this would be a good idea.

Good of the Order -

Mike K7OV: He has some Mariners schedule magnets available

Mike N7WA: Spoke about the 7th district DX contest May 3rd. If you'd like to participate, contact Mike.

Alan KB7SVU: Tall Ships of Tacoma; looking for operators; there are some requirements necessary, but they would appreciate having hams who can help out

The Mike & Key Board next meets on the May 7, at El Charro in SeaTac.

The next M&K General Membership meeting is May 17th. John, WA7HQG made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. The motion was passed.

Attendance Summary-- 14 guests; 46 members; 46 ARRL members

Attested: Ivy Nelson-Groves WA7IVY -- Secretary

Mike&Key Board Meeting Minutes

held 05-03-2008

Officers present:

- X_President - Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
- X_Vice President - Tim Kane (K7ANE) - left early
- X_Secretary - Ivy Nelson-Groves (WA7IVY)
- X_Treasurer - Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q)
- X_Activity Manager - Jack Grimmett (N7IHS)
- _Radio Officer - Paul Roth (N7DOH)

Trustees present:

- X_No. 1 - Frank Tate (NA7O)
- X_No. 2 - Steve Cook (KD7IQL)
- X_No. 3 - Jeff Stevens (KE7FRJ)
- X_No. 4 - Robert Grinnell (KD7WNV)
- X_No. 5 - Hal Mueller (N3YX)

Visitors in attendance: Dan and Dawn Humphrey; Meredith Radford

Chairman Hal N3YX called the meeting to order at 19:06 pm

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

Officer Reports:

Chairman of the Board - Hal N3YX:

- Board Calendar: as a means to capture all recurring events/activities. Discussion concerning the timing of audit committee formation.
- Passdown Binders: many of these have gone missing, containing job duties. President, COB, Activities chair would find these most helpful. Hal will make sure the information gets distributed for those who don't have one (by email).
- Corporation overview: We are registered with WA Secretary of State as a corporation, and the Radio officer is the trustee of the club license and is our registered agent. Corporate license is due in December.

President - Dick WA7NIW:

- Audit committee appointments: 2 trustees and 3 members: Steve & Hal are members of this committee. Audit will be the meeting after field day.

Vice President - Tim K7ANE: Four new member applications: Andrew Baze KE7RLJ(G); Tom Cloonan NL7FQ(E); Mike O'Day KE7TTA(T); Karin Engstrom KC6UCD(T). All approved by the board.

Secretary - Ivy WA7IVY: Sent card to Jim and one other item. Ivy will bring receipts to Carolyn.

Treasurer - Carolyn WV7Q: The Club's books are in good order. Gave Balance Sheet summary.

- Summarize treasurer duties: Makes 2 deposits a month; after the general meeting and the board meeting, when she receives the mail from the secretary and/or president. Our bank is Bank of America, the cards are in Factoria. Renewals come in the mail and at the meeting. She is also responsible for updating the roster. Getting the information from the VP concerning new members is a major concern. She also manages our CD, all but one at BECU (Cascade has the other one). Steve ordered promotional items from ARRL: educational info, promo, kids info, field day info, etc. The league doesn't charge for the materials, but we need to pay for shipping. Motion made by Frank to have this paid from board discretionary funds; Carolyn seconded. Motion passed.
- Carolyn will not be at the next general meeting, Jack will take over her duties for this meeting only.
- Banquet came under budget this year by \$409. Dawn did a wonderful job.
- Finance committee appointments: Jack Grimmett N7IHS and Jack Burrell are nominated by Carolyn. Steve made a motion to approve these nominations, Robert seconds the motion. Motion passed.
- Fairgrounds rental for 2009 has gone up \$1K from 2008. The flea market is a separate account administered by the Treasurer. Anticipating higher costs this coming year, Carolyn suggests that we

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May 2008

Board Meeting Minutes... [Continued from Pg 5]

increase the amount of the seed money left in the Flea Market account for next year by \$1K. Board consensus was to proceed as she recommended. Carolyn will increase the amount.

Activity Manager - Jack N7IHS:

- Club Picnic - we need a chairman; if we don't get one, we won't have a picnic. Jack will email Dave to have him reserve the spot if it doesn't cost us anything. We will also need a person for the Christmas party as well.
- The raffle didn't go well last meeting, and Jack wants the cooperation of the board in making this work well again. Adjourn the meeting; and announce that the raffle will take place at the beginning of the program.

Radio Officer - Paul N7DOH: not present; teaching the Extra class tonight

Editor Reports:

Relay Editor - Gary KG7KU: not present.

Webmaster - Jim KD7BAT: not present. The board inquired as to Jim's recovery and wished him our best.

Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning - Robert KD7WNV: nothing to report.

Facilities and Publicity - Jeff KE7FRJ: Will compile list of club equipment with information from Paul and Steve. We have a new liaison with the Salvation Army; Jeff will pass this information to Jim. Jeff presented the board with a written report. Jeff will be purchasing parts to repair the MFJ-259. He will also have a log sheet available for members who wish to check out equipment, for a term not to exceed one month. At the last meeting there was a proposal for library items and Jeff is prepared to incorporate this into his checkout procedure. The RigBlaster in inventory will be transferred from Facilities to Activities to be raffled at a later date.

Education and Training - Hal N3YX: held 2 classes: 18 students in the first class, 15 licensed; 12 in another class; 11 licensed. Next class: July 18th orientation with class on August 1st -3rd.

Public Service - Frank NA7O: Robert is working on an article for the Relay on the revitalization and reorganization of the Public Service net.

Technical and Special Interest - Steve KD7IQL: nothing to report.

Special Committee and Project Reports:

Flea Market - Hal N7NW / Mike N7WA: hibernating until September.

Field Day -- Steve KD7IQL / Brendan KD7IKV: Thanking Tim for creating some media information for a press packet; Brendon is contacting a public official (Council Member Laurie Medlicott) for attendance. Moving along with other planning for field day, there will be a committee meeting in May. The price of gas will affect our gas reimbursement allowance.

Awards Banquet - Dawn KCYYB: covered under treasurer's report.

Bylaws Review - Jack N7IHS: the committee has been formed. Steve will forward Hal N3YX the committee membership list. Jack will send in something for inclusion into the Relay.

Old Business-

Elmers list - Hal and Steve. No progress this month, draft will be delivered to the board next month.

K7LED Relay

Salvation Army support - Jim KD7BAT: They asked for our help with communication between their food bank and distribution center in case of emergency. Hal will follow up with Mike Eakins N7OV.

New Business-

Library - (Tim K7ANE). Matter tabled until next month. QSL manager for K7LED - (Hal N3YX) qrz.com lists Fred Roberts, W6TKV, Riverside, CA. He is a member of our club and attends our Field Day.

Possible new initiatives for consideration - (Hal N3YX). Hal would like the board to take a look at this list and see if it is something we want to do.

What can we do to engage new members and hook them for the long term? Sponsors differentiated from Elmers.

Is there interest in smaller radio events? Fox hunts; mini-demos in public places (NTS messages, Winlink 2000, APRS); HF net; group participation in contests like Salmon Run, ILLW, Kid's Day, JOTA. How can we support emergency communications more effectively? ARES MAT, equipment registration, authority for release of equipment, mobilization plan, club drills, SET. Are there actions we should take to improve or refresh our public facing image? ARRL Special Services Club, website material, advertising, recruitment, IRLP/EchoLink.

Discussion of MOU with the Red Cross (Dick) - Issue tabled until next month.

Good of the Order-

Nothing for the Good of the Order. There being no further business, Ivy moved for adjournment. Motion Passed and Chairman Hal N3YX closed the meeting at 21:10 pm.

Attested: Ivy Nelson-Groves WA7IVY - Secretary

Let's Celebrate Our May Members

As of May 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.

Michael Dinkelman	N7WA	23 Years
Eric Snyder	N7DLV	19 Years
Calvin Doss	KC7I YP	12 Years
Atsushi Sasaki	W7KN	9 Years
James Darby	NY1R	6 Years
Tom Davis	K9TXJ	5 Years
Chuck Griggs	KC7EOP	5 Years
Gerry Ortoli	KE4ZDY	5 Years
Mark Huffstutter	KB7WAL	4 Years
Frank Tate	NA7O	4 Years
Wayne Means	KI 7XA	4 Years
Steve Rehnstrom	KE7KRT	1 Year
Jeff Wandling	NT7R	1 Year
Mark Sandler	K7MAS	2 Years
Phillip Sheridan III	KE7HAV	2 Years

May 2008

K7LED Relay

What It's Like Being A Club Officer

by Mike Eakins, K7OV

Hi fellow Mike & Key members!

Some might wonder what it is like to be an officer in the club, and why it seems that the same people seem to be serving year after year as club officers. Well, the fact is, it's actually quite nice. The fact is, that working with fellow club members can be difficult from time to time, but most times it is a pleasure. When you realize that we are all just humans, and that everyone serving just wants our club to be the best there is, all else pales in comparison. The job is not really that hard, just requiring a little bit of our time.

Yes, from time to time difficult issues come up, but we have -- and most likely always will have -- our former officers to draw from to help us through the issue at hand. Most of the time it is just routine, such as conducting a meeting or meeting to discuss the next years budget, etc. Planning is always fun to do, because we are a strong club with quite a few helping hands. We get to plan fun things like banquets, Field Day, the summer picnic and other fun projects. Not only that, but we get to fellowship together with hams we might not normally get to spend time with and that in it self is a fun thing to do.

The reason you see the same people filling posts most of the time is, I believe, is mostly because our membership is getting older and more infirm, and the younger newer hams are a little shy about stepping forward because they often times don't know what awaits them. But for you younger ones, don't be shy! It's not as hard as you may think, and we really need your view and energy in our club. You are most welcome and we consider you a gift to our membership! Sam, one of our former presidents and who has held other board positions is a prime example of how easy it is, at least from a physical standpoint. He can't climb towers or climb mountains, but he is able to give great ideas and direction when needed. I single him out because of his current physical condition. Others, maybe younger ones can help with functions like Field Day or the Flea Market, and some of you do! Thank you for helping out! We invite you all to join in!

So, who ever you are, young or old, girl or boy, you are all an asset to the club and welcome to step forward to bring new insights and energy to the club. 73, Mike – K7OV

Report: 7th District QSO Party

by Michael Dinkelman, N7WA

On May 3rd, 5 members dropped by the Kent branch of the K7LED superstation (N7WA). The first was Tokuzo Okumura AD7JA who was just taking the opportunity to look over the place but he wasn't looking to get on the air. (He has his own superstation in Skyway.)



SuperStation Operators - Andrew KE7RLJ and Frank KD7QER making it look too easy to have so much fun.

The others came over to participate in the 7th District QSO Party. It had started at 6AM that morning and I had been playing on CW. Obviously though, I would help with the phone portion of the contest and these guys did the trick. They were Steve KD7IQL, John KD7UI, Andrew KE7RLJ, and Frank KD7QER. Andrew was a Ham Radio virgin and made his first QSO's ever.



Operators Andrew KE7RLJ and John KD7UI teamin' up and keepin' the keys HOT.

The shack got a bit crowded and we had to do a bit of mentoring on technique. But I think everybody had a bit of fun. These will be the guys you want to sign up on the bluff come Field Day.

So, how did we do?

Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Sec
3.5	CW	69	207	4
7	CW	36	108	14
7	LSB	6	12	1
14	CW	72	216	17
14	USB	119	238	5
21	CW	4	12	0
Total	Both	306	793	41
Score		: 32,513		

At this point, the plans are to do this again next year. Maybe you'll be able to make it.

Special Feature: Rotator Rebuild

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

They say there are two types of Hams. Those who have rebuilt a Ham-M type rotator and those who haven't. I must admit, for over 35 years I was in the latter category. Now, I can say I have completed that part of my Ham education.

Part of my antenna work for the up-coming summer (if it ever arrives) will be swapping out the Taittwister on the tower for another. It's been up there reliably for over ten years with nary a hiccup but I may be tempting fate. It's a great heavy duty rotator. I've had a spare in garage for years but I knew it needed a rebuild itself before going up. I was going to have a local re-builder do it but how could I ever call myself a TRUE Ham? So, after a search of instructions on the Internet, I started my quest.

Now, I've always known about the "ball bearing" dilemma. Everyone knows that when you open up a Ham-m type rotator, all the ball bearings fall out on the floor, get dirty, and hide. So I did my tear-down in a container that would catch them all. Frankly, I was a bit disappointed when nary a bearing fell out. Gee whiz, where's the fun in that?

Well, the preliminary inspection didn't look too bad. Some rust in the bottom set of bearings. The connector strip was toast but I already know that and the plan was to replace it with a plate of aluminum and a wiring pigtail.



It turned out that every ball bearing made it into the collection bowl without incident.



Clean up of the old grease, wiring in the pigtail, and installing the replacement connector all went without incident. Then, I started the search for replacement ball bearing to replace the rusty ones. Fortunately I was able to empty out the local McLendons and Ace hardware stores without difficulty and even ended up with some spares. Back in they go – one at a time. The Taittwister comes with a full set of bearing in three races. That's a lot of slippery bearings to put back in one at a time but I still didn't lose any to play with the dust bunny's.

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____ Technician Class Announcement ____

The Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club
and the King and Kitsap Counties
Chapter of the American Red Cross

proudly announce and offer a

Technician Class Amateur Radio Course

Orientation: 18 July

Class: 1-3 August 2008 at
the Red Cross Chapter

1900 25th Avenue South, Seattle

The course will cover all chapters of Element 2 of the FCC Amateur Radio Service materials, and will fully prepare participants to take the Technician Class examination, which will be offered on Sunday afternoon. Cost: \$50, covers the ARRL Technician Class "Ham Radio License Manual," including all FCC pool questions; the FCC examination fee, and all class materials.

Course Schedule:

Friday, 18 July	7-10pm
Friday, 1 August	7-10pm
Saturday, 2 August	9am-5pm
Sunday, 3 August	9am -12noon
Exam: Sunday	1pm-finish

Class is open to the general public, teen-age plus, and will be on a first-come, first served basis. Limited class size; pre-registration required. For registration or questions, e-mail: Tim.Kane@seattleredcross.org. call Red Cross at (206) 709-4537 for Jenn, or mail form at right with check made out to **Mike & Key ARC** to: *MSS Comm Team, Attn: Laura Gallez, Red Cross, 1900 25th Ave. South, Seattle, WA 98144-4708.*

Registration Deadline: 11 July 2008



In the end, it all slipped back together pretty easily thanks to a lot of marking of part positions on disassembly and testing shows no problems in rotation.



Thanks for joining with me as I described the task and its challenges as it relates to my experience rebuilding this Rotator. I encourage you to take on this quest yourself someday if the opportunity presents itself.

Ham Nets & Events for 2008 -- MAY / JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
11 2000 -- King Co. ARES 147.08 (Weekly) 2200 -- NW Astronomy Net 145.33 (Weekly)	12 0545 & 1645 -- Weather Net 145.33 (M-F) 1730 -- Puget Sound Traffic Sys. 146.82 (Daily) 1900 -- Seattle ACS 146.90 (WKly)	13 2000 -- Snohomish Co. RACES 146.92 (Weekly)	14 2000 -- General /Tech Info 145.33 (Weekly) 2100 -- NWSOAR Net 146.82 (Weekly)	15 1900 -- M&K Public Service Net 146.82 (Weekly) 2000 -- Computer & Packet Net 145.33 (Weekly)	16 2000 -- Youth Net 145.33 (Weekly) Public Service-- [76-18] Oregon Trail Rally	17 1000 -- M&K Club Meeting, Renton 1300 -- Ham Radio Exams, Renton 2000 -- Amateur TV Net 147.08 (Weekly) Public Service-- -Capitol City Marathon, Olympia -Leif Erickson Nordic Days Parade, Ballard -ADA Tour de Cure Ride, Redmond to Monroe
18 1915 -- Kids Net Net 145.49 (Weekly) 2030 -- Snohomish Co. ARES 146.92 (Weekly)	19 1800 -- WA Emerg. HF 3.985 (Weekly) 1830 -- WA ARES 3.985 (Weekly) 1930 -- PSRG 146.96 (Weekly)	20	21	22	23	24 0900 -- WA ARES HF Net 3.985 (Weekly)
25	26 2000 -- YL Net 145.33 (Weekly)	27	28	29	30	31 Public Service-- -WA Special Olympics, Fort Lewis
01 JUNE Public Service-- -WA Special Olympics, Fort Lewis	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13 Relay Articles Due	14 Public Service-- -Flying Wheels Bike Ride, Redmond to Monroe