



From our Club President...

FleaMarket, Elections & Field Day

by Dick Radford WA7NIW, President

Wow. What a Flea Market. There were a few over 2,500 attendees and a lot of Ham Radio stuff changed hands. I'm sure that there will be more said on that subject elsewhere in this publication.

We have an important Club Officer & Trustee Election coming up, so make sure that you attend the March meeting. As is all too common, we seem to have a bare minimum of nominated persons for the offices that will be available. To keep the club healthy we need to keep new ideas flowing through the Board, so please consider running for an office if you are not already doing so.

I can hardly believe that Field Day is only 3 months away. Personally, I'm ready to get outside and away from the drippy weather we've been having. The club has the Wagon Wheel for an entire week this year, so this is an opportunity to get out and do some camping with the family and share a good time with other club members.

See you at the meeting on March 21.

-- Dick, WA7NIW

FleaMarket Comments

Received by Jim Etwiler KD7BAT, Webmaster

Subject: Thanks!

Hi Folks,

Not sure who all to thank, but I wanted to say thanks for a well executed 'Fest. I am relatively new from the Colorado area and am accustomed to pretty decent fests there.

Seemed well organized, advertised, folks there were accom-modating and would appear it paid of for your club. Its events like this one, planned, advertised and executed like this one appeared to be, that continue to make ham radio a great hobby. Thanks for your efforts and kudos to the folks in your club that pulled this off!

--73, Randy, W0AVV

> Thanks for a great Hamfest. wayne k7zox

FleaMarket Reflections

By Diane Dinkelman KB7DNE

Another FleaMarket has come and gone. It was another fine show. I look back over the years and realize that I have been Chairman of Registration since 1994. Before that, I helped with Registration for two years. I have had many fine people that have called themselves members of my crew. Some are still with me and some are now silent keys that I will never forget.

When I first started helping out, Ray Leslie was chairman. Registration was just inside the loading dock. We then went out into the lobby under the escalators. I think that was the last year we had our Sellers coming in the Gold Gate due to the fact that the line was way out in the street and the Puyallup Police shut us down for tying up traffic. We somehow manage to get the Sellers in and do the show.

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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
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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/groups/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.

March 2009

Elections & A New Destination

by Daniel Stevens KL7WM, Activity Manager

The Mike and Key Club Flea Market was a great success. Treasures have found new homes with different hams. Old friends were met. My brother upgraded to Extra, after twenty years. The after-banquet had great food. WOW, we had a great time.

March is Elections month at Mike and Key ARC. This will take the place of the monthly program during the March 21st meeting. We have a good group of candidates, but there is room for you. The Mike and Key is like a big ship. It has good direction and runs smoothly, but new ideas (cargo) and fresh energy (fuel) are always needed. My dad taught me the value of a different view point. This is our group, so help the club make things happen by volunteering. Make the future Fun! Your ideas are welcome.

The Award Banquet will be Friday, March 27, 2009. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Tickets are available at the March meeting. There will be a No Host Bar at 6 PM. Diner starts at 7 PM. Children are welcome. Dawn Humphrey, KC7YYB, is the Banquet Chair. She has arranged for the Elk Hall in Burien. The address is 14006 1st Avenue South, Burien. Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, the ARRL NorthWestern Division Director will be our main speaker. We had a lot of fun there last year. Be sure to reserve your place.

Our April program will be Data communication. Our Chairman of the Board, Hal Mueller, N3YX, has volunteered to do the presentation. I am looking forward to his digital information. He will describe packet and other modes. Be sure to come April 18.

For the May program Scott Robinson, AG7T, will provide analysis of the 2008 Field Day results with propagation modeling. The results are very interesting. As you know, the Mike and Key club was second in the nation for the 6A group. Can we improve? How? Can we use the information at our own shacks? Come to the May meeting and find out.

The Sumner picnic will be at Liberty Park in Renton during the August 15, 2009 meeting. Do we want to have the business portion of the meeting at the park? Will the weather be nice? There is a shelter there. Let the new Activity Manager know your suggestion. This park is in downtown Renton on the Cedar River at the library very close to our meeting location. We need a person to chair the picnic at this fun location. Come to the club meeting and plan to stay all day.

Several training events are coming up. The MicroHams Digital Conference is on March 21, 2009. Communication Academy is on April 4th and 5th. Plan to attend this great training event. There are lots of classes to attend and great Keynote speakers. I have had a lot of fun there each year. With many subjects and great speakers it is hard to choose. Go to the web site for more information, www.commacademy.org. We will see you at the club meeting on March 21.

Remember, Amateur Radio is FUN!

K7LED Relay

Fleamarket 2009 -- Attendance

By Michael Dinkelman N7WA

Here are the figures for the 2009 event plus the previous five. I had a lot of people telling me it was a smaller crowd this year and yet, it was close to our record from a couple years ago. Had one vendor swear that we had set up fewer tables than in the past.

I guess that's why the crowd attendance figures given on the news for some events always vary so much – it's a tough thing to estimate.

2009

Gate: 2002(includes 169 Jr) Vendors: 502 Total: 2504

2008

Gate: 1831 (includes 137 Jr) Vendors: 532 Total: 2363

2007

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

2006

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

2005

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

2004

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

FleaMarket Reflections... [Continued from Pg 1]

The next year I took over and we all went out in the middle of the fairgrounds into the cold. Our Sellers came in through the Orange Gate and out the Gold Gate. Our Sellers seem to grow so fast that we decided to expand to the second floor. Later we moved our Country Store and the information tables to the second floor. We needed the space for more booths.

Each year we strive to do better than the last year. Our reputation has grown and I have been told by many of our customers that we are the most organized and best run swap meet that they have ever been to. We have a great committee and all the chairs do a great job. I know that my crew has had a big part in this as well as the other volunteers in the show.

I would like to take a moment and thank my crew for the fine job that they do. Wayne Moddison K6DOW has been with me since the beginning. Thanks Wayne for coming back every year. Jim Etwiler KD7BAT has been with me for many years now and later his wife Rusty along with Tressie Hughes KC7BAL and Sally Martin. Thank you all for your loyalties to Registration -- I'm so grateful for your help.

Later we had Wilse Morgon WX7P and Teresa Vaughn AD7CT thank you both for helping again this year. They have both been with me for a few years also. Teresa's daughter Jesse helped us this year for the first time even though her heart belongs to the Pallet area. Thanks for helping us this year.

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March 2009

FleaMarket Reflections... [Continued from Pg 3]

This was Jim Christiansen, K7ND's first year with us and he did a fine job and I hope he will come back again next year. Thank you Jim. I also want to thank my daughter Susan who has helped me for a few years and my grand daughter Corinne, this was her second year.

Jim Telgenhoff, KC7EVY, was ill and could not be here this year. He has been with me for a number of years. He was missed. To my husband Michael Dinkelman, N7WA, thanks for helping in the background, putting out fires, and running information to our customers for me. He has been with me for 30 years and always does a great job.

-- Diane Dinkelman KB7DNE

Celebrate Our March Members!

By Carolyn Pasquier WV7Q, Treasurer

As of March 2009, 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	36 Years
Clinton Pozzi	N7HAM	20 Years
Dan Humphrey	N7QHC	18 Years
Robert Crooker	KB7PEC	16 Years
Kathy Martin	KB7QMO	15 Years
Jack McCall	W7TMW	11 Years
Jim Etwiler	KD7BAT	10 Years
Don Hickman	WF7Z	10 Years
Dorothy Lowell	KB7WSO	9 Years
Bruce Lane	KC7GR	5 Years
Gail Richardson	KI4JVM	4 Years
David Whitlock	KE7QLM	1 Year

M&K Club Challenge 2009 - Winner

By Michael Dinkelman N7WA

Hal N7NW has taken the \$50 prize for the first of the entrants to reach DXCC. That completes the official prize list for the HF Challenge. However, those of you who are in the game, I sure would like to continue hearing about your progress. It got too late to ask around for this months figures and the Fleamarket was a major distraction but I do intend to keep bugging you all in the continuing months.

Just because we gave away the official prizes doesn't mean we can't recognize continuing effort throughout the year. Interesting points might be "most DXCC countries for the year?", "first to make the ARRL Triple Play", or even "the most number of states or countries on more than one band."

K7LED Relay

Putting The LID Back On The Jar

By Mitch Gill, NA7US

Since my many years of endeavoring to be a solid Amateur Radio Operator I have learned that there are times when I have to take the "so" out of the word "solid". Lid... a term used in amateur radio to denote a poor operator; one who is inept at the practice of the art. I unfortunately have to admit that have been many times that I resembled that remark.

That having been said -- and off my chest -- I will now try to do a monthly column for the newsletter on some of my less favorable times as a Ham. Below is my first attempt. Enjoy.

I decided, again, to try QRP. Some of you will remember that I did not have much luck last time but I am older now (not necessarily wiser). So, I finally fixed my 3 element Bobtail that came down with the snow and brought out the FT-817 with the broken pot. Well, I can at least control the radio through software.

I then had to hook up my new K8RA PK2-jr paddle. Hmmm, there are three connections. Why can't they make it easy, like a straight key with only two connections? Oh well, we will just have to guess and see what happens. OK the blue lead on the left, white in the middle and black on the right.

Plug it in and walla walla bing bang, it works! Wait a minute, it's supposed to be dots on the left side not dashes. Oh, well no big deal I will just swap the black and the blue. Nope that didn't work. Ok swap the white and the black. Darn! Ok swap the blue and the black. Wait didn't I do that already?

Half an hour later I finally found the right combination and I was ready to go on 20 meters. I turned on the radio and started tuning through the CW portion of the band. Nothing. Then the 30 meter band; a few stations but nothing strong. 40 meters was too noisy so back to 20 meters. Ahhhhhh. A station here in 7 land calling CQ, hopefully Montana or Wyoming.

I pounced on the station the second he ended CQ and sent my call several times. I waited nervously for the call and lo and behold, it came. I was excited that at 5 watts I could get all the way to Puyallup??? Did he send Puyallup? Drat. I think I'll go back to 2M. I can go farther on our Club Repeater than Puyallup!

Fleamarket Lost and Found

By Michael Dinkelman N7WA

A number of items were left behind at the Fleamarket. There is a bag of older electronics books. Two pairs of reading glasses. One pair of Sunglasses. Two pairs of gloves -- one brown cotton and one leather. A desk microphone. A rather archaic Tandy Disk drive. I'll be bringing all of this to the next club meeting. In addition, Frank AH7HA lost his cell phone down there during teardown and cleanup. If anybody picked it up, please let him know. One last thing, the ARRL donated three books which were to go into the monthly raffle stash. They seem to have disappeared.

March 2009

Mike&Key General Meeting Minutes

Meeting held 02-21-2009

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*?

Michelle's call sign was corrected on the January General Meeting minutes.

Motion made by Sam N7RHE and Gil W7GIL seconds. Motion passes.

Officer Reports:

President – Dick WA7NIW: nothing new to report.

Mike K7OV reported SK Bruce Hulse's widow has been contacted regarding disposition of his equipment which will be available at the Country Store at the Flea Market.

Vice President – Tim K7ANE: Membership applications: Dean KE7WCQ and Melissa KE7WCR Sherry. The membership approved their application.

Secretary – Ivy WA7IVY: nothing new to report

Treasurer – Carolyn WV7Q: The club's books are in good order. Audit committee met this morning and conducted the audit. Carolyn reminded the membership that the Flea Market coming up funds all of our activities, and she encouraged everyone's participation.

Activity Manager – Daniel KL7WM: Raffle today. Awards banquet will be March 27, 2009 at the Burien Elks Lodge in Burien.

Chairman of the Board – Hal N3YX: not present.

Radio Officer – Paul N7DOH: not present.

Relay Editor – Gary KG7KU: Articles in the relay are always welcome, and thanks those who have contributed. Gary KG7KU thanked Dave KB7PSN for his help this month. There were some minor changes to the Relay since it was originally published; the corrected version is now online. There will be a new roster published in the near future. If you would like to receive your Relay by email, it would save the club a great deal; please sign up for online distribution.

Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: The web is up to date. If you notice anything wrong on the website, please let Jim know.

Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning – Robert KD7WNV: nothing new to report.

K7LED Relay

Facilities and Publicity –: Jeff KE7FRJ: not present

Education and Training –: Hal N3YX: not present

Public Service – Robert KD7WNV. The booklet is off to the printer. This year it will be bright yellow.

Thanks to the committee members who handled content, ads, and final layout: Dick WA7NIW, Brendon KD7IKV, Ivy WA7IVY, Dave KB7PSN, Steve KD7IQL, Gary KG7KU, Dan N7QHC & Dawn N7VWH. Please give our advertisers feedback thanking them for their ads.

Technical and Special Interest – Steve KD7IQL: nothing new to report.

Other Committees

Audit Committee: Sam N7RHE: The audit of the 2008 books has been conducted, and everything was in great shape.

VE Exams -- Scott AG7T: There were 14 people who attended the testing session in January. The fee is now \$15 this year.

Banquet: Dawn N7VWH. Dawn N7VWH has the tickets, \$15 each or 2 for \$25. They will cost more at the door, \$20 per ticket. The speaker will be Jim Fenstermacher of the ARRL.

Field Day -- Steve KD7IQL / Brendan KD7IKV:

Information on Field Day will be covered in our May program. We are doing well; sanicans have been ordered; we are hoping to have a new 15 meter beam. The barracks will have a deposit system this year. There is more information about this in the Relay. In April, Rita KD7CNU will start taking reservations for the Barracks. No new information about the closure of the Hood Canal Bridge. We need a cook for Field Day. Michelle WA7PVE volunteered to cook.

Picnic – Daniel KL7WM: The picnic will be on August 15th in Liberty Park (near the library) in Renton. A chair needs to be selected/appointed/drafted to coordinate the effort. We have the site from 9am to 2pm. A suggestion was made that we have the meeting at the park. Call Daniel if you want to be chair.

Flea Market: Hal N7NW/Mike N7WA: This is our 28th flea market this year. This is the subject of today's program.

Old Business:

Election Nominations:

President: Dick WA7NIW;

Vice President: Tim K7ANE; Jeff W7WWA

Secretary: Ivy WA7IVY;

Treasurer: no nominations; this position requires pre-approval by the board. David KB7PSN,

Activity Manager: Jim N7MU; Michelle WA7PVE;

Trustee #1, #3, #5: Michele WA7PVE; Jim N7MU;

Brendon KD7IKV; Jeff W7WWA; Robert KE7MER

Nominations will be open until just prior to the election

Alligator Award – Dean N7NKO still holds the award.

New Business –

Sam N7RHE. There is a new amateur radio club in Kent in support of emergency communications, the

[Continued on Page 6]

March 2009

M&K General Mtg Minutes... [Cont'd from Pg 5]

Kent Communications Support Team K7CST, and they are looking for new members for this group.

Dan N7QHC also mentioned that SeaTac has a similar organization. Dawn N7VWH added that these groups are for emergency preparedness in support of their local community – there are several in the area. Daniel KL7WM recommends that if you are interested, find a local group. It is best to connect with these teams before an emergency happens.

Good of the Order –

The board met briefly to consider the applications of two prospective members, so they could be voted into membership before the flea market (a prerequisite for their volunteering in the Ticket booth).

The Mike & Key Board next meets on the first Wednesday of the month, March 4th at 7:00 pm, at the Salvation Army in Renton.

The next Mike & Key General Membership meeting is the third Saturday, March 21st, 2009.

Little John WA7HQQ made a motion to close the meeting; Daniel KL7WM seconded. The motion was passed. Meeting adjourned 11:05.

9 guests; 41 members

Attested: Ivy Nelson-Groves WA7IVY – Secretary

Mike&Key Board Meeting Minutes

Held 03-04-2009

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 – Daniel Stevens (KL7WM)

__ 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) Chairman of the Board

Visitors in attendance: Dave Smith KB7PSN; Dan N7QHC and Dawn KC7YYB Humphries, Alan Hughes KB7SVU; Jim Etwiler KD7BAT; Loras Gussmann; Kathy Martin KB7QMO; Michael Hansen KG7MX

Chairman Hal called the meeting to order 7:04 p.m.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the previous board meeting was made by Steve KD7IQL and seconded by Frank NA7O. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

Chairman of the Board- Hal N3YX: Nothing new to report

President – Dick WA7NIW: Public Service booklets have been picked up. 10 boxes of 300 = 3000. Robert KD7WNV led a short discussion about the distribution of the Public Service booklets. We want to hold back 3-4 boxes from the flea market. We will monitor their distribution better this year. If any group wants more than about 20, they need to speak with us.

K7LED Relay

Vice President – Tim K7ANE: We have three applications for membership David Fields, KD7TTI; Nicholas Dondon, N7DCL; Laura Bendit (no call). All were approved by the board.

Secretary – Ivy WA7IVY: Nothing new to report.

Treasurer – Carolyn WV7Q: The club's books are in good order. There were some questions about the forms that the City of Renton asked us to fill out so we can get paid for their advertisement. Carolyn read a letter that was sent to the club that she didn't know what to do with; Alan KB7SVU offered to take the action item. Vetting process for Treasurer Candidates: Kathy Martin KB7QMO willing to back up; Dawn Humphries KC7YYB willing to back up; Dave Smith KB7PSN willing to be treasurer; Alan Hughes KB7SVU willing to back up; Robert Grinnell KD7WNV willing to be a backup and to fill out his term as Trustee. All were approved by the board.

Activity Manager – Daniel KL7WM: Flea Market on Saturday; Banquet coming up on the 27th of March at the Elk's club in Burien. The next several programs are already arranged.

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

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

Webmaster- Jim KD7BAT-There was a question at the last meeting about the swap page-it has been updated.

Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning- Frank NA7O-Nothing new to report.

Facilities –: Jeff KE7FRJ: Nothing new to report. Jeff is withdrawing his name for nomination for trustee.

Education –: Hal N3YX: Nothing new to report.

Public Service – Robert KD7WNV: Nothing new to report other than what was discussed during the president's report. Robert would like to get the Public Service net going again.

Technical – Steve KD7IQL: Our QSL manager was in the hospital recently and has changed his email address; this will be updated shortly.

Field Day -- Steve KD7IQL / Brendan KD7IKV: Field day preparations are going well; the 15 meter antenna needs to be rebuilt; (4) Sanicans have been ordered and will be there on Thursday; Michelle is cooking; we will need to purchase a new tent for GOTA.

Banquet - If anyone has an award recommendation for the Banquet, contact Steve KD7IQL.

Old Business- No Old Business.

New Business- No New Business.

Good of the Order- Nothing for the Good of the Order. There being no further business, Hal adjourned the meeting at 8:43 pm.

Attested: Ivy Nelson-Groves WA7IVY, Secretary

Ham Radio 'Puppy' For Sale

By Michael Dinkelman N7WA

New looking Icom IC-V8000 Mobile rig. This puppy puts out 75 watts. If you can't hit the repeater with this baby, you're out of State or East of the mountains. The first \$125 takes it away.

March 2009

Sights & Sounds by Sunrise

by Dawn Humphrey KC7YYB

Well folks, the M&K Annual Awards Banquet is just around the corner, and by the early reports, we will be celebrating a great FleaMarket. Our speaker is NW ARRL Division Director, Jim Fenstermaker K9JF.

For the fun and excitement our own King "TUT" as he was formerly known will be providing the surprises. If you have any "special" award that you'd like to present contact Mitch NA7US or our Activities chair, Daniel KL7WM, so they can put you on the list.

A few more people took advantage of the 2 for \$25.00 banquet ticket price, but those of you who have procrastinated, will be paying the \$15.00 each at the March Club meeting, and \$20.00 at the door. We will have to give a headcount by the 23rd, so I'm hoping that everyone will have gotten their tickets by this meeting at the latest.

With winter keeping such a ferocious grip, I'm hoping that we will have really good weather on Friday March 27. Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible. It'll be a fun evening with a chance to get on your party clothes. --73 KC7YYB Dawn

Mike & Key ARC

Invites you to visit the NEW Club Reference & Lending Library

Volumes include the newest editions of:

- ARRL Handbook
- ARRL DXCC Handbook
- ARRL Antenna Book
- ON4UN Low-Band DXing
- Tech Class Manual
- Em-Comm Handbook
- General Class Manual
- VHF Digital Handbook
- Extra Class Manual
- ARRL Operating Manual

Due to the gracious hosting of Tokuzo AD7JA, the library is located at his business, Skyway Radio & TV Service, 11818 Renton Avenue So., Seattle, WA 98178, in the Skyway neighborhood, across from Skyway Park Bowling. (Has 5-element Yagi & tower)

Club members can check-out books for two weeks at a time, or duplicate individual articles as needed, any time between 12 noon and 4 pm, Mon thru Fri, Saturday, 12 noon to 3 pm, except on Club meeting Saturdays.

Donations of select ham-related books, equipment operating and service manuals, etc., in good condition, and cash for library fund are gratefully accepted.

Driving Directions:

From the North or West: I-5 exit 158 (MLK), go east across MLK up hill on S. Ryan Way to end, turn R on 51st Ave S, turn L on So. Bangor St. (0.2 mi) then R on Renton Ave So. to shop (0.7 mi), on left.

From the South or East: I-405 exit 2A (167), north on Rainier Ave S, L on Renton Ave Ext. (Airport Way on right), continue up hill to shop, on right.

Please park at South fence, between shop & storage company.

K7LED Relay

Seventh District QSO Party

By Michael Dinkelman N7WA

It's not too early to start thinking about the 7th District QSO Party. The past two years, we have put K7LED on the air for this event from the N7WA Flamethrower® east of Kent. Last year, we even took first place in our class with AB7HA (then KD7QER), KD7IQL, KD7UI, and KE7RLJ on the mike and lonely ol' me on CW.

This is a great warmup for Field Day or to learn about contesting in general. It's not a serious operation, it's a mentoring and teaching opportunity.

We especially like to see HF radio 'virgins' get on the air. At this station, you will be loud and the rest of the country (outside the 7th district) will be trying to work us. The 7th District QSO Party runs May 2-3. We usually run K7LED on that Saturday. You can come out for an hour, or come out for the day.

Oh, by the way, experienced contesters are welcomed too. If it sounds like fun, mark your calendar.

The Dangers of Contesting

By Michael Dinkelman N7WA

I arrived home last week to find a package from the W7 bureau. The picture below shows what was inside.

All I can think is that somewhere, in the bureau system, there must have been a holdup in cards. In that pile are cards from 1999 to 2006. I'm guessing that 75% of them are from Japan alone. All I can say is thank goodness for computerized logs. Fortunately, it only took a week to process the outgoing batch. Which leaves me with another problem.



When I started with the pile, I figured I had two to three years worth of cards left in my stash. I'm definitely under a year now and it could be a lot less. As such, I am working on a new order. I do my own design and buy in bulk from Costco. You can see the primary image below.



However, I've become a little tired of the caption I had in the bubble so I am starting a little contest looking for help. What phrase would you put in the bubble? I'm willing to provide a \$20 prize to the winner. I prefer something short and amusing but if you can grab my attention with something else – go for it. Multiple entries are welcome. Be creative.

2009 -- Ham Nets & Events -- MARCH / APRIL

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 (Weekly)	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)	21 1000 -- M&K Club Meeting, Renton 1230 -- Ham Radio Exams, Renton 2000 -- Amateur TV Net 147.08 (Weekly)
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 1800 -- M&K Awards Banquet, Eik's Hall 14006 1 st Avenue S, Burien	28 0900 -- WA ARES HF Net 3.985 (Weekly) Public Service-- Woodinville- All Fools Day Parade
29	30 2000 -- YL Net 145.33 (Weekly)	31	01 --APRIL-- M&K Board Mtg	02	03	04 Public Service-- Daffodil Parade- Tacoma-Puyallup-Summer-Orting MS Walk America- Snohomish, Tacoma
05 Public Service-- MS Walk America- Seattle	06	07	08	09	10 Relay Articles Due	11