



From our Club President...

Potluck--Important Part of Field Day

by Dick Radford WA7NIW, President

Field Day could be quite different this year. One of the main features of Field Day is the Potluck Dinner and the Leftover Dinner. What we are still missing this year is someone to take over the job of Cook. This job entails buying, transporting, and cooking the meat and condiments. With the use of the building at the Barracks location for eating comes the task of cleaning up afterwards. Currently we have nobody signed up to handle this very important function.

One way of handling this could be the "Many Hands" approach where the various tasks are split up among all of us. We need people to grill the meat, and clean up after the dinner is concluded, both nights. If we don't get volunteers for these tasks we will lose one of the favorite parts of Field Day.

On another subject, but similar, we still need someone to volunteer to chair the Club Picnic. Unless someone steps up to handle this event, we won't have it. This is Your Club and its activities are for Your enjoyment. This means that it's up to You to see that these activities take place by volunteering to help with them.

See you at Field Day.

--Dick, WA7NIW

M&K Club Activity -- 2008 Picnic???

Jack Grimmert, N7IHS

As of this writing we currently do not have a chair-person for the Club's Annual Picnic event. We normally hold the Picnic after the August general meeting in a park near the Salvation Army (our meeting place). We need someone who lives inside the Renton city limits to get the park reservations. Dawn Humphrey (KC7YYB) and Dave Smith (KB7PSN) would be helpful in getting the reservations and determining the food to be served.

If we don't have one or two volunteers for the job by the July 1st, we will be forced to cancel the picnic. We had to cancel the last year's Christmas Party for the same reason.

It seems that the same people do the work year after year and they need a break. It's time for someone new to step up to the plate. If we don't get someone to volunteer for the Christmas Party it will also be canceled.

If you are interested please contact me at n7ihs@arrl.net or my cell phone 206-437-2841.

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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.



Field Day 2008

Ride the Waves -- June 28, 29

June Program

by Jack Grimmett N7IHS

The program for June will be on the Field Day preparations. If you are new to the Club and are planning to attend our Field Day activities or just want to know what goes on with our Club at Field Day, then this meeting is a must. There will be a number of "old timers" to answer questions. Remember there are no stupid questions.

The July meeting will probably be an eyeball program with a chance to search out answers to ham-related questions. For later programs, I have talked to Ward Silver (author of many books and QST articles (author of Ham Radio for Dummies). I will try to get the guys from SteppIR antennas and Jim Fenstermaker the ARRL Director of the Northwestern Division. Any other ideas let me know.

Our raffle sales are down a bit. If any of you have ideas about gifts, please let me know. I would like to limit the list to items that could be used in the ham shack.

Please contact me if you have any ideas.

'CW Beach Cometh...'

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

It looks like a challenging Field Day is coming up. First, gas prices will be at record highs. It takes some dedication to spend that much money on a trip to the hinterlands. Second, we won't have the usual group camp. Still, I remember the days when the Wagon Wheel wasn't part of Field Day. For me, Field Day is the beach and the bluff (well, just a little bit). There will be a group camp for those willing to spend a weekend in a tent. That may even be a sign of the future (see issue number 1) as RV's become more expensive to operate.

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I do know that I was able to pick up a tent that would do most singles or couples quite well for less than \$40. Bigger ones weren't much more. For me, it's just a place to sleep anyway. However, I realize that tents aren't for everyone and last I checked (June 13), there were still RV sites available so maybe you got one.

CW Beach will be present. Not sure what radios we will be using - we have crossed fingers that the Elecraft gods will provide a couple K3s. If not, we will make do with other fine radio equipment I am sure. (Heck, we could make do with some tin foil and duct tape - try doing SSB with that!)

The Beach will commence at 11AM sharp on Friday the 27th. Since the bluff is pretty boring the whole weekend, come on down and help us setup. You can always go back up to the bluff the rest of the weekend to get your fill of boredom. We promise not to put a key in your hand unless you ask and contrary to the rumors spread by various SSB aficionados, we do not have Cooties or West Nile Virus. What we do have is infectious enthusiasm and fun. If you want to try some CW, we might let you if you ask real nicely.

Taking tongue out of cheek, we really hope to see you at Field Day.

Michael N7WA -- 'CW Beach' Chair

Barracks Mom Speaks (Again)

by Rita Danielson, KD7CNU

Good evening, Children.

Thought I'd better drop you a line or two before it gets too much closer to Field Day.

We have room for one more in the barracks, so if you need a bed for the weekend, please let me know ASAP.

As promised here is the list of things you'll need for the weekend. Most you already know, but it never hurts to review.

- Bedding
- Personal items
- Clothing-dress warm for evening & late night shifts
- Towels
- Batteries- for your radio, or battery charger
- Snacks
- Lunches
- Medications
- Insect repellent
- Alarm clocks

(And anything else you think you might need.)

Remember you will be sharing a room with others, so if you snore, please bring earplugs for your room mate.

Also; no commercial radios playing after 10:00 PM, if you need it, please bring earphones so others won't have to listen while trying to sleep.

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Barracks Mom Speaks...[Continued from Page 3]

Animals are not allowed in the barracks, with the exception of service animals. There is no smoking in the barracks, you must be 25 feet from the entrances. These are park rules, not mine. Another park rule is bike helmets are to be worn while riding anywhere in the park. We are guests of the park and must adhere to the rules.

Every Saturday morning, they offer guided tours of the bunkers and gun emplacements. The hours are posted in the barracks and at the park museum just south of the barracks. There is a lot to do and see at Ft. Flagler so bring your camera and take full advantage.

See you Saturday the 21st-- Rita 'Barracks Mom'

Extra Class Study Group Update

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

We are coming to the end of the Extra Class Study group. Just in time for the June Mike & Key VE test session. It will also be the last Mike & Key test session with the current Extra class test pool questions. Next month, it'll be new question but I think this group could handle either set.

Gil, W7GIL, jumped the gun last month and took the test. Good news, he passed! Still, he comes to the study group, which I really appreciate; sometimes with toys to show the others (a couple are very newly minted Hams with no real world experience).

Wasn't quite sure what to expect when I started this. Certainly, I have had to relearn a few things. When was the last time you needed to know what the voltage was for white in Fast Scan TV? Then, there have just been things I can't explain well. That's when Paul N7DOH comes in handy or even one of the study group members who has had some real world experience.

Already, I been asked when I will do this again. Not sure, if ever, ask me again in 6 months. However, if I heard it right last month, maybe there are others exploring the idea? I know the need is there. Either way, the fruits of this labor will be born after the next Club meeting. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we'll have a bunch of new Extras come July.

Weekly Public Service Net

by Robert Grinnell KD7WNV
Public Service Committee Chair

For the past few years, the Thursday night public service net has been conducted primarily by a single member, with only occasional fill-ins. I want to thank Gary, KG7KU for those years of steadfast service to the Club and the community. Gary has had

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to step away from that role, and the net has been on hiatus for several months due to the annual sparseness of public service events from late fall through early spring. It is now being reactivated, and the Public Service Committee has discussed ideas for improving the net, including expanded involvement in the net itself and broader distribution of the net control task.

The core procedure of the net is a series of announcements of upcoming events seeking amateur radio support. More recently, this has been supplemented by announcements of hamfests, as well as amateur radio license testing opportunities. Although net control calls for any stations with comments, questions or additional announcements, it is not uncommon for the whole net to go by without hearing from another station.

The committee would like to see that change, to make it more of an interactive net. One idea is to invite check-ins near the beginning of the net, to give more of a sense of who is listening/participating. This would also facilitate interaction later in the net, at least for those stations already checked-in. In the area of net content, another idea is to expand the net in concept, to make it more of a club net, including a discussion period following the announcements. With the demise of the talk-in before monthly general meetings, there is no longer any regularly-occurring general club conversation on the repeater. We see where an expanded net could provide that opportunity for member interaction outside of the meetings once again.

Of course, there won't be a net without a net control operator. Certainly, a commitment to carry on the net on a weekly basis is a significant burden for any one person, and the committee has discussed spreading around the net control operation. That would involve members of the committee taking turns running the net, but also, we would like to see other members of the club step up to take turns as well, perhaps especially some of those who are already active on the repeater. It's great experience, and if you can hit the repeater, we can fix you up with everything else you need. A related suggestion has been made that this would be a great opportunity for shut-in members to increase their interaction with the club.

Distributed net control will require a sign-up and scheduling system of some kind. Perhaps someone would step up to take the role of managing such a system, including putting out the word when there are gaps to be filled. The committee will pursue this and make further announcements as things develop.

The common thread here is member involvement, whether as a listener, a checked-in participant, or a net control operator. We invite club
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Public Service Net...[Continued from Page 4]

members to start listening to the net again, and help us re-invigorate it as a service to both the community and the Club. If you have thoughts on these ideas, or other ideas for improving the net, please contact me or any member of the committee. And as always, you're invited to come to the committee meeting at the Cedar River Smokehouse after the monthly general meeting--it's always good barbecue!

Mike&Key General Meeting Minutes
held 05-17-2008

Meeting was called to order at 1000 hours

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; If you wish to go outside during the break, the Salvation Army requests that we do so on the West side of the building. This is a small room, and if you have conversations that must be carried out, please carry them out to the other room.

Members and guest introductions.

Quorum present.

Is there a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the *K7LED Relay*? Sam N7RHE makes the motion and Steve KD7IQL seconds.

Officer Reports:

President – Dick WA7NIW: Volunteers keeps this club going. Those are the people who make the Flea Market happen. They make the Banquet happen. They make Field Day happen. They make the day to day operations of the club happen. They also make the Picnic and Christmas Party happen. Currently, we need volunteers to chair the Picnic and the Christmas party. I'm sure we will also hear of volunteer opportunities for Field Day

Vice President – Tim K7ANE: Tom Cloonan NL7FQ(E) was voted into membership.

Secretary – Ivy WA7IVY: no addition correspondence, other than bank statements and dues have been received by club.

Treasurer – Carolyn WV7Q: Carolyn is not here today, but Jack N7IHS will accept membership dues today.

Activity Manager – Jack N7IHS: Program today is Northern California DX Foundation Beacon System.

Chairman of the Board –Hal N3YX: Board meets first Wednesday of the month at El Charro in Seatac. Board meetings are open to all members.

Radio Officer – Paul N7DOH: nothing new to report this month.

Relay Editor – Gary KG7KU: Always looking for new articles for the Relay. Suggestion was made to include the next board meeting date and time in the relay

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Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: Website up to date now. Public Service webpage was recently updated. If you see something out of date, please email Jim.

Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning – Robert KD7WNV: Looking to form a committee of the membership. Please contact Robert if you are interested.

Facilities and Publicity –: Jeff KE7FRJ: not present

Education and Training –: Hal N3YX: Another class coming up in August; with an orientation class a few weeks prior for a few hours. If you are interested in this committee, we will be having a meeting in June.

Public Service – Robert KD7WNV. The Thursday net is back up; please listen in and check in. SeaFair parade today is postponed one hour.

Technical and Special Interest – Steve KD7IQL: Wants to restart the committee as originally envisioned.

Other Committees (as appropriate)

VE Exams -- Scott AG7T: tests were given, but Scott doesn't have the statistics with him this month. Everyone testing last month got something.

Field Day -- Steve KD7IQL / Brendan KD7IKV: We have band chairs, but need operators for all bands. We need BBQs as well and someone to do the cooking. The potluck is on Friday. We are at the Boy Scout camp. If you have an RV check if they still have a site available. The barracks are full; Rita has a waiting list at this point. Be prepared for all sorts of weather. Jeff Stevens will work on making sure we get all our bonus points this year. We are looking for an "educational opportunity" for Field Day.

Old Business: There was no old business.

Alligator Award – Jeff KE7FRJ still holds the award and is looking for someone other than the usual suspects.

New Business –

Sam N7RHE: Starting a group setting up radios at the Kent Fire Department. If you are interested in joining this group contact Sam.

Jack N7IHS: We need a Picnic chairman. If we don't get a chair by the end of June, we don't have the picnic. Dave Smith has taken care of the reservations for this year. This is a great opportunity for new members to get involved. Please email Jack or Dick.

Good of the Order –

Dick WA7NIW reminds the membership that due to ongoing rescue efforts in China following the earthquake, hams are being asked to avoid use of 14.270, 7.050, and 7.060 mhz.

If you would like new badges, they are \$8 and you should contact Dawn.

Thanks to Mike N7WA for organizing the Extra class, and for inviting folks to his house to operate his radios.

Jim KD7BAT: Thank you for the get well card.

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M&K General Mtg Mins... [Continued from Page 5]

Steve KD7IQL: has been making a spreadsheet with all the club QSO cards and we are close to WAS and WAJA. If anyone has any club cards, let Steve know.

The Mike & Key Board next meets on the June 4th, at El Charro in SeaTac.

The next Mike & Key General Membership meeting is June 21st.

Scott AG7T made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. The motion was passed. Meeting adjourned 10:35.

5 guests; 42 members; 40 ARRL members

Attested: Ivy Nelson-Groves WA7IVY – Secretary

Mike&Key Board Meeting Minutes

held 06-04-2008

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 – Steve Cook (KD7IQL)

 No. 3 – Jeff Stevens (KE7FRJ)

X No. 4 – Robert Grinnell (KD7WNV)

X No. 5 – Hal Mueller (N3YX)

Visitors in attendance: Dan (N7QHC) and Dawn (KC7YYB) Humphrey; Rick Groves (KE7NAH), Adrian Roth, (KB7BVL), Dave Smith, (KB7PSN).

Chairman Hal (N3YX) called the meeting to order at 19:01 p.m.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the previous board meeting, was made by Ivy (WA7IVY) and seconded by Jack (N7IHS). Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

Chairman of the Board – Hal (N3YX): no new items but some pending issues that will come up in New Business.

President – Dick (WA7NIW): Email from Mike (N7WA) and Jim (KD7BAT) about some equipment donated to the club. Deferred to new business.

Vice President – Tim (K7ANE): Five new member applications, 4 of these came from the class: Jan Morgan (KE7TSY); Gabriel Kangas (KE7TUS); Michael O'Day (WA7MTO); Karin Engstrom (KC6UCD); Andrew Baze (KE7RLJ). All approved by the board. MOU for Red Cross. Proposal for Library. Both deferred to new business.

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Secretary – Ivy (WA7IVY): Received an email from a new Technician who was looking for a General class and testing. She replied with information on our testing. Tim mentioned that MicroHams will be having a General class in the future.

Treasurer – Carolyn (WV7Q): The Club's books are in good order. Gave Balance Sheet summary. Carolyn has left the approved increase in the Flea Market Account and has transferred the remainder to the general fund.

Activity Manager – Jack (N7IHS): We do not have a chair for the picnic.

Radio Officer – Paul (N7DOH): will be going up the mountain soon and will be ordering the repeater.

Editor Reports:

Relay Editor – Gary (KG7KU): not present.

Webmaster – Jim (KD7BAT): not present.

Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning – Robert (KD7WNV): nothing to report.

Facilities and Publicity – Jeff (KE7FRJ): not present.

Education and Training – Hal (N3YX): will have a handout for the membership at the June meeting regarding an Elmers list.

Public Service – Frank (NA7O):

Technical and Special Interest – Steve (KD7IQL): Thanked Carolyn for sending out the email concerning the positions and committees.

Special Committee and Project Reports:

Field Day -- Steve (KD7IQL)/ Brendan (KD7IKV): redid the 20 meter beam (4 element) and it is working. The only thing we need at this point is someone to cook; this person also is needed to purchase some food. We may be able to break up this job and have some other people to help out. We may have to consider giving someone a stipend to do this job, since we have to clean the building as well.

Beverages (Jack); Condiments and buns; Meat; Cooking; Clean-up. We need this for two nights, and expect each member to sign up for either cleanup or cooking one of the two nights.

Bylaws Review – Jack (N7IHS): table until next meeting.

Picnic - Jack (N7IHS)- We aren't looking good for the picnic. We need someone to reserve the shelter, and it needs to be a Renton resident. We also need a picnic chairman by the first of July.

Old Business-no old business

New Business-

Elmer Program - Jack (N7IHS) is looking for some power supplies to help out some new hams to get them on the air. Looking for donations.

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M&KBoardMtgMins...[Continued from Page 6]

Estate Equipment – donations from two members, one a silent key, another in assisted living and they donating equipment to the club. Suggestions were made to give some to the Elmer program, to a high school, or to the Salvation Army. It was suggested that this should be under the control of the Facilities committee and/or Technical committee. Yes, we will accept the equipment; but we need to have someone check it out and to keep track of it. Motion to take possession of the equipment made by Tim (K7ANE), second by Steve (KD7IQL); motion passed. Motion to grant Frank Vyborny (KF7TX) an honorary membership by Tim (K7ANE) seconded by Ivy (WA7IVY). Tim will send an email to Mike (N7WA) to get this certificate made. Hal will inform the Facility chair that it is his responsible to take possession of the equipment.

Library - Tim (K7ANE). Two general meetings ago the membership approved a library. The proposed books would cost just under \$300. Tokuzo Okumura (AD7JA) has offered space at this store for the library and it will be available Monday through Saturday and is willing to act as librarian. Suggestion was publish the list of recommended books and to solicit the membership for books they would be willing to donate. Tim will put an article in the June Relay. Concern was raised about where the money comes from in this year's budget; we will put it into next year's budget. Motion to create a club library made by Tim, seconded Steve; motion passed.

Red Cross MOU – Discussion about the proposed MOU suggested by RC. Motion to decline this MOU from the Red Cross by Frank (NA7O), seconded by Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q); motion carries.

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

There being no further business, Jack (N7IHS) moved for adjournment. Motion Passed and Chairman Hal (N3YX) closed the meeting at 21:10 pm.

Attested: Ivy Nelson-Groves (WA7IVY) – Secretary

New Club Library Established
by Tim Kane K7ANE

At their June meeting, upon the proposal of VP Tim Kane K7ANE, the M&K Board approved the creation of a new club reference and lending library.

The initial books will include ten standard amateur reference books and manuals. Then, each year the library fund would become a budgeted line-tem to be used to expand the library, or to update aging editions of important references.

The Education Committee was tasked with recommending books to be added. All members are encouraged to suggest volumes to the Committee which they think would be valuable or helpful references for the membership.

The first books in the library will include the newest editions of:

- Technician Class License Manual
- General Class License Manual
- Extra Class License Manual (with July'08 questions)
- ARRL Operating Manual, 9th edition
- 2008 ARRL Handbook
- ARRL Emergency Communication Handbook
- ARRL DXCC Handbook, 2007 edition
- ON4UN's Low Band DXing
- ARRL's VHF Digital Handbook
- ARRL Antenna Book, 21st edition.

While the Board was considering the current club budget for possible funding of these purchases in this fiscal year, a spontaneous and generous donation by an anonymous club member privately covered the costs of these seed volumes.

After the initial library proposal at a previous general meeting, another member stepped up to help make the library readily accessible to club members. Tokuzo, AD7JA, has an electronics repair shop in the Skyway neighborhood, quite centrally located, about 2.5 miles west of our Renton meeting site.

While all the details have not yet been worked out, the initial plan under consideration is that club members would be able to check-out books or make copies of particular articles of interest at Tokuzo's shop, during his normal business hours, Monday through Saturday. The procedures will be published as soon as the books arrive and details are worked out.

It was also pointed out that other members might have other titles or editions of books of amateur interest that they might wish to donate to the library. Alternatively, they might want to donate cash to support our library fund. The Board encourages all members to help in any way they can. Contact VP Tim K7ANE if you wish to donate books, or Treasurer, Carolyne WV7Q, for cash.

This is a great opportunity to provide a valuable educational and reference resource for all our club members, newcomers and old-timers alike. We hope you'll all contribute to the effort, and equally importantly, that you'll use the library regularly.

Let's celebrate our June members.

As of June 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.

Dawn Humphrey	KC7YYB	17 Years
Calvin C. Doss	KC7GZL	12 Years
Terry Dettmann	WX7S	6 Years
Daniel Stevens	KL7WM	6 Years
Guy Molinari	N7ZG	5 Years
Phil Sheridan	KD7UXT	5 Years
Ross Laine	WORWL	4 Years
Ivy Nelson-Groves	WA7IVY	2 Years
Aaron Tate	KD7ZDZ	2 Years
Robert Murphy	KE7MER	1 Year
Dave Richards	KE7FGE	1 Year
Lee Sherry	KE7NBN	1 Year

Sights and Sounds by Sunrise

by Dawn Humphrey KC7YYB

Since I didn't have anything new and startling to report, I just thought I'd share a little witticism. If we can't laugh at some of our more irksome situations, we will be much more depressed than if we look for the humor.

Rather like watching the "funny videos" of something that really isn't funny when it happens, but evokes roars of laughter when seen or thought of afterwards. Just as most embarrassing moments tend to bring a self-conscious grin, when reminded of it. Anyway, don't take life too seriously, it will be too soon over!

Carpe Diem!

73 --

Hey! Have you heard the beacons lately on 10M? The bands are showing activity in the mornings and evenings. Can good DXing be far behind????

Special Feature...**2008 CQ WPX CW Contest at 6Y1V**

By Guy Molinari, N7ZG

It all started with an e-mail posting to the CQ-Contest reflector. David Kopacz, KY1V was looking for operators to assist him with the 2008 CQ WPX CW contest at his station in Jamaica.

Just days before I was sending e-mail inquiries to various station owners on the west coast to see if a station was available for the upcoming contest. This was because mine was unavailable for various reasons.

I had always wanted to operate from the Caribbean and had already accepted an invitation from Roger, W7VV to be part of the VP5W team for CQWW CW in November. I found an airfare to Jamaica for \$630 and had some vacation time on the books, so why not? I dropped David a note saying I was interested and later in the evening I received a response inviting me to be part of the team. Wooahoo!

Weeks passed and I procrastinated getting my passport receiving it only days before the contest. Also, David informed me that since 6Y is not a CEPT country I would need to obtain a alien operators permit. I sent an overnight envelope to Jamaica with the \$20 USD fee along with the completed application, a photocopy of my passport, and a photocopy of my US amateur license. Normally this process takes about 60 days, but David assured me that he would get verbal permission from the SMA (Jamaican equivalent of the FCC). If you are planning to operate from 6Y, make sure you leave plenty of time for this process.

I flew to Jamaica leaving early on a Wednesday morning arriving at about 10 pm local time. I was warmly greeted by David 6Y1V (KY1V) and Ismael 6Y1AY (XE1AY) wearing callsign emblazoned apparel. Ismael had arrived just an hour or so before me. David and John 6Y5/K4BAI had arrived earlier in the day and John was at the 6Y1V QTH operating in a QRP contest. Those who know John also know that he is an avid contester, sometimes operating multiple contests simultaneously almost every weekend. David was kind enough to personally greet us and transport us to the station.

David, Ismael and I stopped at a Jerky's restaurant (Jamaican equivalent of McDonalds) and picked up some Jamaican Jerk chicken and headed up the hill to the 6Y1V QTH. John K4BAI and I had met briefly a few years ago at an impromptu Western Washington DX Club dinner held while he was in Seattle on business, but I had never met David or Ismael prior to this trip.

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June 2008

2008 CQ WPX CW...6Y1V...[Cont'd from Page 8]

The brotherhood of contesters is truly a wonderful aspect of this great hobby. One of these years I will get to Dayton to experience this on an even greater scale.

The 6Y1V team was finally gathered as we enjoyed a meal of chicken and cold pop. We shared some small talk (including lies) as well as plans for the upcoming contest. David gave Ismael and myself a quick tour of the shack. The setup consists of three ICOM 7800s and ACOM 2000 series amplifiers along with the usual complement of rotators, computers, bandpass filters, stack matches, switchboxes, etc. It was about midnight local time and we were all tired from the long day's travels, so it was time to get some rest. The house has only two bedrooms so David rented a villa at the Tryall golf and beach club. John and Ismael stayed at the house while David and I went to the Tryall.

We awoke well rested and headed to the local market in the town of Hopewell to buy some fresh fruit for breakfast. We then began the ascent up Watford hill to the QTH. The station is near the end of a road that winds up a hill to about 850 feet above sea level. It is a beautiful drive past quaint local homes, some of them modest by US standards, but quite clean and tidy nevertheless. The views of the Caribbean were marvelous. Since we arrived in darkness the night before, I was now able to enjoy the beautiful Jamaican countryside. When we arrived at the station the awe and wonder of the towers came into view.

The 6Y1V QTH has a 140 foot Rohn 45 tower supporting a two stack of SteppIR MonstIR yagis for 40 through 6 meters. They are turned by K0XG rotators. This tower is star guyed at two levels due to the tremendous torque exerted by turning these huge antennas. The second tower, also Rohn 45 is 110 feet tall although the top of this tower is even with the 140 foot tower due to its position on the hillside. This entire tower rotates and supports 6 yagis from M squared. There is a 6/6 stack for 20M on a 59 foot boom! Also sharing this tower is a 6/6 on 15M and finally a 7/7 for 10M. Further up the hillside an 80M four square consists of HyGain HyTowers. From the antenna farm, a beautiful unobstructed view of the Caribbean from Japan sweeps thorough to South America.

This is truly a ham's dream come true. We spent some of the morning running two stations with our Jamaican call signs. David had confirmed with the SMA in Kingston that we were indeed good to go. I settled into the chair and pointed the rotating tower at Europe and within minutes was working a pile. I would find that after I worked though the stronger signals there

K7LED Relay

was a layer of dozens of weaker stations calling. I was able to work a number of stateside stations off of the side of the stack as well.

As lunchtime approached, we decided to take a trip into Montego Bay to have lunch at one of David's favorite restaurants and to stock the refrigerator for the contest weekend. Then it was back to the shack to put 6Y5/N7ZG back on the air and rack up some more Q's.

I find that working pileups involves managing multiple variables. On one hand it is good to establish a rhythm so that callers are not sending on top of an in-progress exchange. The downside is that it is much harder to get full call signs when everyone is calling at the same time. By occasionally breaking rhythm or taking a tailend contact, chances are increased that a calling operator will get his full call in "under the wire".

I was operating simplex to practice for the upcoming contest, given that running split during a contest is generally not a good idea. The 6Y1V station is potent enough so that if the pileup gets unruly the signal will still be heard from under the mess of callers. One concept reinforced during this experience is that calling ops trying to work DX in simplex mode should avoid zero beating the DX station. I found that picking out callers who were a little off frequency was a much easier task.

This is an important pileup breaking technique. The next step for me is learning to pick out calls when the signals are much closer in frequency and weaker. Another difficult skill is to pull weaker but more desirable multipliers out of the pileup first. These stations may only call a few times and will tune away if they are not confident they will be worked. If you are lucky they will try again later. Bottom line is that pulling out full calls will greatly improve QSO rate.

After a dinner of leftover Jerky's chicken and some more operating, it was back to the radio room. At about midnight I tried some 75M SSB. I was working a fairly steady stream of stations in the UK at over 2 hours past their local sunrise! Maybe this was a good omen for 80M during the contest. Anyway, it was getting into the early morning hours so it was time for bed. The next morning David and I went back to the market for some more of the locally grown fresh fruit and it was back to the station.

We operated some more using our individual call signs while John, K4BAI napped in preparation for the contest kickoff later in the evening. It was decided that John would lead off on the 40/15 station starting on 40M beaming Europe, and I would start off on the 20/80M station with 20M beaming stateside.

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2008 CQ WPX CW...6Y1V...[Cont'd from Page 9]

At around 4 pm we shut down the casual operation to make final preparations for the contest. We were using WinTest because it is known to have reliable networking capability, as the last thing we wanted was our computer logs to get out of sync.

Once the final preparations were made, we had a good meal of roasted breadfruit and vegetables prepared local Jamaican style. The cook placed the breadfruit (slightly larger than a coconut) directly on the stove's gas burner.

We assumed our positions in the operating chairs and established run QRGs. When 0000Z rolled around we were off and running metaphorically speaking. Within the first few callers was Rod W7OM with a big signal into 6Y. The combined QSO rate was above 350/hr at the outset. This rarely dropped below 200. The basic strategy for the contest was to run 40M as hard as possible to Europe.

In the WPX contest, low band contacts count for double the points as compared to the high bands. Given that we had the best 40/80 antenna systems in that part of the world, we would try to maximize this advantage given that we only get half of the points to the US compared to P40 or PJ2, and stations in the western parts of Africa (EA8/CT3/D44) who are much closer to EU. At about 10 pm local time it was sunrise in Europe. David took my place to work 80M.

We found that 80M was a little disappointing to EU. Other stations in the Caribbean seemed to echo those observations. At about 1 am local time I took over for John at the 40M position and Ismael took 80M while John and David got some sleep. I managed to work some JA's but it was not nearly as good as expected. The second night turned out to be much better to JA on 40 and I was able to work many more Qs to that part of the world.

At local sunrise John started off on 20M to Europe and I worked 40M till the rate dropped and then went to 15M. 15M was surprisingly good to Europe with strong signals.

My guess is that many ops avoided this band to get better rate on 20M. I'm sure things will be quite different for the CQ WW contests this fall. Given the fact that multipliers only count once for all bands in WPX, there was little incentive to try 160M so we didn't even bother. David also got a little run going on 10M into stateside for novelties sake. There were no contacts to Europe on 10M though. Later in the day 40M again opened to Europe and John was at the helm.

We alternated between 15 and 20M to Europe trying to get as many three pointers as possible. At about 7 pm local time we again tried 80M. This time it was even worse as signals were very weak. Even stateside runs did not materialize. So we spent most of the time working 20M as hard as we could. By about midnight local time on Sunday, we had surpassed the North American M/2 record with smiles and high five's all around. We started an over/under bet to see what our final score would be. David bet that it would be 22.5 million with the winner taking a pot of \$1000 cash Jamaican (about \$14 USD).

He would ultimately win this bet. We finished up the last leg of the contest with John on 40M and myself on 20M. When 0000Z rolled around we shook hands and David congratulated us for a job well done. We went to the Tryall to take hot showers and then went out for a post contest dinner at the resort restaurant. The restaurant staff snapped a team photo with us exhausted but smiling. The final score was 22,207,200 and a total of 5,330 QSOs. 392 on 80M, 1987 on 40M, 2043 on 20M, 830 on 15M, and 78 on 10M.

I always get a melancholy feeling when a contest ends and this time was no different. As we sat around enjoying a good meal I felt that I had forged a memory that would last a lifetime with three new found friends.

This to me is what the radiosport is all about.

One postscript to this operation was an e-mail received from David. He stayed one additional day in Jamaica and decided to see if 10M would open. He indicated in his note that he was able to run Europe at about a 300/hr rate with big signals. This was the first time he has seen 10M open to Europe in years.

--Maybe this is a sign of good things to come!

Field Day '08: 20M Station Update

by Jeff Stevens KE7FRJ

The 20m station will be using a different antenna this year. With the restoration and improvement of a antenna that was damaged by a falling tree a few years ago, there is likely to be a little extra fire on the band.

The restored antenna is a four element design in contrast to the three elements we have been using the past two years. Instead of using the antenna's original configuration with dual driven elements, this design uses a single driver with a very closely spaced parasitic. This Optimized Wideband Antenna design provides a low SWR over a much wider bandwidth. **[Continued on Page 11]**

FD08: 20M Station Update...[Cont'd from Pg10]

Keeping in mind the constraints of the existing antenna hardware, Scott AG7T did much of the RF design. The length and spacing of the four elements were changed from the original design to provide a < 1.3:1 SWR over the entire band. As modeled, the antenna gain is 12 dBi with a front to back ratio of over 20 dB. It has a moderately sharp beam width of 31 degrees with a elevation angle of 26 degrees.

A crew assembled at Dean N7NKO and Shelia's KE7OPI Saturday, May 24th, eager to measure, cut, and test. Using the lengths and spacings provided by Scott, we moved from element to element. Little John WA7HQG was the man with the pipe cutter. The existing hardware was of varying threads and head types. This was fixed with a trip to the hardware store.

The antenna range was Dean's front yard. Mounted about 15' feet above the ground the SWR proved to be less than 1.3:1 across the band. With a frequency generator connected to the antenna and a mobile receiver across the yard, the group was impressed by the side rejection and front to back ratio. The pattern seemed to be as expected. A few minutes on the air yielded contacts with stations in California, Utah, and Arkansas and manually rotating the antenna illustrated is fairly sharp directivity.

Field Day will, of course, be the real test. The operators in the Bunker will be driving a new 26' long boomer this year.

A Word About Frank Vyborny KF7TX
Contributed by Jim Etwiler KD7BAT

Frank was an active member of Mike and Key from 1987 through 2006. Frank is now in an assisted living facility near his home. Frank is in the Kline-Galland Home at 7500 Seward Park Ave S, Seattle 98118. Frank would enjoy a visit from friends.

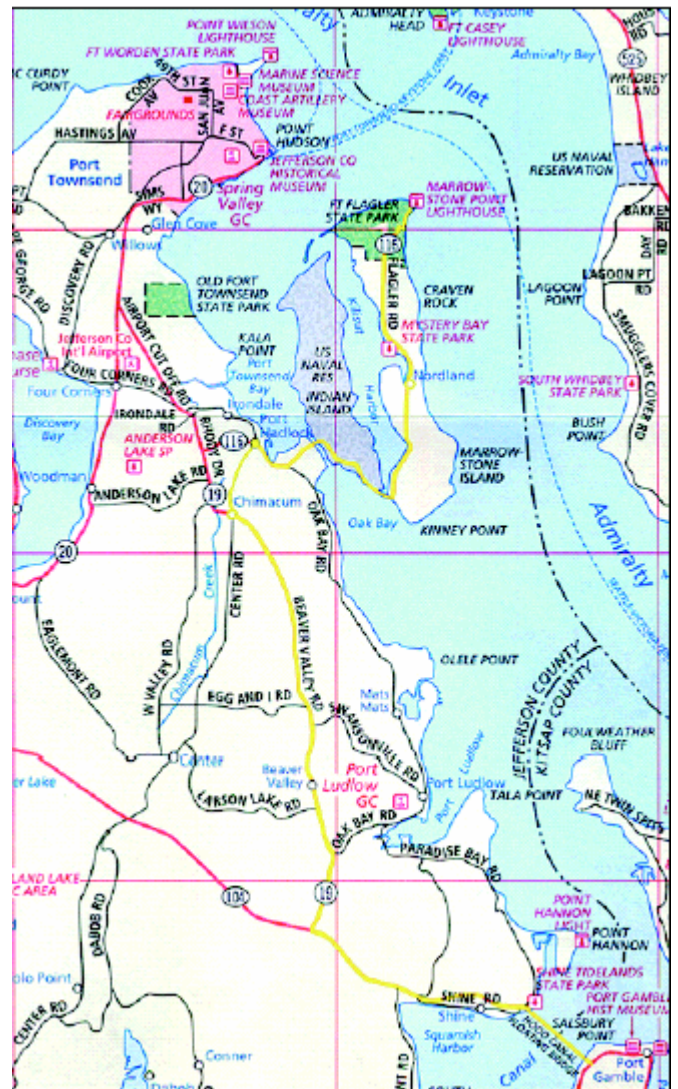
For Sale -- Estate of N7E
Contributed by Frank Tate NA7O

Kenwood TS 430A Station
Narrow CW & SSB Filters
PS 430 Power Supply
AT 250 Auto Tuner
MC 60 Desk Mike & Hand Mike
Asking price -- \$750.
Can sell separately.
Call Frank 206-762-4732

Getting to Fort Flagler

From the Hood Canal Bridge at the north end of Kitsap Peninsula:

- ✧ About five miles after crossing the bridge, turn right onto easily missed Highway 19 (Beaver Valley Road).
 - ✧ Travel 10 miles to the Chimacum four-way stop. Turn right on Chimacum-Center Road.
 - ✧ At the four-way stop in Port Hadlock, turn right onto Oak Bay Road.
 - ✧ Go about one mile and turn left onto State Route 116.
- Fort Flagler is at the end of the road, about 10 mi.



Ham Nets & Events for 2008 -- JUNE / JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
15 2000 -- King Co. ARES 147.08 (Weekly) 2200 -- NW Astronomy Net 145.33 (Weekly)	16 0545 & 1645 -- Weather Net 145.33 (M-F) 1730 -- Puget Sound Traffic Sys. 146.82 (Daily) 1900 -- Seattle ACS 146.90 (WKly)	17 2000 -- Snohomish Co. RACES 146.92 (Weekly)	18 2000 -- General /Tech Info 145.33 (Weekly) 2100 -- NWSOAR Net 146.82 (Weekly)	19 1900 -- M&K Public Service Net 146.82 (Weekly) 2000 -- Computer & Packet Net 145.33 (Weekly)	20 2000 -- Youth Net 145.33 (Weekly) Public Service-- [76-18] Oregon Trail Rally	21 1000 -- M&K Club Meeting, Renton 1300 -- Ham Radio Exams, Renton 2000 -- Amateur TV Net 147.08 (Weekly) Public Service-- Strawberry Festival Parade, Marysville -Juneenth Parade, Seattle
22 1915 -- Kids Net Net 145.49 (Weekly) 2030 -- Snohomish Co. ARES 146.92 (Weekly)	23 1800 -- WA Emerg. HF 3.985 (Weekly) 1830 -- WA ARES 3.985 (Weekly) 1930 -- PSRG 146.96 (Weekly)	24	25	26	27 Field Day: Setup & Potluck, Ft. Flagler	28 0900 -- WA ARES HF Net 3.985 (Weekly) Field Day: Ft. Flagler
29 Field Day: Ft. Flagler	30 2000 -- YL Net 145.33 (Weekly)	01 JULY	02	03	04 Public Service-- 4th of July Kids Parade, Issaquah	05 Public Service-- Wallingford Kiddies Parade, Seattle -Derby Days Parade, Redmond
06	07	08	09	10	11	12 Public Service-- -Mercer Island Parade