



From our Club President...

Office Nomination Opportunities

by Dick Radford WA7NIW, President

Wow, here we are in February already. This means lots of things are in the works for the Mike and Key. By the time you read this the Public Service Committee will have finished putting this year's Special Events and Information Guide together and it should be at the printer getting prepared for its release date at the Flea Market, which brings us to event number two.

Please, make sure you are signed up to help out at the Flea Market. This is the club's big fund raising event of the year and the single reason that we are able to participate in Field Day, have our annual banquet, picnic and other activities without a big out of pocket expense for each of us at each event, and of course our continuing low dues. The more people work at the Flea Market, the less there is for each to do and the more fun each has, so if you are not already signed up, there is a place for you. Remember, not all the jobs require a lot of physical work, so there is something for everyone. Details will be presented during the program after this month's meeting.

Another thing that will be happening this month is that nominations for club offices continue. There are openings for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Activities Manager, and two Trustee positions. There is a lot of talent and ability out there among our members, and also ideas about what direction the club should go in the future. According to the survey there are lots of people interested in serving the club in a leadership role.

I'm sure each of us knows someone who would be good in at least one of the open positions. I'm also sure that some who would be great assets to the club are reluctant to nominate themselves and need someone to break the ice for them. Just make sure to get their permission before you nominate them, that way they aren't surprised and might be more likely to accept the nomination.

See you at the meeting February 20.

--Dick, WA7NIW

M&K Awards Banquet 2010

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

Coming up in March, we shall be holding the Mike & Key ARC Annual Awards Banquet. This is an opportunity to recognize the folks that make this Club run. This year, the banquet will be held March 27th at HD Hotspurs in Kent (315 South Washington). We've had a number of great banquets in this location in the past and this year's should be no exception.

This year, your hosts will be Linda Jordan (just voted in last month if you don't recognize the name) and I. Happy Hour begins at 5PM in the Hotspurs Lounge. Linda has arranged for a Jazz Duo to help get you in the mood and I expect the bar may have other inducements if you are so inclined.

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

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.

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M&K February Meeting & Activities

by Jim Aigner N7MU, Activity Chair

The January meeting program featured two short, but useful presentations. One was a description of the Island Trunk System, a network of linked VHF/UHF repeaters on Vancouver Island. According to Dick Radford WA7NIW the system offers surprisingly good coverage for residents and boaters along the island's coastal waters.

The other presentation and demonstration was made by Mike Dinkelman N7WA on the use of the FCC's online Universal Licensing System (ULS). He showed how to access the system to renew your license or modify information such as your address.

This month's program is a traditional one each February. New members and first time volunteers will appreciate the chance to find out what it takes to host the largest, most successful electronics flea market in the region. Hal Goodell N7NW and Mike Dinkelman N7WA will provide the latest details for volunteers and look for your commitment to help with this important club effort.

Our annual Awards Banquet is in the able hands of co-chairs Linda Jordan and Mike Dinkelman N7WA. The event will be held at HD Hotspurs in Kent on Saturday evening, March 27th. Tickets will be available at the February meeting for \$14 each.

This month we offer some door prizes that have been popular in the past. They include a temperature-controlled solder station with analog control, a custom membership badge, a Ramsey HR20C 20 meter all mode receiver kit, a 2009-2010 repeater directory, a digital multi-meter, an assortment of heat shrink material, and a handy little wire cutter.



Photo: These door prizes await you at the Club's February 20th General meeting .

'See you there!' --Jim N7MU

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Flea Market 2010 - Updates

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

As I write this, our annual Flea Market is exactly '4' weeks away. The old timers know it is time to get ready for the biggest gathering of Ham Radio operators in the Pacific Northwest. You neophytes need to just trust that this is an event you do not want to miss.

At this point, I have exactly 105 people signed up to work. That's a bare minimum. A count of 120 would be better. That said, we're actually looking pretty good on Saturday though it's skimpy in Announcing. For Friday, Announcing is anemic all day and Security is pretty much non-existent. Hopefully we can fill those holes at the next meeting.

Remember that even if you signed up to work a specific shift, if you can help out for Setup on Friday, please do. We start at 9AM and we have 300 tables to setup and a couple hundred chairs. Then there is a host of activities other activities. In return, we'll buy you lunch (pizza and pop).

Tear-down is another area we need for people to stay around for starting at 3PM on Saturday. We have to get out everything in 3 hours which took all day Friday to setup. For setup (and the event itself), you'll want to park in the GOLD parking lot at the North East corner of the fairgrounds. If the gold gate (under the cow heads) is not open, you can enter through the Administration office just west of the gold gate.

Badges for those who have already signed up will be available at the February meeting along with a copy of your schedule. If you don't pick them up at the Club meeting, they will be at the Pavilion (that's where we hold the event) during Friday setup and at the Gold gate itself after 2PM on Friday.

At the Club program in February we will go through the final details for the event. You'll see the layout, the schedule, lots of pictures from past events, and have a chance to ask questions. If you are old timer, you probably already know the drill but stay around to help answer the questions. If you are a 'newbie,' you'll want to stay and learn the basics.

So, what do you get out of all of this? Well, it's a lot of fun and the camaraderie is excellent. You see a lot of old and new faces. You see a lot of equipment coming through the door before anyone else. There is the excitement and the contentment of a job well done. There is also the refilling of the club coffers which fund the repeater and the Club's activities.

Awards Banquet... (Continued from Page 1)

About 6PM, we will be having a BBQ buffet dinner in the banquet room. The menu includes Carved Smoked Beef Brisket, Alder Smoked Chicken, BBQ St. Louis Ribs, Baby Red Potato Salad, Fresh Garden Salad, Freshly Steamed Vegetables, BBQ Baked Beans, Cornbread & Honey, and all the fixings! Dinner includes soft drink, coffee, or tea. (Note: while this is a buffet, it isn't considered all-you-can-eat).

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Flea Market 2010: Country Store - Time to Recycle your Gear

by Jim Aigner N7MU, Country Store Chair

If it's February, it must be time to inventory my radio gear. I look forward to this time of year when I sort out the stuff I don't use anymore and list the tools, supplies, and equipment I'd like to have in my shack. Some hams operate with the "buy and hold" strategy; I like to "buy, try, and recycle" when I have no further use for an item.

You can too. Volunteer to work at the Flea Market and drop your equipment off at the Country Store for us to sell for you, commission free, while you browse to pick up the items on your wish list. And stop in to shop at the Country Store during the show. Maybe some of my old stuff is on your list. You'll find the prices lower than most other places.

You can list up to 10 items for sale by completing the consignment form. Fill out the form complete with asking and minimum prices. Then bring your items through registration on Friday between 2:00 and 7:30 pm or on Saturday anytime after 5:30 am. Most reasonably-priced electronic and amateur equipment, software, and notebook computers draw lots of interest. But please don't list any CRT monitors or anything else you aren't willing to pick up if it doesn't sell.

Experienced Country Store staff will display and sell your items. If they sell, you can expect your check for the proceeds in about a week. In the event they do not sell, you can pick up your items personally from the Country Store after 3:00 pm or have them delivered on a pallet to your waiting truck in the loading area. You will need an admission ticket to attend the Saturday event unless you enter to retrieve your unsold items after 3:00 pm.

Whether you are a veteran of past Country Store sales or a willing newcomer, we can use your help, especially on Friday. Knowledge of electronics and amateur gear and its value is very helpful, but not an absolute requirement. So don't let that discourage you from asking for an assignment.

Sellers can get an advanced copy of the consignment form from the K7LED website at <http://www.mikeandkey.org/filea.htm>. If you can help for a few hours on Friday or Saturday, contact me or Mike Dinkelman for an assigned time slot (Jim Aigner, N7MU, 253 630-2752 or jimaigner@comcast.net).
Jim N7MU

Awards Banquet... (Continued from Page 3)

Following dinner, we'll have the program and the official awards announcement. This is a great time for those "unofficial" awards too if you have any to impart. Ham and non-ham door prizes will cap the evening.

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If you have a preference for vegetarian fare, I'll readily admit this isn't the friendliest 'veggie' place to dine. You might want to check over the online restaurant menu or call them to see if there are options that might suit you. Use the following link: (<http://www.hdhotspursbbq.com/dinner.htm>).

For specific requests not readily apparent from other source, talk to me and we'll work things out so you can order individually and get the same discount that the buffet diners will get. This offer is only for vegetarians.

Banquet tickets will be available at the next two Club meetings (see Linda) or by mail order. They are \$14 a person. This should be one to remember and where else can you get dinner for two plus a show for less than \$30? Get your tickets early!

See Spot. See Spot Run.

by Michael Dinkelman N7WA

Finally!

Those of us that have had to deal with the longest solar minimum since radio was invented are finally getting some relief. As of this writing, there have only been two "spotless" days since the new year began. Every time a spot grouping seems to begin to disappear over the horizon of the sun, a new one seems to be coming from the other side or just pops up in the middle of the solar disk.

While we haven't seen a great rise in solar flux yet, it has popped up as high as 90 in mid-January and seems to be running along in the mid-70's to mid-80's these days. Of course, this new activity raises the chances for solar flares which will hurt the quiet conditions we've experienced on the low bands but I'll be happy to get some 10M and 15M action in trade.

For those of you who are HF-challenged, it might be a good time to start thinking about that upgrade to General or even Extra. Talking to the world is a heck of a lot more fun than skulking around on repeaters and that'll become easier as the high bands open up.

If you'd like to check out the continuing action on the Sun, I recommend the SpaceWeather site at <http://www.spaceweather.com/>. It's also a good place to get info on possible auroral activity, meteors, satellite flyby's, and general info related to the Sun-Earth environment.

If you are a real solar freak, you can check out the STEREO site. <http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/> These two spacecraft currently cover most of the sun and will soon be able to watch the entire heliosphere (360 degrees) as they get into final position leading and trailing the earth's orbit.

I've got my fingers crossed that we are finally working our way up to solar maximum. Predictions are for a relatively low peak value but after several years of minimum activity, beggars can't be choosy.

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Meet New M&K Club Member Ed Alden KF7GBD



I was a ham as a teenager and later in college, first as a crystal controlled Novice, then later as a General. I homebrewed a 3-band (10-15-20) vertical out of the ARRL Antenna Handbook, to sit on my parents' roof on a crowded lot in Seattle's University District. But marriage, grad school, and then kids occupied me for about 40 years.

Now I'm retired and we want to do some traveling by car, but cell phones don't reach AAA from the backroads. So I've enjoyed getting re-licensed and am AMAZED at the new technology. I've actually seen parts of my old rig in ham club museums!

I'm working on getting set up for portable (not mobile) operation on HF, 6m, and 2m, and look forward to being on the air once good weather returns.

HAM Activity Increases with RAMROD Bicycle Rally

by George Thornton AE7G

The Ride Around Mt. Rainier in One Day (RAMROD) bicycle rally is the most challenging one-day fully supported bicycle rally in the Pacific Northwest. The traditional course circumnavigates Mount Rainier from Enumclaw to Enumclaw, and involves 150 miles and 10,000 ft. of climbs. This year marks the 27th consecutive year that this event has operated, and HAMS have been supporting RAMROD almost from the beginning. Last year 27 HAMS participated in the event, which occurs on the last Thursday in July.

The presence of a 14,000 ft mountain in the middle of the course poses unique challenges to radio communication, and so far we have not been able to maintain a reliable net control operation. All of the communication has been on VHF and UHF amateur frequencies. We have made use of available established repeaters, and we set up temporary repeaters at several elevated sites along the course. Reception remains spotty to nonexistent in some locations, so mobile HAMS generally have developed skills of self-reliance. Three years ago we attempted to

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link some 220 band repeaters (224.76 and 223.92) that are usually used for Search and Rescue operations. The linking worked for a while, but the radio traffic during RAMROD is so heavy that the repeaters could not support the duty cycle. When they dropped out, we were forced back to fending for ourselves.

This year we are starting an experiment with supplementing the usual VHF/UHF repeaters with 6 meter and HF options. We are hoping that NVIS communication paths will bounce signals over the mountain and allow for reliable and practical mobile communication. While many of the volunteers do not have the license or equipment to operate on those frequencies, we hope to have enough operators to allow the forwarding of important messages between remote areas of the course and the ride control center in Enumclaw.

HAMS have been of huge value in supporting this event. They provide nearly all of the sag support for disabled riders, as well as safety patrol and warning for adverse conditions. They have on a number of occasions been the first responders to medical emergencies. Last year road conditions required a detour. HAMS were placed in charge of several uniquely hazardous sites along the detour and because of their well thought out activities these areas proved completely safe.

Member George Thornton AE7G has been serving as RAMROD director since 2007. Gene and Fran Underwood (W7AKA and N7FWZ) have coordinated the RAMROD HAM operations for the past 25 years. Until last year Bob Donnell KD7NM, had been a regular participant and our Elmer. His key became silent unexpectedly last year and he will be missed.

If anyone wants to assist with this remarkable event, or if you have some technical ideas for us, please contact George AE7G.

WA Legislative Watch- 2010 Session

by David Smith KB7PSN

During the 2010 Washington State Legislative Session, State Senator Eide (D-Federal Way) has introduced Senate Bill 6345, a bill that would make "the use of a cell phone while driving a primary traffic offense." Current law makes this a "secondary offense". The Bill has been introduced primarily for safety purposes. If included as part of the RCW, it essentially would duplicate what is currently in affect in the State of Oregon.

Of note within this bill, the following language appears in Section 3.3 ... "[this bill] DOES NOT restrict the operation of an amateur radio station by a person who holds a valid amateur radio operator license issued by the Federal Communications Commission." On February 5, this bill passed the State Senate 33 to 15, one person not voting.

The 2010 regular Legislative Session ends on March 11. If signed into law, this bill may become effective January, 2011.

[Reference: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2009-10/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/6345.pdf>]

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Ham Soiree IV

by Jeff Wandling W7BRS

I was host to a Ham Soiree at my QTH on January 23. New hams and, yes, even the "two-meter- curmudgeons" were invited to share questions and answers on simple antennas, operating equipment, and home-brewing topics. The coffee was hot, and 20 over S9 in strength. The staple of hams, donuts, plentiful. And the Hams who showed up to my wilderness QTH were pleased with the layout.

There were several Hams present: Tony W7DUV, Dean N7NKO and Shiela, Little John WA7HQG, Randy KF7EKB, Erik KE7UYC, Michael KC7QYR, Vannody N7EAM, Laura KF7ELG, Russell KF7AQR, Carl KF7ESX. Others might have been there but I lost track.

Several questions centered around wire antennas -- how to raise them and what lengths to cut the wire. The consensus of course was higher is better, and longer is better. But, it depends on each Ham's particular ground layout. Having trees or towers helps. In lieu of trees or towers, the next best antenna to try it was agreed is a vertical with radials. We discussed verticals with or without radials. It's the authors opinion that a vertical with radials (designed to work with radials) is better than one that is not.

"Counterpoise" verticals are a compromise antenna. We took a short walk outside the shack to see the various antenna designs that I had made and compared them to what we had discussed. The simplest wire antenna I had was a horizontal dipole suspended between two trees, fed with coax to a 1:1 current balun. This performs well. Put up high, the radiation angle is low enough to work modestly with a lot of DX.

The other wire antenna we looked at was a wire loop. It is square shaped, horizontally arranged. The length of wire is approx 380ft fed in one corner with window-line to an antenna tuner. The built in 4:1 balun of the tuner is in-line.

The comparison was made between the QRN heard on the vertical (GAP Titan) or the horizontal loop antenna. We discussed the differences between atmospheric noise vs. man-made noise and the kind of polarization of each kind of noise. Horizontal antennas have lower amounts of man-made noise, but higher amounts of atmospheric noise.

Reverse is true for vertical antennas. The locale of the ham is of course a variable in deciding what kind of antenna to choose -- horizontal or vertically polarized. We also took a look at the satellite mast I use. We saw the 2m, and 70cm beams on the Az-El rotators, and examined the 1.2Ghz helical antenna. We talked about scattering signal off Mt. Rainer for 1.2Ghz work -- even with low power less than 5W, it's effective.

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We talked about selecting coax. Using RG-8X, RG-213 and LMR-400 for feed lines. We looked at different kinds of connectors for coax. Clamp and solder type PL-259 and the sources of getting these parts.

Discussions about antennas, radios and amplifiers also were occurring. We saw the 'innards' of my home brew linear and some hams asked questions about the RF deck, loading coil, air-variable caps for tune and load. We saw some sample parasitic suppression techniques.

The shack was big enough to keep most everyone inside out of the weather, but it was cozy. A basic question was raised involving the choice of the first HF radio. I had my bias towards the radios I've owned and currently operate. It is a tough question to answer because every ham has a unique style of operating and goals on HF bands. In general though there are two classes of HF rigs to start with. One is the level represented by the Yaesu FT-897D or I-Com 718.

Both serve well for HF. I prefer the FT-897D over the IC-817 because of the longer list of bands it works with and it's rugged portability. "For a few dollars more", the next class up would be either the barefoot Elecraft K3, or Kenwood TS-2000, or similar radios. In the 1200 to 1800 dollar range you get a better receiver, but nothing as good as the K3 or even K2. There are different opinions, and we talked about the pro/con of deciding the best radio to start with. For the dollar, the better receiver is what I recommended and the K2 and K3 are in that category. For purely appliance operation, the TS-2000 and the similar Yaesu FT-2000 (with some differences) are also good beginning HF radios with excellent receivers compared to the entry level radios.

The basic advice I gave to the question was, spend what you can afford. But don't forget that if saving a little longer lets you get a better receiver then by all means wait until you get the best receiver you can afford.

The general feeling I had near the end of the gathering is that there's a lot of interest on the part of new hams to see other shacks. It serves multiple purposes to continue sharing access to your shack with new and old hams. You cut through the confusing fog of data, tables, and formula when you can put a new ham in the seat in front of a radio and work stations. You show in an instant how to listen, tune, load up and work stations. I hope that the new hams who were present lost the butterflies they may have had and realize that a modest station like mine (FT-897D) and modest antennas (Home Depot wire antenna) can work quite well.

It would serve the club and the organization of hams in our area well if there were repeated ham gatherings at real shacks doing real QSO. These gatherings answer simple questions that shouldn't prevent the new ham from working new contacts or even selecting their first radio. **[Continued on Page 7]**

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Ham Soiree IV... [Continued from Page 6]

It was my pleasure to host the "Ham Soiree" (number 4 for me), and I hope that soon another ham in the club will invite newcomers to their QTH for another perspective on this fun and rewarding hobby. This meeting was a spin-out result of being in the

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position of helping to "Elmer" new hams. I'm glad for the opportunity to share what I know and learn more from the questions and fellow experts who contribute to the discussion. It's your turn to host a Ham Soiree at your QTH. See you on the bands.

73 & DX - Jeff Wandling W7BRS

Special Focus: Elmers' Corner... by Jim Aigner, N7MU



There has been some good mentoring going on this month via email. In fact, some of it is worth keeping. The coordinators are considering a plan to capture their latest comments on several topics and store them in a "wiki" so everyone can benefit. There'll be more on that later.

Jeff Wandling W7BRS held his open-shack for new hams on January 23rd. Those who attended found the tour very informative [See the article: 'Ham Soiree IV' in this Relay].

Each month we'll publish one or two of the items from the Elmers' Wiki. These first two are from Tim K7ANE Kane's Emergency Communications area.

Q: I'm interested in participating in Emergency Communications in my area. Who should I contact?

A: Many cities and organizations have emergency communications (EmComm) teams who provide radio support during times of disaster or other need. Each has their own requirements, training, and culture. Only you (and they) can determine which one will be the best fit for you. Among the most active EmComm groups in the King County and metro area are:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| ● Seattle ACS | Mark Shepherd 206-684-5027 | http://seattleacs.com/ |
| ● Renton | Mindi Mattson, 425-430-7041 | http://rentonwa.gov/emergencies/default.aspx?id=1384 |
| ● Shoreline ACS | Bob Phelps | http://www.shorelineacs.org/ |
| ● Bellevue EARS | Vernon Owens 425-452-6033 | VOwens@bellevuewa.gov |
| ● Mercer Island MIRO | Dave Cook 206-230-0397 | http://www.mirohams.org/ |
| ● Federal Way | Ray Gross 253-835-2712 | mray.gross@cityoffederalway.com |
| ● Red Cross Comm Team | Kevin Kopp 206-720-5296 | WW7RC@seattleredcross.org |
| ● Medical Services Team | Marina Zuetell 206 524-6567 | http://www.ww7mst.org/ |

Q: How old must I be to participate in EmComm?

A: It varies from team to team. Some require their members to be a minimum of 18 years old, some 21.

-- The Matrix --

Area	Elmer Coordinator	Email	Phone	Also...
Homebrew, DX, antennas	Jeff Wandling, W7BRS	dew7brs@gmail.com	206-605-2278	New hams, satellite work
Beams and Towers	Alan Hughes, KB7SVU	kb7svu@juno.com	253-840-4947	Beam antennas and towers, safety
Contesting	Mike Dinkelman, N7WA	mwdink@clearwire.net	253-631-3756	Contest operations
CW	Mike Dinkelman, N7WA	mwdink@clearwire.net	253-631-3756	Learn CW, operating proficiency
Digital Modes	Andy Lengenfelder, KE7ZGR	ke7zgr@arrl.net	425-430-1804	All digital modes, software, TNCs
D-STAR	Steve Hatch, WA7DAD	stephen@hatch.net	206-851-8842	D-STAR technology and operation
Emergency Comm	Tim Kane, K7ANE	k7ane@arrl.net	206-251-7467	CERT, ARES, organizations & Equipmt
HF Operation	Dale Tongue AC7NP	dale.tongue@gmail.com	425-432-4254	Equipment, Antennas, and best HF operating practices
New Members	Dick Radford, WA7NIW	wa7niw@arrl.net	425-828-9791	Getting started, equipment selection and operation
QRP	Frank Qualls, AB7HA	franklin_qualls@hotmail.com	425-802-1837	Low power operation, design and construction
VHF/UHF Operation	Dave Smith, KB7PSN	kb7psn@yahoo.com	425-235-5095	6 meters and up; radios, antennas, modes

February 2010

Celebrate our February Members!

by Carolyn Pasquier WV7Q, Treasurer

As of February 2010, 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:

Hal Goodell	N7NW	36 Years
Harry Lewis	W7JWJ	36 Years
Mary Lewis	W7QGP	36 Years
Wayne Moddison	K6DOW	25 Years
Dean Holtan	N7NKO	20 Years
Sandy Dunkel	K7OZY	19 Years
Rick Danielson	K7RIC	16 Years
Lyman Fitzgerald	KA7OES	16 Years
Adrian Roth	KB7BVL	14 Years
Paul Roth	N7DOH	14 Years
Brendan Burget	KD7IKV	10 Years
Curtis Hanner	N7MWC	10 Years
Dawn Hanner	N7VWH	10 Years
Paul Donner	KD7SSD	7 Years
Chuck Richardson	N7LMT	5 Years
David Brinkman	N7UNN	2 Years
Dean Sherry	KE7WCQ	1 Year
Melissa Sherry	KE7WCR	1 Year

M&K General Meeting Minutes

held January 16, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 1003 hours by the President, Dick WA7NIW.

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.

Quorum present.

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

Sam N7RHE made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Steve KD7IQL seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

President – Dick WA7NIW: We are putting together a donation for the Salvation Army for their relief efforts in Haiti at the meeting today.

Secretary – Ivy WA7IVY: Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Carolyn WV7Q: The club's books are in good order. The Audit for 2009 was conducted this morning before the meeting.

Activity Manager – Jim N7MU: Today's program is on the Island Trunk System presented by Dick WA7NIW, and a demonstration of the FCC's Universal License System by Mike N7WA. Next month's program will be dedicated to preparation for the Flea Market. We need a chair and/or co-chair for the Awards Banquet in March. Last month we introduced the Club Elmers, but some weren't at the meeting; Alan KB7SVU for Beams & Towers; Andy KE7ZGB for Digital

K7LED Relay

Modes; Steve WA7DAD for D-Star; Dick WA7NIW for new hams and new club members. There will be an Open house at Jeff W7BRS for new hams next Saturday. Jim also asked the membership if they were in need for coaching in an area we haven't addressed.

Chairman of the Board – Robert KD7WNV: The situation with the repeater has been resolved.

Radio Officer – Hal N7NW: Went up to Tiger and was able to resolve some of the problems we had had with the repeater. We may be changing the repeater PL tone because another repeater on Tiger has the same PL as we have. We are continuing to use the Cougar Mountain site and will continue to use it as a backup repeater site once the main repeater will be up on Tiger Mountain. The PL tone won't change until after Flea Market. Tim K7ANE suggested that we put an announcement in the Public Service booklet announcing when the change will be taking place.

Relay Editor – Gary KG7KU: not present.

Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: There are a couple of additions to the Silent Key page. If you find anything that needs changing, please contact Jim.

Vice President – Kathy KB7QMO: Membership applications: Donald Cain and Linda Jordan (no call signs, family membership); Carl Reynolds KF7ESX; Edward Alden KF7GBD; Timothy Mauery NT9M; Rich Hand K7RFH; Scott Gilbert KF7GGN; George Thornton AE7G. All were approved by the membership.

Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning – Robert KD7WNV: nothing to report.

Facilities and Publicity – Dave KB7PSN: Both antenna analyzers are checked out. Frank NA7O reported that the tower trailer has new tires, but there is a problem with one of the leveling jacks, we will need a new one and it needs to be welded.

Education and Training – Tim K7ANE: New books have been ordered for the library. Tim brought in a bunch of catalogs from various retailers; please help yourself. In the Feb QST it was announced that there are some new apps for Apple products with Exam Q&A and for the Amazon Kindle as well. Robert KD7WNV mentioned that the current technician pool changes as of 1 July 2010. NCVEC website has it currently available online.

Public Service – Mike N7WA: Robert KD7WNV: The Public Service booklet is progressing; we have ad revenue, but it will probably be a little less than with previous years. There will be a meeting of the Public Service committee at the Cedar River Smokehouse after the program today. Tim K7ANE asked that whoever donated the QRP book at the last meeting please see him after the meeting.

Technical and Special Interest – Steve KD7IQL: If you are interested in the Technical and Special Interest committee, please see Steve.

Audit Committee: Sam N7RHE: The audit was conducted this morning for FY2009 books and they are in order. The next audit committee meeting will be June 19th to do the Flea Market books.

Other Committees (as appropriate)

VE Exams -- Scott AG7T: There were 14 people who attended the testing session in December: 7 Technician; 6 General and 1 Extra. Year-end report: 225 people taking 249 exams leading to 108 Technician, 64 General and 26 Extra class licenses awarded.

Haiti donation: Dick WA7NIW passed out a collection bucket for the Salvation Army's efforts in Haiti. Tim K7ANE reported that there are 4 ham stations in Haiti that are up and
[Continued on Page 9]

February 2010

General Meeting Minutes...[Cont'd from Page 8]

running full time now. Information can be found at the ARRL website.

Flea Market: Hal N7NW / Mike N7WA: Sign-up sheets for the Flea Market. This activity funds all of our club activities for the entire year, and getting assistance from the membership is vital for a successful event. This is our 29th Flea Market. We need help on both Friday and Saturday. After the Flea Market we have a dinner together. You don't need to be a Mike & Key member to work at the Flea Market. This allows you to get into the Flea Market for free. Hal described the various jobs available to the membership.

By Laws: Dave KB7PSN: We have 8 people on the committee; 28 changes have been submitted so far. A meeting of the committee will be in the near future.

Awards Banquet: We need a chair person as soon as possible. We already have a place for the banquet.

Field Day: We need a chair person for this as soon as possible.

Alligator Award: Dean N7NKO presented the award to Michelle WB7AYU.

Old Business: no old business

New Business:

Michelle WA7PVE was brought up the possibility of the club purchasing a BBQ to be transported on the equipment trailer. This needs to be addressed by the new field day chair. Next month we will be taking nominations for the new Board.

Good of the Order:

A visitor, John K7SYS visiting from Roswell, GA, mentioned he was first licensed in 1962 in Pop Brown's basement as KN7SYS. He is very glad to see the club still thriving and bring more people into ham radio.

Dick presented a get well card for Tressie KC7BAL to her husband Alan KB7SVU on behalf of the club.

The next Mike & Key Board meeting will be on the first Wednesday of the month, February 3, 2010 at 7:00 pm, at the Salvation Army in Renton.

The next Mike & Key General Membership meeting is the third Saturday, February 20, 2010.

Scott AG7T made a motion to close the meeting. The motion was passed. Meeting adjourned 11:34.

20 guests; 54 members, 51 ARRL members

Attested: Ivy Nelson-Groves WA7IVY – Secretary

M&K Board Meeting Minutes

held February 3, 2010

Officers present:

- President – Dick Radford (WA7NIW)
- Vice President – Kathy Martin (KB7QMO)
- Secretary – Ivy Nelson-Groves (WA7IVY)
- Treasurer – Carolyn Pasquier (WV7Q)
- Activity Manager – Jim Aigner (N7MU)
- Radio Officer – Hal Goodell (N7NW)
- Relay Editor – Gary Bryan (KG7KU)

Trustees present:

- No. 1 – Tim Kane (K7ANE)
- No. 2 – Steve Cook (KD7IQL)
- No. 3 – Mike Dinkelman (N7WA)
- No. 4 – Robert Grinnell (KD7WNV)
- No. 5 – Dave Smith (KB7PSN)

Chairman of the Board Robert KD7WNV called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the previous board meeting was made by Dave/KB7PSN and seconded by Mike/N7WA. Motion passed.

K7LED Relay

Officer Reports:

Chairman of the Board – Robert KD7WNV: Elections will be held next month. This month we will be taking nominations. Jim announced his intention to seek re-election. Kathy and Carolyn haven't made up their minds yet. Ivy and Dick are term limited for their current positions. Mike, Tim and Dave are not up for re-election this year. Robert will run if nominated.

President – Dick WA7NIW: nothing to report.

Vice President – Kathy KB7QMO: Application for approval: Roger Eck KF7GDD; David Baldwin KF7FYE; Randy Stagers KF7EKB. All were recommended by the board.

Secretary – Ivy WA7IVY: Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Carolyn WV7Q: She is trying to get our Form 990 return in before the Flea Market so we will have it in early this year. She passed out a copy of the budget for the year so far. The 2009 budget was approved (in Dec 2008) with the understanding that we would save the surplus for two years to purchase a service monitor. The service monitor was purchased with the surplus from 2009, so it does not appear in our budget numbers for this month.

Activity Manager – Jim N7MU: This month's program is on the Flea Market; next month is devoted to the Election. Mike/N7WA has volunteered to be co-chair the banquet with Linda Jordan; for March 27 at H.D. Hotspurs in Kent. Invitations will be mailed out to the club members. Tickets will be \$14 and will be on sale at the next two general meetings.

Radio Officer – Hal N7NW: not present. Hal sent email to the board. We will be changing the PL tone for the repeater to 141.3 on April 1st. The controller will have the capability to announce the tone.

Relay Editor – Gary KG7KU: not present. Articles should be due a week from Friday.

Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: not present.

Standing Committee Assignments:

Strategic Planning: Robert KD7WNV: Jim N7MU mentioned that Elmering has been going on; it was suggested that we come out with a FAQ list from the Elmers, either on the website or on the reflector.

Facilities: Dave KB7PSN: Both antenna analyzers are checked out.

Education: Tim K7ANE: not present.

Public Service: Mike N7WA: Robert KD7WNV discussed the Public Service booklet; the committee will be meeting this Saturday to finalize the booklet. We are a little short on ad revenue, but that is primarily because of the SeaFair situation. We do want to make sure that we put in our own ad about the repeater tone change.

Technical: Steve KD7IQL: not present.

Field Day: Ivy WA7IVY: I've met with the former field day chairs and am going over the notes. I've started to contact folks to confirm their participation. I still need a GOTA chair.

By-Laws: Dave KB7PSN: He is still looking for input on the by-law revision; he wants to have a meeting of the committee sometime in February.

Flea Market: Mike N7WA/Hal N7NW: Final committee meeting next Tuesday. Still looking for some help, but it is coming together.

Old Business-

Logo committee: Jim N7MU talked about the digitized logo and the vendor has agreed to send it back to us. The logo had been donated to the club; Jim wanted to know how we wanted to control the digitized logo. Jim proposed initiating a committee who will study and discuss usage of the club logo and make recommendations to the board for logoed apparel. Dan, Dawn, Jim, Carolyn & Robert were appointed to this committee by the President. We are still looking for Picnic chair.

New Business-

A member asked why we don't have our dues all due at the same month; traditionally it has been done on the anniversary of an individual's joining of the club, and changing at this point would be problematic for the treasurer.

Good of the Order-

Nothing for the Good of the Order.

There being no further business, Robert KD7WNV adjourned the meeting at 8:57 pm.

Attested: Ivy Nelson-Groves WA7IVY, Secretary

February 2010

My HAM Life in California de Fred Roberts W6TKV

My current Ham life involves membership in two local clubs, where over the years, I have managed to serve in all of the elected positions. One is the Riverside County ARA and the other in the Corona Norco ARC. The only job I could tag with M&K, however, was QSL Manager. :)

I also belong to the Twin City FM Club which isn't a "hand-held" club at all. When I was last there, I operated in their ham station - 2 positions, both with great rigs, KW amplifiers, DX computer screens, and beam/dipoles at 50 ft. - my first three QSOs were with Israel which led to realize, "If you want to work DX, you don't need a KW. Just sneak up it." In recent years, I have been rotating my Field Day activity between my three west coast clubs.

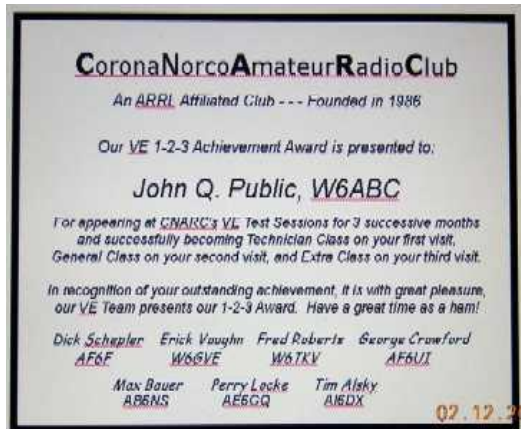


Photo: A certificate like this one is given to those who attend three consecutive testing sessions and advance from Technician to Extra.

Most recently, we put a VE Team together at CNARC and our Test Sessions are on the first Saturday of each month. We have had a good bunch of "hams to be" at every session - even on January 2nd!

Some things that may differ from other VE Teams are: 1) We require each "ham to be" to obtain an FRN (an FCC issued number) rather than accepting

a Social Security number. Accept an SSN and maybe a week later someone tags their bank account ... who would the police visit? 2) We function on "reservation only" basis, and so we can send a detailed e-mail which includes how to get an FRN, what to bring, etc. 3) A few "hams to be" have come to 3 consecutive sessions and go from Technician to Extra like greased lightning. That's a commendable accomplishment, so we now have a framed plaque and present it to these hard chargers. 4) At every session, we suggest every new Technician continue in the study mode and update to General right away. We point out their first license is only good for a segment of 10M and the VHF bands - not much contesting, no DX, no WAS, just talk to local guys. After all, if you are studying with all the actual Questions & Answers in front of you - what else does anyone need?

Life is good. Ann and I just celebrated our 60th Anniversary on Lincoln's birthday. Ann started knitting at 6 years old and is still going full speed. My interest in ham radio started at 9 years old. We both still have the 'pedal to the metal,' as the saying goes. You know, this being retired is really not bad at all.

K7LED Relay

The Power of Motivation

by Ermanno Rusi N7VIQ... EX - I1BTI

On 15 August 1947, @ 3PM, in Trieste Italy, there was a GENERAL Strike, NO PHONE! No transportation! It had been called by Italians, Yugoslavs and Austrian citizens for the control of the city and close-by AREAS government!

Very dangerous for students (trouble-makers) to be in the streets! So... I was in the attic (SHAK) working on the home-made antenna coil, tuning in the 40 meter band when I hear an EMERGENCY call from a station in the Italian Alps, near CORTINA D'Ampezzo in ITALIA!

Propagation was very GOOD, I answered and got the message, an Old Lady was very ill, doctors and priest were on site, the Son was the Director of the local Brewery across town, I jumped on the grandpa's bike, in 20 min. across town I was at the site, had some static from the brewery security until the guard heard the name of the Director, He was very happy to get the news and took off to see MOTHER, and He was able to make it there to help.

I was very Happy for the service rendered and experience and determined to improve my RADIO AMATEUR participation! I was of course also very happy that I was able to pass three striker-blocks, and had to use my Italian, Austrian and Croatian languages to pass all those obstacles.

After the strike the politicians agreed to let the AMERICANS govern the Area till 1956, and we became the FREE TERRITORY OF TRIESTE (Extra state for QSO) .

Ever since that moment I have loved the HAM hobby, especially when traveling for 10 years on ITALIAN LINE as Marine Engineer around the WORLD. I was motivated and still AM!

-- 73 de N7VIQ Ermanno Rusi... EX - I1BTI.

1st Centenary of Radiotelegraphy in the Portuguese Navy

-- SPECIAL EVENT --

Contributed by Erik Friele KE7UYC

2010 FEBRUARY 18th & 20th

The "Portuguese Navy Hamradio Club – NRA" and the Navy itself feel proud to announce a double Special Event.

In this month of February we celebrate the 1st centenary since radiotelegraphy has begun naval official service in the navy.

To celebrate it, two Special Event Stations [CR5100AM and CR5100VZ] plus an onboard station CS5DFG will be active.

One Station located in Lisbon another Station located 15 miles south of Lisbon and the third one not much far from the others, will be active on the next February 18th and 20th in the period of [0900 – 1900] UTC.

A Special QSL Card and a Special Award have been issued by the Navy and NRA to be addressed to all stations that contact one of these three stations in the dates and periods above.

Look for any of these stations on the bands and be awarded with a Special QSL Card and Award.

Contacting us or waiting another hundred years to do so, is your choice. Hope to meet you on the air

The Chairman of Portuguese Navy Hamradio Club – NRA

António Gamito -- ct1czt@nra.pt

New Arrivals at the Club Library

Tim Kane – K7ANE



Members have several newly acquired books to check out and enjoy from the Mike & Key library.

As part of our annual efforts to expand and improve our club library we've just obtained five great new books, suggested by various members:

- **ARRL's Low Power Communications - the Art and Science of QRP**, by Rich Arland K7SZ (2009)
- **The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications 2010** (including the entire volume on CD-ROM)
- **ARRL's HF Digital Handbook**, by Steve Ford WB8IMY, 4th Edition (2007)
- **ARRL's VHF Digital Handbook**, by Steve Ford, 1st Edition (2008)
- **The ARRL's General Q&A, 3rd Edition, good through June 30, 2011** (2007)

The Low Power Communications book includes sections on equipment and station accessories, antennas, operating strategies, emergency communications, and surplus military equipment. The complete assembly manual for the MFJ Cub QRP transceiver kit is also included.

This new QRP volume was donated by a member. Donations by members are always welcome, and gratefully appreciated.

The new 2010 Handbook, now over 1,250 pages, has great new sections on digital communications technology, solid state RF power supplies, switch mode power supplies, as well as projects for antennas, solid state amplifiers, and more.

The HF Digital Handbook covers assembling your digital station, RTTY, Pactor, PSK 31, Winlink 2000, and other topics. The VHF edition includes packet radio fundamentals, APRS, D-Star, and much more.

The General Q&A will give you the entire Element 3 question pool, to aid in your license upgrade preparation and review.

Some additional volumes, mostly older, were donated by Universal Radio. Included are:

- **Listening to Longwave – the World below 500 KHz**, by Kevin Carey, 1st Edition (2007)
- **Discover DXing!**, John Zondio, 3rd Edition (2006)
- **Joe Carr's Loop Antenna Handbook**, 1st Edition, (1999)
- **RTTY Today**, by Dave Ingram K4TWJ (1983)
- **The RTTY Listener, Issues 1-25**, Editor Fred Osterman, 2nd Edition (1991)
- **Buying a Used Shortwave Receiver**, by Fred Osterman, 4th Edition (1998)

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Toku (AD7JA), who brings the library holdings to each meeting, any of these books can be checked out at any regular club meeting. Members can retain a book for up to a month at a time.

Or you can check them out any workday at the M&K club library in Toku's television service shop in the Skyway neighborhood of Seattle, not far from the club's Renton meeting site.

The library is located in Skyway Radio & TV Service, 11818 Renton Avenue South, Seattle. It's just across from the Skyway Park Bowling center. You can't miss Toku's tower and multi-band HF yagi!

It was also suggested that the library obtain some video DVDs or tapes of DXpeditions and other ham events. Research found that most of these videos are available for free short term loan to clubs, for only the two-way postage.

We'll coordinate with the program chairman, and schedule some for upcoming meetings. Let us know if any DXpedition has especially caught your imagination, and we'll see what we can do.

If you want the club to obtain other particular books or have some volumes you'd like to donate to the library, contact Tim K7ANE.

2010 -- Ham Nets & Events -- FEBRUARY / MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
14 2000 -- King Co. ARES 147.08 (Weekly) 2200 -- NW Astronomy Net 145.33 (Weekly)	15 0545 & 1645 -- Weather Net 145.33 (M-F) 1730 -- Puget Sound Traffic Sys. 146.82 (Daily) 1900 -- Seattle ACS 146.90 (Weekly)	16 2000 -- Seattle Red Cross Communications Team (includes 'Elmers Corner') 146.82 (Weekly)	17 2000 --General/Tech Info 145.33 (Weekly) 2000 -- Educational Radio Net -- PSRG 146.96 (Weekly) 2000 -- HARC CW Net 28.055 (Weekly)	18 1900 -- M&K Public Service Net 146.82 (Weekly) 2000 -- Computer & Packet Net 145.33 (Weekly)	19 2000 -- Youth Net 145.33 (Weekly)	20 1000 -- M&K Club Meeting, Renton 1230 -- Ham Radio Exams, Renton 2000 -- Amateur TV Net 147.08 (Weekly) 2000 -- HARC CW Net 28.055 (Weekly)
21 1915 -- Kids Net 145.49 (Weekly) 2030 -- Snohomish Co. ARES 146.92 (Weekly)	22 1800 -- WA Emerg. HF 3.985 (Weekly) 1830 -- WA ARES 3.985 (Weekly) 1930 -- PSRG 146.96 (Weekly) 2000 -- YL Net 145.33 (Weekly)	23 2000 -- Snohomish Co. RACES 146.92 (Weekly)	24 2100 -- NWSOAR Net 146.82 (Weekly)	25	26	27 0900 -- WA ARES HF Net 3.985 (Weekly)
28	01 - MARCH -	02	03 <i>M&K Board Mtg 7pm- Salvation Army, Renton</i>	04	05 <i>M&K Flea Market (Committees- Setup)</i>	06 <i>M&K Flea Market 9AM - 3PM Western Washington Fairgrounds, Puyallup, WA</i>
07	08	09	10	11	12 <i>Relay Articles Due 23:59:59</i>	13