

From our Club President...

Club Meeting – Prep For Field Day

By Ivy Nelson-Groves WA7IVY

Well, it's slowly warming up, so that must mean that Field Day is around the corner! I hope that everyone has had a chance to enjoy the warmer weather and work on all the outdoor projects we put off during the long chilly wet winter we had. There are a lot of Public Service events coming up and some great opportunities to serve in your community, meet other Hams, and get some time on the air.

This month's program is going to be a little different. We have a lot of new members to the Club. Many of them don't have *Contesting* or HF experience. A lot of older members don't have this type of experience (myself included). I'm hoping that some of our in-house experts can help share some of their knowledge and expertise in both of these areas as preparation for Field Day. I would like to thank Mike N7WA, Scott AG7T, Dean N7XS, and Michelle WA7PVE for being on the panel of experts. Please bring your questions. *Almost* no question is too dumb; if you're wondering about something, chances are someone else is too.

One other request I have for the Club: We still don't have a Food Chair for the PotLuck dinner on Friday. This is the person who makes sure that the sodas and meat get purchased for the Club, arranges for transport to the Wagon Wheel on Friday, and makes sure we have enough grills and cooks on Friday night. It sounds like a lot, but you can get folks to help you out; you need only coordinate their activities. If we haven't identified a Food Chair by the June Board meeting, we won't be able to have a PotLuck dinner on Friday.

We have the Wagon Wheel from the afternoon of June 20th to Noon on June 27th, so this is a wonderful opportunity to come early, enjoy the park, and relax before all the fun and games on June 24-26th (that's Field Day!). For those who wish to stay in the Barracks, remember to contact Rita KD7CNU as soon as possible to reserve your space.

Even if the world does end on Saturday, we will still have Field Day this year!! See you on the 21st.

Ham Apps For SmartPhones

By Tim Kane K7ANE



I don't even have a so-called SmartPhone. Not an iPhone, 'Droid, or Blackberry. But some of the capabilities of these shirt-pocket-sized techno-marvels are sorely tempting me, especially

the many Ham Radio applications ("apps") that are already available or in the works for these powerful tiny platforms.

SmartPhone apps already include a broad range of useful tools for Hams. There are study programs that allow you to review the entire FCC question pools for the Tech, General, and Extra class license exams. You can get practice apps to learn Morse code, or to hone your speed and copy skills.

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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

Email:
info @ mikeandkey.org

Send newsletter submissions to:
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Reflector:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/mkarc>

Club Contacts

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| Webmaster | Jim Etwiler | KD7BAT | kd7bat @ arrl.net | 425-788-7887 |
| VE Testing | Scott Robinson | AG7T | ag7t @ arrl.net | 425-788-0452 |

Mike & Key Online – The following Club resources are available:

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, visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/mkarc> .

E-Relay – Help the Club save on printing and postage, Email the Relay Editor: kg7ku @ arrl.net.

May 2011

M&K Activities & May Door Prizes

By Kathy Martin KB7QMO, Activity Manager

Well, I'm back from my Spring Break vacation and I sure did have a good time with my daughter. We spent the majority of the week in sunny Phoenix, Arizona.

It was nice to spend time in the sun. But, now I'm back and it's back to business.

This month's program will be a panel discussion on **Contesting**. Ivy Nelson-Groves, WA7IVY, has rounded up local experts and Club members to answer questions about **Amateur Radio Contests** and to offer suggestions about how to be more competitive. Ivy recommends this session for new *Contesters* and for Club members who have not participated in Field Day.

June's program will be on Field Day. Everything you will need to know and more. Please plan on attending. This is a great opportunity to find out what Field Day is all about, if you don't already know, especially for the new members.

There are other interesting program plans for the future including Digital Modes, Power Backup Systems for Home and Mobile Stations, and Antique Radios.

Here are this month's Door Prizes:

- **Compact Speaker System**
- **Flagging tape**
- **Hard Hat for CERT or tower work**
- **Illuminated magnifying glass**
- **LED clip**
- **Rite in the Rain notebook**
- **West Mountain Radio Rig runner 4004U/USB**

FD'11: M&K – Bed & Breakfast

By Rita Danielson KD7CNU

Do you know what you're doing June 23—26th? Make plans to join us for Field Day 2011. You won't be disappointed.

The reservation book is slowly filling up. We now have 14 guests registered, but we have room for 15 more. Please make plans to join us at beautiful Fort Flagler State Park on Marrowstone Island. The accommodations, while not lavish, are comfortable.

You get your own bed, and roommates. Since you supply your own bedding, you don't have to worry about scratchy sheets as in so many hotels and motels. The food will be fantastic and the company even better. You certainly can't beat the rates. We only ask for a \$10.00 per person, per night deposit which will be very cheerfully refunded when you arrive.

The only food you'll have to fix yourself will be your lunch. Breakfast will be provided Saturday and Sunday mornings. A wonderful BBQ pot luck will be provided Friday and Saturday evenings. Meat, buns, condiments and sodas and water will be provided you get to help with the salads, desserts and whatever else you'd like to contribute for the potluck. Bring enough for yourself and about 6 others.

K7LED Relay

I'm excited to be able to serve the Club again this year in this capacity. Please join us and allow me to serve you as well.

I'll go over what you should and should not bring next month. We'll see you at the meeting.

73's and 88's - Rita, KD7CNU, Booking Agent & Hostess for the **Mike & Key Bed & Breakfast** (formerly known as the Barracks). **Contact:** Gamatoad24@comcast.net
Phone: 425-359-3764 (only after 5:00 pm please)

HamApps – SmartPhones...[Cont'd from Page 1]

Others give access to on-line Call Book databases, like QRZ, so you can search any US and many foreign Call Signs. Or, you can find VHF or UHF Repeaters along your route to grandma's new lakeside summer digs. And you – and grandma -- can easily track your cross-country progress with any of several APRS apps.

Is 20-meters open? Use one of the beacon apps, Sunspot or propagation programs to give you the current situation. A phone-based DX-cluster app can report which DX stations are on the air, real time. Is the International Space Station or a ham satellite going to be overhead anytime soon, whether you're at home in Mukilteo or "maritime mobile" on the lake at grandma's in Minnesota? There're apps for that too.

Apps are available to log all your QSOs, to keep track of your DX contacts, to help you find in which Maidenhead grid you're currently located. The phone can act as a modem for RTTY, PSK, and other digital modes. There are "lite" versions of major amateur computer applications, like Ham Radio Deluxe.

Most of these applications are free or cost less than five dollars. Of course, like anything else, especially freebies, quality, ease of set-up and use can vary significantly, from great to only marginally functional.

One of the good ways to determine into which category the app you're considering falls, is to look at the on-line reviews. But what I think is the best way is to talk to Hams you know and trust.

Mike and Key has lots of members who have and use many of these apps. You could ask them. We could help each other in making informed selections.

To assist in that I'd like to ask each of you who has tried or who is using any Ham-related apps for your SmartPhone to spending a few minutes and writing a short review, say one paragraph or so. What does the app promise? What are its strong features and weak points? Does it deliver? Did it give good value? Would you recommend it to others? Have you found a better choice?

Please include the app's full title, the SmartPhone operating systems it works with, rate it 1-5 (bad-great), give its cost, its website address, and anything else you feel is important. Include both the great apps you've found, and (especially) the dogs.

E-mail your review to me at K7ANE@ARRL.net, and I'll organize them by types of apps, and put together an overall report so it's available to the membership. Thanks for your help and effort.

Let's Celebrate our May Members!

By Dave Smith KB7PSN, Treasurer

As of May 2011, these have been Mike & Key members for the number of years stated. Congratulations to all of you, and thanks for your participation and service. *Each of you makes us who we are:*

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|----------|
| Michael Dinkelman | N7WA | 26 Years |
| Eric Snyder | N7DLV | 22 Years |
| Calvin D. Doss | KC7IYP | 15 Years |
| Atsushi Sasaki | W7KN | 12 Years |
| James Darby | NY1R | 9 Years |
| Tom Davis | K9TXJ | 8 Years |
| Chuck Griggs | KC7EOP | 8 Years |
| Gerry Ortolì | KE4ZDY | 8 Years |
| Mark Huffstutter | KB7WAL | 7 Years |
| Frank Tate | NA7O | 7 Years |
| Wayne Means | KI7XA | 6 Years |
| Steve Rehnstrom | KE7KRT | 4 Years |
| Jeff Wandling | W7BRS | 4 Years |
| Tom Cloonan | NL7FQ | 3 Years |
| Andrew Lengenfelder | KE7ZGR | 2 Years |
| Bill Schneider | KE7YFP | 2 Years |
| Dale Tongue | AC7NP | 2 Years |
| Mimi Allin | KF7KHP | 1 Year |
| Gene Budbill | N7QLT | 1 Year |
| Liz Budbill | N7ZXH | 1 Year |
| Mike Crossley | KF7BIG | 1 Year |
| Wayne E. Perry | KF7KHO | 1 Year |
| Fran Underwood | N7FWZ | 1 Year |

Ham Radio Is About Memories

By Mitch Gill NA7US

Over the years I have explored many different modes and types of operating. I even tried with little success, QRP. That was several years ago. About 3 years ago I became fixated on QRP again but this time I had the help of Rich Arland, author of Low Power Communications and a fellow columnist for CQ (I highly recommend his book) and John Kosmak, W3IK, who constantly bragged about what he could do with 500 Milli-Watts and his 3 element 20 meter Bobtail (of which I now own two pointing North, South, East and West).

The secret is patience and the antenna. If you have an antenna with a gain you can run 5 watts and it can easily sound like you are running 100 watts. Patience has been my nemesis. Over the many years we have known each other and when you read my articles it is very obvious that I lack patience. I want to make a contact NOW! Patience has been hard but sitting on the QRP frequencies has helped as well as the numerous QRP contest.

I have run between 500 Milli-Watts and 5 watts for the past year with the 20 meter 3 element Bobtail and an 80 meter loop. The Bobtail has produced the best results for me. I have worked only a few minutes a day most days and ended up with 35 states and 62 countries (most of the DX were during the ARRL and CQ DX contest on CW).

I also on occasion run PSK31, RTTY, SSTV and sometimes SSB. I also love 2 meter CW and am looking at JT65 but am remaining at low power. It's the challenge and it has kept me interested in doing something other than sitting on a repeater all day. I would love to see a 2 meter FM contest using simplex. I know there are some people out there who can talk across the state lines on simplex. What do you think?

I still love this hobby as I know you do, but it is Field Day that I really love. Being around all of you, swapping stories and testing our contest abilities makes for a lot of fun. The many memories of being there at the same place every year is etched into my memory.

It will be a little sad this year as I will miss seeing and talking to Tressie. She was a gem and I know all of you miss her as well.

I now have a son, who is a Ham and a daughter in law whose parents are Hams. I wonder if it would be possible Rick and Rita and Jan and I to someday be a grandparents of a Ham?

Hmmmm....Tyler...Rachelle....get to work!

When Disaster Strikes

By Mitch Gill NA7US

I know what you are thinking; if it's a disaster then Mitch must have created it himself by trying to build another antenna. Well, all of you critics and firemen can rest assured that I did not build anything using fire. I am finished with that.

Actually this is a serious article (I know it's rare) about a friend of mine who is building the most awesome emergency/QRP antennas around. Just imagine having one for your go-kit that is light and small but gives you 6 db gain and three elements on 20 meters!

And, it is hung just like a dipole. Find two trees at least 67 feet apart and throw a line into the tree up 16 feet or more and voila! With a tuner it will tune from 80-6 meters and acts as an open fed antenna. It is called a QRP Backpacker and is sold on EBay by a personal friend of mine that I have known for over 30 years.

I have a 20 meter hanging at my house about 20 feet up and it out performs my 80 meter loop that is 50 feet up in the air. He has sold these antennas all over the world and for any band that you want. I know that he built a 5 element 40 meter antenna for a Ham in Europe. He has sold hundreds and is still getting compliments. **[Continued on Page 5]**

May 2011

K7LED Relay

When Disaster Strikes... [Continued from Page 4]

Bottom line is this. If you want a light QRP emergency antenna for 20 meters that can fit in your pocket (with a little sticking out) or if you want an antenna with gain but you don't have the space or if you are a DXer and want to see if this can help with your DXCC, then contact John, W3IK or check out his antenna on eBay. I guarantee that you will not be disappointed. Here is the link:

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=330560188109&ssPageName=STRK:MESELX:IT> .

Some background on John and me. He and I met and served in the USAF in West Germany back in the 1979 – 1981. I was a Novice until my license expired in 1973 and I could not pass the General theory. I still loved radios and became a MARS radio operator for the Air Force. John became my Elmer and worked hard with me and I passed my General.

I would not be in Ham Radio if not for John. Over the years we drifted apart as we lived in different states or countries until he found me in Iraq. In 2007 I met him for dinner back in North Carolina; he had driven several hours to see me again. It had been almost 30 years since we last saw each other and it was like we had never been away.

He has since become one of my best friends and it pains me that we live on opposite sides of the US but he is someone I can trust with my life. So if it sounds like I am trying to help John sell his antennas, you are right – but I have used these antennas and John is a man of integrity. Check them out and if you get one, let me know what you think.

Oh, I forgot, I tried to build a 2 element 2 meter beam (no flames involved) again. It works fantastic. At 162 megahertz. Drat!

WANDERING - The Vatican

By Fred Roberts - W6TKV

In my business travels, I have enjoyed many very interesting experiences ... but then, aren't all new experiences interesting? In an early visit to Rome, I had a lot of business and very little time to do much of anything as a tourist. But, as you probably know ... one can really get an amazing amount done in an incredibly short time. It's just all about being properly motivated.

When my business in Rome was finished and my bags were packed, I checked out of my hotel, hopped into a cab, and gave the driver the details of my flight ... but I told him I wanted to make two stops on the way to the airport. The first was a quick stop at the Colosseum. The second was a quick stop at the Vatican.

The driver was very accommodating, and so when he pulled up at the Colosseum, I hopped out and got moving. My main goal was to enter the very large

central arena where in long past centuries a lot of blood was spilled. It was very impressive, and I was pleased not to have been there during those early days when those in the arena provided amusement for the masses, and always seemed to end up being loaded into a wagon along with a lot of other unfortunates and taken out for burial.

With one stop down and one to go, the driver took me on to the Vatican which was fairly close by. As you probably know, the Vatican is an independent country - not a very big one, but definitely a country none the less. As you stand in the entry side of the Vatican, there are a couple of long 4-story buildings, one on your left and one on your right, and located at the far end of these 2 buildings, there is St. Peter's Basilica. My goal was St. Peter's Basilica, so when I got out of the cab all I had to do was to walk straight ahead.

When I entered the church, I was surprised to find it filled with people - mostly Italian and all standing and all talking. I stopped right where the rows of benches started and next to the center walk-way which was fenced on each side leading to the Alter. When I looked to the right, there was a very large open area with a huge draped curtain at the far end. On seeing that, I was reminded of a movie I had seen a couple years earlier which showed exactly the same scene.

And so I thought, "I bet the Pope is going to come in from there.", and almost instantly, the curtain opened and there was Pope seated on a narrow platform carried by 4 men. The people cheered the Pope wildly, and as they turned the corner to go up the center aisle - the Pope passed within 4-5 feet of where I was standing. What a wonderful surprise!

Because I was on a tight schedule, I may have gotten out of the Basilica before the Pope reached the Alter. However I must say, this was clearly the most impressive quick visit I have ever experienced in all of my travels. And, I was back in my cab headed to the Airport.

A few years later, and planning another business trip to Italy, I checked to see if it would be possible for me to operate HV3SJ, the Vatican's Ham station. Well ... the answer was "yes". On my arrival at the Vatican, Brother Ed met me and we headed for the ham station located on top of a 4-store building. We all use the term "ham shack" when referring to our radio station which is usually within our homes. The HV3SJ ham shack, however, really was a "ham shack" located in the middle of the roof of the left one of the long buildings referenced earlier. In walking along the roof, I asked Brother Ed just what his task was at the Vatican. He said, "This is my duty ... running the Ham station. To put this in the proper perspective, my visit was during the Cold War (1977), and he explained, "A contact with this station is the only contact many people have with the church." Talk about the real world and putting things in perspective, I guess he got the "Ham Radio" assignment because he spoke 7 different languages. **[Continued on Page 6]**

May 2011

K7LED Relay

Wandering – The Vatican... [Cont'd from Page 5]

The HV3SJ ham shack was really small, and to the operator's right was an "Outgoing QSL" rack sorted by country. There was an antique Harvey-Wells Band Master (14"-16" tall) mounted well above eye-height in the back center of the operating table. By the way, SJ stands for "Society of Jesus", but the phonetics for the station were "Strawberry Jam" ...who said they have no sense of humor in the Vatican?



At that particular time, I was very active with the *YL International SSB'ers*, and so I checked into their daily net as HV3SJ. This Net rotated around the U.S. in an odd way, i.e. 9-2-5-8-1-0-4-7-3-6, but the sequence allowed everyone to get a quicker idea of the band conditions across the U.S. Net Control was located in Boston, and I heard one Mid-Western member say, "I need it for my 100th country!". Of course, since Net Control had already gotten his QSO with HV3SJ when I checked in, it was very easy for him to say, "Rich, it will be around to you. Don't worry." But, of course Rich never did get his 100th County because I wasn't operating long enough to get around to him. As a note, when your host says, "OK?" ... you just call it a day.

To close the loop, I must relate that when I left Rome late Friday afternoon, I was headed to France for a Monday appointment. Oh, this International travel

is really tough. But with a spare Saturday and Sunday, one can always stop somewhere ... like in Geneva, for example, and spend the weekend operated from 4U1ITU. I must relate that I checked into the same *YL International SSB'ers* net and my first question to the Net Control Station, "Is Rich on frequency?"

I was told, "Yes", so my query was, "Rich, do you need 4U1ITU for your hundredth Country?" His excited answer, "Yes sir, I sure do!" It was a great pleasure for me to say, "Put Country 100 in your log. You're 5/9 at 4U1ITU, and your QSL will be in your mail."

Boy, talk about a really satisfying QSO! I'll never forget that one, and even now, a lot of years later, I still get a warm feeling ... and I have to smile about just how clever I was.

Madeline Sherry, In Passing...

Email received from Michael Dinkelman N7WA

It's with great sadness that I report that the XYL of Lee Sherry KE7NBN passed away last night. Lee has been an active member of the Club over the past several years and many a time, Madeline was right along his side. Our sympathies go out to Lee. Please put him in your prayers.

Port Ludlow Tailgate'r Swap Meet

From Email Received by Jim Etzweiler KD7BAT

From: Mark - WR7V

Subject: Fifth Annual Port Ludlow Tailgate'r

The Port Ludlow Amateur Radio Club would like to invite your Club members to our 5th annual old fashion tailgate'r June 11th in Port Ludlow.

There is no fee to participate as either seller or buyer.

Sellers should arrive about 7 am for setup and buyers should arrive about 8 am. The official hours are 8 am 'til noon.

More information, directions etc. may be found on the PLARC web site www.n7pl.org.

Best Wishes. Mark WR7V wr7v@n7pl.org .

Mike & Key ARC – Elmer Contacts – By Jim Aigner N7MU

| 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 |
| 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 & Eq't |
| HF Operation | Dale Tongue AC7NP | dale.tongue@gmail.com | 425-432-4254 | Eq't, Antennas, best HF operating practices |
| New Members | Dick Radford, WA7NIW | wa7niw@arrl.net | 425-828-9791 | Getting started, eq't selection and operation |
| QRP | Frank Qualls, AB7HA | franklin_qualls@hotmail.com | 425-802-1837 | Low power operation, design & construction |
| VHF/UHF Operation | Dave Smith, KB7PSN | kb7psn@yahoo.com | 425-235-5095 | 6 meters and up; radios, antennas, modes |

M&K-K7LED In-House Contest for June

By Michael Dinkelman N7WA

K7LED In-House Contest Rules:

- Only special event stations listed in the Relay will be worth points.
- Each QSO with a special event station is worth one, at least, point.
- Some of the special event stations each month will be worth bonus points.
- You can work a special event station with Voice, CW, and/or RTTY.
- QSO's with multiple modes is allowed and additional points can be earned for each mode.
- QSO's on multiple bands (same mode) will not count for additional points.
- A multiplier effect will generated by working states. (Points earned by working special event stations multiplied by the total number of states worked in the contest will equal the total points.) A maximum of 50 multipliers (each unique State worked) is possible.
- Participants are encouraged to report their progress to me (N7WA) each month so I can include them in the Relay.

In the continuing saga of the Mike & Key year long in-house contest, here are your special event stations for June 2011.

| <u>June</u> | <u>Station</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Pts</u> | <u>Mult</u> |
|---|----------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| 04-11 | W2W | 1400-2200Z | 10pts | MD – mult |
| <i>D-Day Commemoration – 7.187 14.241 7.041 14.041</i> | | | | |
| 10 | W0S | 1200-1600Z | 15pts | MO – mult |
| <i>150th Anniversary of the Stars and Stripes – 14.235 7.205 PSK31: 14.070 7.038</i> | | | | |
| 19 | GB0BON | 0000-2359Z | 25pts | England – mult |
| <i>366th Anniversary of the Battle of Naseby – All Bands</i> | | | | |
| 24 | K7C | 1200-1700Z | 10pts | MT – mult |
| <i>Custer Battle Reenactment – 21.375 14.250 7.230 3.880</i> | | | | |

M&K General Meeting Minutes

Meeting held April 16, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 1000 hours by the President, Ivy WA7IVY.

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.

Introductions

Officer Reports:

President – Ivy WA7IVY: Report was in the *Relay*.

Secretary – Robert KD7WNV: No mail. It seems that the minutes for the April meeting of the outgoing Board were inadvertently left out of the April *Relay*. We will get them published in the May issue. Mike N7WA asked what items of business from that meeting should be mentioned today. Robert suggested that Strategic Planning discuss the new photo archive initiative. Other matters should come up in the normal course of reports.

Treasurer – Dave KB7PSN: The club's books are in good order. Most Flea Market bills have been paid.

Activities Manager – Kathy KB7QMO: In addition to the door prizes shown on page 3 of the *Relay*, we now have a small speaker set. Today's program is on NVIS, by Scott AG7T. Next month is a panel discussion on contesting techniques.

Chairman of the Board – Tim K7ANE: Alerted members to HR-607, which, if passed in its present form, would direct the FCC to auction off the 420 - 440 MHz section of the spectrum—two-thirds of our 70cm band. Tim encouraged members to write to their Representative and use the ARRL service for expedited handling of letters. Sample letters, contact info for your Representative, and contact info for the ARRL delivery service (Chwat & Co.) can all be found on links at <http://www.arrrl.org/sample-letters>.

Radio Officer – Hal N7NW: There have been some reports of problems on the repeater, but Hal did not hear them, and there is some question as to what actually happened or if anything is really wrong.

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. Liz N7ZXH seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Vice President – Steve KD7IQL: Membership applications: L. W. Abel, K7LWA; Steven J. Goldsmith, (no call sign); Raymond Komro, KF7BSI. All approved by the membership.

Relay Editor – Gary KG7KU: Not present.

Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: There are a number of pages that need to be updated. He has manually updated the list of public service events, but needs the spreadsheet files from the Public Service booklet to update the other pages.

[Continued on Page 8]

M&K General Mtg Minutes... [Continued from Page 7]**Standing Committee Reports:**

Strategic Planning – Mike N7WA: With the Club now having 40 years of history, we are launching an initiative to gather and organize that history, in the form of written documents (newsletters) and pictures. If you have digital pictures of club events, please forward them to Mike or the VP or Secretary. If you have snapshots, negatives or slides, Mike can scan them; make arrangements with him. Steve KD7IQL suggested that as we go forward, as you take pictures at club events, endeavor to get the names of people in the shots.

Facilities – Daniel KL7WM: Not present.

Education – Tim K7ANE: Communications Academy is this weekend. They are offering a new series this year on digital modes. There are several classes underway, but he is not aware of any about to start. Tim asked if anyone knows of any such classes. Robert KD7WNV indicated that although his north end Tech class has had one session, it was only an introduction, so it is not too late for someone to join the class—see him if interested. Ballots are on tables, to rank which books you would like to have purchased for the Library. We now have 93 books in the library—about one-third have been donated by Toku AD7JA!

Public Service – Robert KD7WNV: Jim KD7BAT encouraged members to help with Washington Special Olympics, June 3-5. Send in your information early, to allow time for background check. Liz N7ZXH noted two upcoming events for Seafair: April 30 in Oak Harbor, and on May 17, they really need people for the Syttende Mai Norwegian parade in Ballard. Robert KD7WNV indicated that the committee would not meet today, because of Comm Academy. Dick WA7NIW mentioned the Husky Crew races coming up on May 7th. He could still use a few more operators to assist with that.

Technical – Steve KD7IQL: Nothing to report.

Other Committees (as appropriate):

VE Exams – Scott AG7T: Had 16 people show up for testing last month. Awarded 3 Technician, 7 General, and 2 Extra.

Flea Market – Hal N7NW/Mike N7WA: Nothing to report.

By Laws Review – Dave KB7PSN: Nothing to report.

Logo – Kathy KB7QMO: Introduced Mike W7XTZ, who is another vendor who has our logo in digital form and can embroider on articles of clothing.

Awards Committee – Scott AG7T: Presented certificates recognizing years of membership. Steve KD7IQL listed award winners from the banquet: Daniel Stevens, KL7WM, received the Ken Jackson Award. Dick Radford, WA7NIW, received the Pop Brown Award. Annie Roselle received Flea Market MVP. Jim Etwiler, KD7BAT, received Field Day MVP. Toku Okumura, AF7JA, received a special award of appreciation for his work on the Club library. Mike Dinkelman, N7WA, and Hal Goodell, N7NW, received special awards for exemplary service.

Field Day – Ivy WA7IVY: Handed out certificates of recognition for last year's Field Day, to recipients who were not at the Awards Banquet. Introduced her co-chair, Richard N7MER, and the other task/band chairs. We still need a Food Chair. Rita KD7CNU ("Barracks Mom/B&B Hostess") is taking deposits for the barracks. Robert KD7WNV reminded members that this is the last day to participate in the group order of ARRL Field Day merchandise.

Awards Banquet – Mike N7WA: It went well. He's not doing it next year, so somebody needs to step up. Ivy WA7IVY

expressed the Club's appreciation for his work. For anyone who missed her Field Day video (shown at the banquet), it will be shown again as part of the June program.

Contest – Mike: Targets are in the *Relay*.

Audit – Sam N7RHE: Will be conducting the annual audit of the Flea Market books just before the June General meeting.

Picnic – Hal: We are having a picnic on the date of the August General meeting, incorporating that meeting, at Gene Coulon Park in Renton.

Alligator Award – Dale AC7NP still holds the award.

Old Business:

Tim K7ANE asked to be contacted by the gentleman who is organizing a ham radio program for the IMSA traffic signals group.

New Business:

John N6UA asked, when repeater is timed out, how long does it take to come back up? Hal N7NW replied that it comes back up as soon as that person stops talking. (You can tell how long the person continued to talk by how much time passes before it comes back up.)

Jim KD7BAT reminded members that on May 14, postal carriers will be gathering donations for food banks. The Salvation Army and Renton service clubs run a food bank at 206 Tobin. At about 2:00 PM, they need lots of help taking food out of bags and loading into crates. They could also use people who know how to run pallet jacks. The other work is not heavy work. He will send out specifics on the Reflector.

Jim also announced that the wife of Jim Telgenhoff, KC7EVY, passed away 10 days ago. Services are this afternoon, 2:00 PM at Burien Community Church. See Jim if you need the address.

Jim also announced that the BEARONS, W7FLY, and the Stanwood/Camano ARC, W7PIG, are conducting a special event today, 9AM – 5PM. For those that contact both clubs and send in QSL cards, they will send back a special "When Pigs Fly" QSL card. Jim has details. Mike N7WA noted that this is also one of the events on the Club Contest list, so counts for that, too.

Liz N7ZXH mentioned that she and Gene N7QLT are celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary on Monday.

Mike N7WA reminded members that May 7th is also the 7th District QSO Party. He is again running his home as the Club station, K7LED--multi-op, single-transmitter, low power. You are welcome to operate the mode of your choice (he does have a microphone!). Signup is for hour-long slots, 6AM-6PM. You are also welcome to come and kibbitz and/or see if there is an opening to operate, but signups have priority for their period. Female and kid voices draw attention on the air, and their owners encouraged to participate!

Good of the Order:

-Dawn, KC7YYB noted that propagation is improving—they contacted Tennessee this morning. Michelle, WA7PVE mentioned a contact with Cambodia this morning.

-The next Mike & Key Board meeting will be on the first Tuesday of the month, May 3rd [*later rescheduled to Wednesday, May 4th*] at 7:00 pm, location to be determined. Robert KD7WNV noted that the Tuesday meeting was a rescheduling of regular Wednesday meetings, and that the new Board will be setting a regular meeting schedule at the forthcoming meeting.

-The next Mike & Key General Membership meeting is the third Saturday of the month, May 21, 2011.

-John WA7HQG made a motion to close the meeting. Scott AG7T seconded the motion. The motion was passed. Meeting adjourned at 1110 hours.

-- 56 guests; 47 members, 5 ARRL members

Attested: Robert Grinnell KD7WNV, Secretary

May 2011 M&K Board Meeting Minutes (Meeting Held May 4, 2011)

K7LED Relay

Officers present

X **President** – Ivy Nelson-Groves (WA7IVY)

X **Vice President** – Steve Cook (KD7IQL)

X **Secretary** – Robert Grinnell (KD7WNV)

X **Treasurer** – Dave Smith (KB7PSN)

X **Activities Manager** – Kathy Martin (KB7QMO)

X **Radio Officer** – Hal Goodell (N7NW)

Trustees present

X **No. 1** – Mike Dinkelman (N7WA)

X **No. 2** – George Thornton (AE7G)

X **No. 3** – Tim Kane (K7ANE) (CoB)

 No. 4 – Alan Hughes (KB7SVU)

 No. 5 – Daniel Stevens (KL7WM)

Other officers (non-voting)

 Relay Editor – Gary Bryan (KG7KU)

 Webmaster – Jim Etwiler (KD7BAT)

Visitors - (none)

Chairman of the Board Tim K7ANE called the meeting to order at 1905 hours on 4 May 2011.

Minutes: [The usual motion and vote to approve the minutes of the prior meeting were inadvertently omitted.]

Officer Reports

Chairman of the Board – Tim K7ANE: Nothing to report.

President – Ivy WA7IVY: Nothing to report.

Vice President – Steve KD7IQL: New member applicants: John Dawson, KE7OXR; Ronald Snow, K7EB; Jonathon Rumsey, KF7NFD; Michael Mikuchonis, W7XTZ; Christopher Birchman, KF7CVA. All recommended for approval. Steve will not be present at the May General Membership meeting. Being a past VP, Kathy KB7QMO agreed to fill in.

Secretary – Robert KD7WNV: Received a piece of mail concerning insurance; forwarded to the Treasurer.

Treasurer – Dave KB7PSN: Distributed budget status by email. Expressed concern that we went over budget on the Awards Banquet expense, but after discussion, it was concluded that we need to consider the Banquet's revenue and expense lines together. On that basis, we are fine (the revenue really is an offset to expense—it is the members paying their share of the meal cost).

Activity Manager – Kathy KB7QMO: Sold 139 door prize tickets last month. The May program will be a panel discussion on contesting. June is the Field Day orientation. July may be Matt Kozma, AE7MK, on backup power, or Curt Black, WR5J, on digital modes. August is the picnic. The large-scale logo file for jackets has been repaired.

Radio Officer – Hal N7NW: Is going to compile a list of persons using the repeater and send them a welcome/information letter. The snow on Tiger Mountain is gone (finally!) but Hal has not yet gone up to the site—will do so shortly, now. We have received an offer of a third battery of the type we use for backup, which we can use for the 222 MHz repeater. There will be some associated cost, as we will need to buy a charger for it.

Relay Editor – Gary KG7KU: Not present.

Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: Not present.

Standing Committee Reports

Strategic Planning – Mike N7WA: Received a portable hard drive from Ivy WA7IVY for the picture archive project.

Facilities – Daniel KL7WM: Not present.

Public Service – George AE7G: Nothing to report.

Education – Tim K7ANE: There are numerous upcoming Tech classes, as well as one General. (1) Tech – Maple Valley ARC, 3

May – 7 June, six Tuesday sessions 6-9pm, Free; (2) Tech – RC Tacoma, 14-15 May, Sat./Sun. 9am – 5pm, \$40; (3) Tech – MicroHams, Redmond, 21-23 May, Fri. 7-10pm, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-12nn then Exam at 1pm; (4) Tech – RC Tacoma, 11-12 June, Sat. & Sun. 9am – 5pm, \$40; (5) Tech – Snohomish Hams, 17-19 June, Fri. 6pm, Sat./Sun. all day, \$50; (6) General – RC Tacoma, 2 June – 7 July, six Thursday sessions, 6-9pm.

Technical – Alan KB7SVU: Not present.

Other Committee Reports

Picnic – Hal N7NW: Nothing new to report.

Field Day – Ivy WA7IVY: Things are progressing OK. We do still need a Food Chair. Ivy is preparing for a visit to Alan's (KB7SVU) to inspect the trailers and equipment and assess any needs. Tim K7ANE inquired about the grill status. Ft. Flagler State Park has a large one available, but it would need to be installed, which would involve pouring a concrete base. George AE7G suggested renting a large mobile grill, perhaps on a small trailer—some businesses will deliver. Ivy will investigate. Hal N7NW mentioned that he is in possession of the large coolers, as well as the remaining non-food supplies from last year. Robert KD7WNV mentioned that the group order of Field Day merchandise from ARRL has arrived.

By-Laws – Dave KB7PSN: Nothing to report.

Logo – Kathy KB7QMO: The corrupted file has been fixed, as reported above.

Flea Market – Mike N7WA / Hal N7NW: We have received the Fairgrounds lease agreement for next year. The date is March 10, 2012. Dave KB7PSN will publish the 2011 financial results at May General meeting. The audit of the Flea Market books will be done just before the June General meeting.

Old Business

Board Meeting Schedule & Location: After listing and discussion of members' availability and scheduling conflicts, a motion was made by George AE7G, seconded by Steve KD7IQL, to set the meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, with the Salvation Army HQ as preferred location if available, 2nd preference La Hacienda restaurant on 3rd Street, or other location to be determined if neither of those is available on a regular basis. Motion passed.

GOTA: George AE7G circulated various possible designs for a Club flag. Discussion led to consensus favoring an idea suggested by Hal N7NW: "Est." at upper left, "1970" at upper right, "K7LED" along bottom center, with logo in the middle, slightly above center (to allow room at the bottom for the call sign). George AE7G moved that we accept Hal's idea for the flag; seconded by Ivy WA7IVY. Motion passed. George will work with Tim on the signs for GOTA.

New Business

Icom D-STAR Repeater Promotion: Andrew AB8L had emailed to Ivy WA7IVY a link to an Icom webpage that laid out terms of a promotion by which a club might effectively receive a D-STAR repeater for free. Ivy forwarded the email to the Board Reflector earlier this day. Some Board members were already aware of the promotion. The terms of the promotion require a club to first purchase the repeater outright (for about \$3,000), then meet various criteria and apply for rebate, of which a fixed number are available. Most importantly, the criteria require that the repeater be installed within a certain time frame, in one of several specified ARRL sections (which appear to have in common that they are the more-sparsely populated sections among various western states).

[Continued on Page 10]

May 2011

M&K General Mtg Minutes... [Continued from Page 9]

Although the list includes EWA, our WWA section is not a location eligible for rebate. The promotion did not carry further interest with the Board.

Good of the Order - (none)

There being no further business, Tim K7ANE adjourned the meeting at 2055 hours.

Attested: Robert Grinnell KD7WNV, Secretary

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From March/April
=====
Outgoing Board – Board Meeting Minutes
[Meeting Held April 6]

[Ed.Note – Minutes inadvertently omitted from April Relay]

Officers present

X **President** – Ivy Nelson-Groves (WA7IVY)

X **Vice President** – Steve Cook (KD7IQL)

X **Secretary** – Robert Grinnell (KD7WNV)

X **Treasurer** – Dave Smith (KB7PSN)

X **Activities Manager** – Jim Aigner (N7MU)

— **Radio Officer** – Hal Goodell (N7NW)

Trustees present

X **No. 1** – Tim Kane (K7ANE)

X **No. 2** – George Thornton (AE7G) (CoB)

X **No. 3** – Mike Dinkleman (N7WA)

X **No. 4** – Alan Hughes (KB7SVU)

— **No. 5** – Daniel Stevens (KL7WM)

Other officers (non-voting)

— **Relay Editor** – Gary Bryan (KG7KU)

— **Webmaster** – Jim Etwiler (KD7BAT)

Visitors

Michael Hansen, KG7MX; Gene Underwood, W7AKA; Fran Underwood, N7FWZ.

Meeting was held at the residence of Gene & Fran Underwood due to unavailability of the Salvation Army Headquarters.

Chairman of the Board George AE7G called the meeting to order at 1900 hours.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the previous board meeting was made by Steve KD7IQL, seconded by Ivy WA7IVY. Motion passed.

Officer Reports

Chairman of the Board – George AE7G: Nothing to report.

President – Ivy WA7IVY: Nothing to report.

Vice President – Steve KD7IQL: New member applicants: L. W. Abel, K7LWA & Shelley Stark, (no call sign)—family application; Raymond Komro, KF7BSI; Dale Baskin, KF7MOT; George Ure II, (no call sign); Steven J. Goldsmith, (no call sign). All recommended for approval.

Secretary – Robert KD7WNV: Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Dave KB7PSN: Budget status was emailed to Board members before meeting. Have been busy making several payments, including site rental for repeaters, first quarter meeting hall donation, *Relay* expense, printing of the Public Service booklet, reimbursement for purchase of a library book, and equipment trailer registration. The tags have been given to Alan KB7SVU. Alan said the tags have already been applied to the trailer plates. Dave said he also made a transfer to help pay the bill for Awards Banquet.

Activities Manager – Jim N7MU: The program for April is on NVIS by Scott AG7T. For May, possibly Matt Kozma AE7MK on backup power; also possibly Curt Black. Ivy WA7IVY indicated she is hoping to have a panel discussion on contesting, before Field Day, and May would be the only opportunity now. Jim agreed to plug that into the schedule. Door prizes are going

K7LED Relay

well, we have a good balance in the fund. Steve KD7IQL asked about the split of duties with the new Activities Manager, Kathy KB7QMO. Jim said that Kathy will attend meetings, while Jim will assist her by handling the door prizes and arranging programs.

Radio Officer – Hal N7NW: Not present. He emailed Board members that things are working pretty much OK. Waiting for better weather to make a trip up to the site to check things out and address a few small issues.

Relay Editor – Gary KG7KU: Not present.

Webmaster – Jim KD7BAT: Not present.

Standing Committee Reports

Strategic Planning – Daniel KL7WM: Not present.

Facilities – Mike N7WA: Nothing new on construction at the Salvation Army Headquarters.

Education – Tim K7ANE: Asked the group if anyone knows of any upcoming Tech classes. Robert KD7WNV mentioned a class sponsored by ESCA RACES, in Brier, Monday evenings 7:00 – 9:00 PM running April 11 – June 6. Details were in a post to the Reflector. Tim said he will be conducting a poll at April General on which books to acquire next for the Library (we currently have 93 books).

Public Service – George AE7G: Has asked Gene W7AKA to research and coordinate solution for RAMROD use of RFID tags. Members recommended Stephen Hatch, WA7DAD, for help on D-STAR. Robert KD7WNV indicated that we still have several hundred copies of the booklet that we are looking to distribute.

Technical – Alan KB7SVU: Nothing to report.

Other Committee Reports

Field Day – Ivy WA7IVY: Ivy showed the new Field Day (now, polo) shirt. Pins are on back-order. She also obtained some of the ARRL Field Day posters. She reported that all chair positions are filled except we need a Food chair. She had a meeting already with the Points chair, with a couple of other people sitting in. They discussed several good ideas for bonus points. It looks like we will do satellite this year—we only need one QSO to get the points. Ivy has not yet met with co-chair Richard N7MER, but plans to do so before next Meeting. Also needs to connect with Alan KB7SVU to go through the trailers to determine any needs or issues. Referring to the Field Day 2010 video that she produced and showed at the Awards Banquet, Ivy indicated she would like to receive lots of pictures, to help produce a similar video each year. This led to discussion of collecting pictures from prior years, and Robert KD7WNV volunteered to receive and organize whatever digital media can be turned up. Older pictures would need to be scanned. Other functions would include getting members to help identify persons and activities in the photos. Facebook or certain software platforms might be used for such an effort. To be discussed further under New Business. Alan suggested having a flag made with club logo, to be flown at Field Day along with the ARRL flag. Also to be discussed further under New Business.

Logo – Jim N7MU: The new small logo is getting good use—Jim is seeing more people wearing it. The large logo has a flaw in it—the base of the key is incomplete. The small logo has been provided to Mike W7XTZ of RC Tacoma, who produces some goods (OfficialStitches@comcast.net). Our vendor in Kent will put on your name or call along with the logo, for a fee.

[Continued on Page 11]

May 2011

K7LED Relay

M&K Outgoing Board Mtg Mins... [Cont'd from Pg 10]

Flea Market – Mike N7WA / Hal N7NW: All done.

Awards Banquet – Mike N7WA: We had 53 in attendance, and everyone seemed to have a good time. The Ken Jackson Award was presented to Daniel KL7WM. The Pop Brown Award went to Dick WA7NIW. Standard awards were handed out for duration of membership, including our first 40-year certificates. Hal N7NW and Mike N7WA received special awards for Continuous Exemplary Service. Toku AD7JA received a special award for handling the library. Jim KD7BAT was awarded Field Day MVP. Hal's wife, Annie, received Flea Market MVP. Ivy WA7IVY recognized her 2010 Field Day section chairs with certificates of appreciation.

By-Laws – Dave KB7PSN: Nothing to report.

Picnic – Hal N7NW: Not present. Dave KB7PSN indicated that the reservation is in place for August 20 at Gene Coulon Park. Hal and Annie are chairs.

Old Business

MOU with Red Cross for use of 222 MHz Repeater: Steve KD7IQL will handle preparation, review and finalization of the document.

Field Day - GOTA: We have a 10' x 16' tent that has been made available for GOTA. Robert KD7WNV asked about the source of the tent used for the VHF station in recent years. The reply was that it has been supplied by the VHF chair. Robert observed that that means we have the appearance of a surplus tent is only because two band chairs (VHF and 80/10/Digital) have supplied their own tents. Tim K7ANE mentioned that the ARRL has a 4' x 4' vinyl banner of the "When All Else Fails" graphic on sale for \$30, and suggested we acquire one for Field Day. Ivy WA7IVY authorized it to come from the Field Day budget (not to exceed \$30 total). Robert will include it with the Field Day shirt order, so shipping will already be covered.

New Business

Flea Market improvement: George AE7G sent out an email about Flea Market with ideas for stimulation. Ideas include having a location for people to bring equipment to power it up; maybe the service monitor; computers to look up information on the internet. Where could we do presentations? Maybe in the State Patrol building, but we don't know its configuration for next year. The little room on 2nd floor is small and noisy, and gets hot. Robert KD7WNV suggested we could have Internet lookup stations at Announcing, with appropriate precautions. Mike N7WA said he would most like to have advice from someone with direct marketing experience. George asked how the ham population is doing—answer: it is going up a bit in terms of number of licensed hams.

Regarding the suggestion by Alan KB7SVU to have a 3' X 5' flag made with the club logo: Ivy WA7IVY moved that George AE7G look into it. Seconded by Steve KD7IQL. Motion passed.

Regarding making an archive of historical club photos: Mike N7WA observed that many members have pictures from various eras. George AE7G moved that the archiving project be taken up as a priority by Strategic Planning. Seconded by Ivy WA7IVY. Motion Passed.

Good of the Order

-George AE7G thanked Tim K7ANE for his help with an attempted antenna setup for a friend's oceanic sailing voyage.

-There being no further business, George AE7G adjourned the meeting at 2034 hours.

Attested: Robert Grinnell KD7WNV, Secretary

Wear the Mike and Key Logo

By Jim Aigner N7MU

Over the last several months, the Mike and Key Logo Committee has been working to make clothing



SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

with the club logo available to members at reasonable prices. We now have our logo digitized for the chest and suitable for embroidery on shirts, vests, and jackets. We also have a large scale version of the logo for use on the back of sweatshirts, vests, and jackets.

You can find your own supplier for putting the logo on your clothing or do it yourself. Or you can use one of the suppliers that we have contacted for this service.

In addition to the vendor whose samples are shown below, we expect to have another supplier set up a "virtual store" on the web so you can view your choices and order them online.

You can find just about everything - shirts, vests, sweatshirts, and jackets in the online catalog: <http://www.sanmar.com> .

If you have questions, see a Logo Committee member: Jim Aigner N7MU, Dawn Humphrey KC7YYB, or Dan Humphrey N7QHC. Let's wear the Mike and Key logo proudly at club meetings, the summer picnic, and Field Day.



'Toku' – AD7JA

M&K-K7LED Club Library

Time for New Library Materials

By Tim Kane – K7ANE



In just three years, with club purchases and generous donations and loans from many of you, and especially from Toku AD7JA, our club library has grown from nothing to nearly a hundred amateur radio books and scores of ham magazines and journals.

Our General Operating category is the largest. We have thirty-three *Radio Amateur Handbooks*, from the 1st edition in 1926 through the most current editions from 2007 through 2011, plus the 1991 and 2007 *ARRL Operating Manuals* and another eleven books on amateur operations.

The other categories include Basic Introduction (4 books), DXing (5), Digital Communications (5), Power Supplies (1), VHF/UHF Operations (3), Emergency Communications (1), Low Power (QRP) Communications (2), License Study (6), Antennas & Transmission Lines (8), People & History (3), Electronics (2), Callbooks 1939, '60, '66, '91 and '95 (6), and others.

Need to find a magazine or journal article from an old issue of QST or CQ to build that quad antenna you've always wanted? Or, want to settle an on-the-air discussion with your DX ragchew buddy in VK-land with info from QEX, the QCWA (Quarter Century Wireless Association) Journal, or Popular Communications? The library olds hundreds of monthly issues of these magazines in either hard paper or CD electronic copies.

Each spring we review the holdings in the club's library, with an eye toward seeing what new publications we might want to acquire to meet the members' interests and desires. Last year we got the new 2010 ARRL Handbook, the ARRL General class Q&A manual, a QRP reference, as well as the ARRL HF and VHF Digital Handbooks. Universal Radio also donated some older references from the mid-1980s through the early 2000s, ranging from SWL to DXing to RTTY.

At the upcoming April general meeting we'll pass around some "Interest Ballots," listing some new or recent ham-related books that we might wish to consider for the library. All present will be asked to indicate the books they think might make good additions to the club library. If you have other suggestions, there'll also be space for your ideas on the ballot. Once we get everybody's input, we'll put together a list of possible new acquisitions. Among the books suggested so far are:

- *ARRL Ham Radio (Technician) License Manual, 2010*
- *ARRL Guide to Antenna Tuners, 1st Edition, 2010*
- *Stealth Antennas, 1st Edition, 2010*
- *ARRL Technician Q&A Manual, 5th Edition, 2010*
- *VoIP: Internet Linking for Radio Amateurs, 2nd Edition, 2009*
- *Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio, 2010*
- *FCC Rules & Regulations for Amateur Radio Service, 2nd Ed., 2008*
- *GPS and Amateur Radio, 2007*
- *Emergency Power for Radio Communications, 2005*
- *Amateur Radio on the Move (on mobile installations and operation), 1st Edition, 2005*
- *The Complete DX-er, 2003*
- *QRP Basics, 2003*

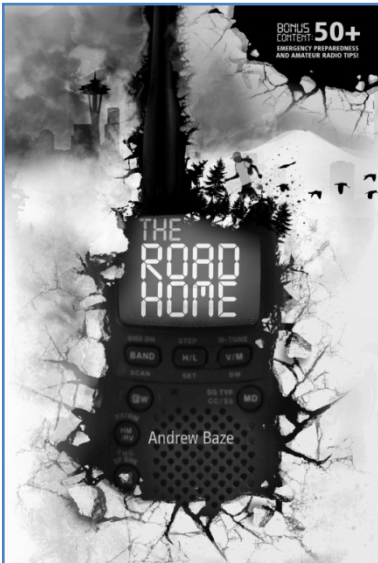
One good suggestion that was just received is that we get the 3-volume ARRL "Basic" series, which covers electronics, radio, and antennas. It's an excellent resources for beginners, and more experienced hams who want to brush up on the fundamentals.

While it would be nice to get everything, our budget is limited, so we want to ensure we get the materials of greatest interest.

We'd also ask you to review your own ham libraries for duplicates or other books and publications which you'd like to share with club members. While we have a few old Callbooks, it would be a nice resource if we had one or two from each decade, so people could look up their old callsigns or those of distant or silent friends. The library is happy to accept your donations, and there'll be a form for you to use. We're also pleased and greatly appreciative to accept donations from estates from the publication collections of Silent Keys.

I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Toku, AD7JA, our volunteer library manager, who was honored at the just-held awards dinner, for providing space in his business for our library, as well as his hard work in checking out the books, and transporting the entire library to and from each general meeting. Many of the library books, perhaps a third overall, are loans or donations from his personal collection, which he makes available to M&K members. He's done a terrific job, and the library would not likely be possible without his efforts. His help is greatly appreciated.

If you'd like to donate to the library or you have any other ideas or suggestions, please contact Tim, k7ane@arrl.net.



New Feature... Ham Radio Books 'dot' Com

By Andrew Baze AB8L

Great news everyone! "The Road Home" is now on sale on Amazon.com in print and on Kindle! But if you want a copy for yourself (because there's still a lot of content that won't fit in the newsletter –we're talking 200+ pages of novel!), you can get a copy at a discount at:

<https://www.createspace.com/3587936>.

Since you're getting the Mike & Key K7LED Relay Newsletter, you're obviously "Friends and Family", so you can use this special Friends & Family code to get a 25% discount – just enter this code when you check out: **HPYSHRT4**.

I hope you love it! And if you know any young adults who like to read and might be interested in learning more about amateur radio, emergency communications, and emergency preparedness, they need this book. ☺

-Andrew, AB8L

Chapter 17: Rescue Plan

"I have it. Hold on a minute." Jeff had the sleeping bag and pad secured on the ledge now, and was untying the cord that Robbie had used to lower it.

Robbie waited for a half minute.

"OK, you can pull it back up. All yours."

Robbie inched forward and poked his head over the edge. His father sat there, unfolding the sleeping mat and pulling the sleeping bag out of its sack.

"OK, I'm going to try calling for help. The Search and Rescue people should have no problem getting me out of here safely." Jeff turned on his radio and called: "This is NM8J with emergency traffic — can anyone hear me?" He heard nothing. This was a problem. He tried again. Nothing.

"I have bad news, Robbie. Do you remember the 'beep-beep' that we'd hear on the repeater when we would transmit? Well, my radio is fine, but I don't hear that beep. That means that the repeater isn't working as it should. Something was probably damaged in the earthquake. Repeaters often have backup power supply, but I don't know if they're meant to survive an earthquake like that one. Just in case, try with your radio too — channel five."

Robbie changed to memory location number five in his frequency list. He transmitted: "Can anybody hear me?"

No beep-beep. No answer. Nothing.

"Now what, Dad?" Robbie could feel his stomach tightening up. If they couldn't reach the outside world, and his father was trapped below and couldn't climb up, what could they do? Robbie couldn't pull up his father on his own. He didn't know how to drive, even if he could get back to the truck. Would his father die of hypothermia, exposed on the rock face? What could they do?

"Don't worry, son." His father's words were full of confidence, and they made Robbie feel better. "You'll hike back to the truck, get some rope, bring it back, and I'll be able to climb up."

Just then, they were both surprised to hear their radios simultaneously announce:

"This is a NOAA alert. There are reports of an earthquake with the epicenter near the Seattle metropolitan area. Initial measurements indicate that the earthquake is 7.6 on the Richter scale. It was felt north of Vancouver, British Columbia, and as far south as Eugene, Oregon. Wide-scale power outages have been reported. Most phone lines and cell towers are not functional at this time. More information will follow shortly. In the meantime, please do not attempt to use your cell phone unless you have a life-threatening emergency. Emergency services are limited at this time."

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With a jolt, Robbie remembered his mother and sister at home. "Dad! What about Mom and Lisa? Do you think they're OK?"

"Don't worry, Robbie. They were most likely still at home. And since we had our house earthquake retrofitted, they should be safe."

Three years before, Marie and Jeff had endured two long weekends of workers crawling around under their house, drilling, nailing, and hammering as they made a variety of modifications to ensure that the wooden house structure was firmly secured to the concrete foundation. Their house had been built in the 40s, long before the building code was updated with higher standards for earthquake safety. Additional hardware and effort was required to make sure that the house didn't simply slide right off of its foundation if an earthquake happened. Jeff and Marie also made many other simple modifications on their own, for example, securing the water heater to the walls with metal straps and securing tall shelves to the walls.

"Also, Mom knows where the gas shutoff is, and we have plenty of batteries and extra fuel for the generator — they'll be OK." But Jeff knew there was no way to tell whether they were OK. And since there was no way to know, there was no use worrying about it, and he didn't want to upset Robbie. They had to focus on getting home, then they could worry about whatever else needed fixing.

"OK Robbie — here's the plan. You hike back to the truck and get the rope. Then we'll hopefully find a way to get me back up this cliff and we'll go from there. Do you remember how to get back to the truck?"

"Um..." Robbie didn't remember.

Chapter 18: Get Rope

It was a good thing Jeff had taken time to show Robbie where they were on the map and where they were going. Even though Robbie didn't know how to get back from memory alone, he knew he could figure it out. And since he had a map and compass, he could make sure he was on the right path. It shouldn't be very complicated.

At least, he hoped it wouldn't be. He needed to show his dad that he could do this. Besides, he didn't really have a choice. Both their lives hung in the balance.

"I can use the map, Dad. I can do it."

"Good," Jeff replied. He reached into his pocket. "Here are the keys — lower the cord again. I'll tie them on. I'm afraid to throw them up. If I miss, we'd be in even hotter water..."

Robbie lowered the cord, Jeff tied the keys on, and Robbie pulled them up. He put them in his backpack.

"Inside the truck, in the extended cab, behind the passenger seat on the floor, there's a coil of rope. That should work fine, as long as we can find something to tie it to up there. How quickly do you think you can make it down and back?"

"It took us about an hour to hike up here, and that was uphill. Downhill should be faster, and I have plenty of energy left, maybe 30 minutes down, and another hour to come back. It looks like an hour and a half total."

Robbie started to put on his pack, and then a thought came to him. "Why should I take everything in my backpack? I bet it will be faster with less stuff."

"Good thinking Robbie — you're a smart boy!"

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"I'm not a boy!" Sometimes it bugged him when his dad called him a boy. It wasn't a big deal when he was younger, but now he was 14 years old, after all. Teenagers weren't boys any more, he thought.

"You're a smart *young man*," Jeff replied patiently. "Yes, you should take non-essential stuff out of your pack."

Robbie dumped out his backpack. He moved items into two piles — one pile to take and one pile to leave behind. He took a survival kit, flashlight, rain jacket, radio with spare batteries, his Leatherman multi-tool, a Clif Bar, a bottle of water, and some other essentials. And the truck keys, of course. He left behind extra clothing, extra food, his water filter, stove, stove fuel canisters, and some other gear. His pack was much lighter.

"OK dad. My pack's a lot lighter now. This will definitely help me go faster."

"Great. Any questions before you go?"

Robbie thought for a few seconds. "No."

"OK, go get that rope and get me out of here!"

"I'll do a radio check about half-way, and I'll radio you again when I'm at the truck. Do you think we'll be able to hear each other at this distance?"

"Yes — talking at this range should be no problem. You can leave your radio on if you want, just in case. If we're not transmitting or receiving often, it won't drain the batteries quickly. I'll talk to you soon."

Robbie turned his radio on, clipped it to the backpack waist-belt, and started trotting down the trail.

After a few minutes, he increased his speed. The trail and its surrounding still looked familiar, and most of the time the trail wasn't very rough.

He noticed that his heart was pounding harder now, and he wasn't sure if it was because he was moving quickly, because he was scared for his dad, because he was scared for his mom and sister, or because he was scared in general. He didn't care. He had to focus on getting back to the truck as soon as possible.

As Robbie jogged down another straight stretch on a switchback, he came to a fork in the trail. It looked familiar and he jogged right on through, taking the left path. He passed two more forks in the trail as he kept jogging, and took the second one, this time to the right.


A few minutes later, as he rounded a bend, he saw a clearing with a creek running by on the far side, and slowed to a walk, breathing heavily. It looked like a great place to camp.

But there was a problem. They hadn't passed this clearing on the way up. They hadn't crossed a creek, or even walked near a creek that he could remember. And Jeff would have definitely pointed out a creek if one had been nearby.

With a sinking feeling in the pit of his stomach, Robbie realized that he had made at least one wrong turn.

He was lost.

2011 -- Ham Nets & Events -- MAY / JUNE

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p>15 1700 – NWWA-LDS Net 147.34 (Weekly) 2000 – King Co. ARES Net 147.08 (Weekly) 2015 – Kids Net 145.49 (Weekly) 2200 – NW Astronomy Net 145.33 (Weekly)</p> | <p>16 0545 & 1645 – Weather Net 145.33 (M-F) 1700 – Evergreen State Traffic System Net 145.19 (Daily) 1830 – WA Emerg. HF Net-ARES 3.985 (Weekly) 1900 – Seattle ACS Net 146.90 (Weekly)</p> | <p>17 2000 – Seattle Red Cross Comm Team Net (incl. 'Elmer's Corner') 147.080 (Weekly) 2000 – Snohomish Co. ACSRACES Net 146.92 (Weekly)</p> | <p>18 2000 – Evergreen Interie Gen/Tech Info Net 145.33 (Weekly) 2000 – Educational Radio Net – PSRG 146.96 (Weekly) 2100 – NWSOAR Net 146.82 (Weekly)</p> | <p>19 1900 – M&K Public Service Net 146.82 (Weekly) 2000 – Computer & Packet Net 145.33 (Weekly)</p> | <p>20  Dayton Hamvention May 20-22</p> | <p>21 1000 – M&K Club Meeting, Renton 1230 – M&K Ham Radio Exams, Renton. Scott- ag7t@arrl.net ADA Tour de Cure Ride – Redmond to Monroe, Dale KC7VLM huskvtrstaidd@yahoo.com</p> |
| <p>22</p> | <p>23 1930 – PSRG Net 146.96 (Weekly) 2000 – YL Net 145.33 (Wkly)</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28 0900 – WA State Emerg. Net (WSEN) ARES HF Net 3.985 (Weekly)</p> |
| <p>29</p> | <p>30 Memorial Day 'Lest we forget...'</p> | <p>31</p> | <p>01 – JUNE –</p> | <p>02</p> | <p>03 June 03 – 05: WA Special Olympics – J.B. Lewis-McCord John KC7OLB caverlyj1@gmail.com June 03-05: Sea-Pac Hamfest, Seaside, OR www.seapac.org/</p> | <p>04 WA Special Olympics – J.B. Lewis-McCord Sea-Pac Hamfest, Seaside, Oregon</p> |
| <p>05 WA Special Olympics – J.B. Lewis-McCord Sea-Pac Hamfest, Seaside, Oregon</p> | <p>06</p> | <p>07 Note – New Day M&K Board Mtg Salvation Army Bldg Renton, 7pm</p> | <p>08</p> | <p>09</p> | <p>10 June 10-12: Wenatchee Hamfest – Dryden, WA http://www.qsl.net/kw7dl/ Relay Articles Due – 23:59:59</p> | <p>11 Sound to Narrows Run– Tacoma – Judy N7NII KTkxo@hotmail.com Port Ludlow ARC Swap Meet – http://www.ttlrj.org/</p> |
| <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> | <p>15</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18 1000 – M&K Club Meeting, Renton 1230 – M&K Ham Radio Exams, Renton. Scott- ag7t@arrl.net Parade – Strawberry Festival – Marysville – Liz N7ZXH hamsignup@seafairparademar snats.org</p> |