



*View from the Bridge...*



**Last Article (But Not Least)**

By Ivy Nelson-Groves WA7IVY, President

*As I write this, Flea Market 2012 is only hours away, and it dawned on me that this is the last time I will be writing to you as the Mike & Key President.*

It has been a lot of work, but these past two years have been an incredible time for me, and I've been filled with great pride in this wonderful group of amateur radio operators: your knowledge and passion for this avocation, the things we have accomplished as a Club, as well your warmth and friendship to me personally. I've learned so very much from all of you, and am glad you gave me the opportunity to serve. It has been an honor representing ya'll as your President. Thank you so very much!

It is a very busy month for our Club: Flea Market kicks off the month, and my crystal ball says it will be a great event! I know by Sunday morning there will be some very tired people, and hopefully with a few more radio goodies than they had at the beginning of the month. :-)

Our annual elections are coming up, and there are a lot of opportunities for service. I recall that when I first ran for Secretary four years ago, I thought it would be a great way for me, as a fairly new member of Mike and Key, to get to know what is going on in the club and to get to know the membership a bit better than just sitting in the back of the room at general meetings. I was right – I've got to know many of you much better, and I've had a lot of fun along the way. I encourage any of you who are who are interested to consider running for office. You won't regret it!

And on the last day of this month, we will be having our Annual Awards Banquet – a time to look back as well as a chance to look forward. And to enjoy a meal in the company of friends is good too!

See ya'll on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>...

**Mike & Key Awards Banquet**

By David Smith. KB7PSN, Banquet Chair

The *Annual Mike & Key ARC Awards Banquet* will be held on **Saturday, March 31, 2012**, at the [Tea Palace Asian Restaurant](#), a Chinese restaurant in the Renton Highlands. This Annual Club event is typically held between the March & April General Membership meetings. Here, we get together to recognize various members for their accomplishments and service to the Mike & Key Club.

Banquet price is \$20.00/person and is limited to 60 people. Meal will be offered Family Style and includes Vegetable Beef Soup, Vegetable Fried Rice, Honey Walnut Prawns, Roasted Chicken, Vegetable Medley, Fruit plate, & Hot Tea. Various door prizes will also be available at this event. *[Continued on Page 7]*

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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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[www.mikeandkey.org](http://www.mikeandkey.org)

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Renton, WA 98057-4234

**K7LED Repeaters:**  
146.82 output / 146.22 input  
(PL 103.5)  
Tiger Mountain  
224.120 output / 222.520 input  
(PL 103.5)  
Tiger Mountain

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

**On the Web** – The Club's site at [www.mikeandkey.org](http://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.

March 2012

## M&K March Club Activities

By George Thornton AE7G, Activity Manager

We are pleased to report the monthly door prize raffles have been going well. Already we have accumulated \$514 towards the year end door prize. If the interest keeps up we plan to have some significant prizes for year end.

Right now our goal is to acquire an Elecraft KX3 as the primary year end prize. If ticket sales continue on the current pace we will have no problems making our goal. Remember, every dollar collected in door prize tickets goes to purchase prizes so the more tickets you buy the better the prize.

**We will need time at the March meeting to conduct our annual election of officers, so there will be no March guest speaker.**

**For April we will focus on the Salmon Run experience.** The presentation is being coordinated by Mike Dinkelman. This talk was previously scheduled for our January meeting but had to be postponed because budget discussions at the January business meeting ran long.

The Activities Director stands for election at every March meeting. The Activities Director can serve for a maximum of two consecutive years. I have been in this position since last fall, so I am eligible and willing to continue if that is the will of the membership. I am not scheduling speakers past April in deference to the electoral process.

See you at the March general meeting.

## M&K March Door Prizes

By Jim Aigner N7MU

Here's the line-up for March door prizes:

- Mountain Survivor Dry Box
- TRICrimp Powerpole Crimper Tool
- 19" 30 SMD 12V LED Light Strip
- Red-Dee-2 Connect 4 Powerpole Adapter
- (2) PL-259 Right Angle connectors, (2) PL-259 F to N Male connectors
- (2) Fuse holders
- 12 in 1 Multi-tool
- ARRL ARES Field Resources Manual
- Other items from the Mike and Key Flea Market



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## Preliminary Fleamarket Count

By Michael Dinkelman N7WA

Here's what everyone has been waiting for. These numbers are subject to revision. It's late, we're tired (as I am sure many of you are), and there may be some minor reconciliation to follow. The Treasurer may have some adjustments to make as well. This number includes ticket pre-sales made by registration. Enough with the disclaimers, right now, it looks like:

2012:

Gate: 1895 (includes 94 Juniors) Vendors: 513 Total: 2408

2011:

Gate: 1837 (includes 76 Juniors) Vendors: 509 Total: 2346

2010:

Gate: 1897 (includes 101 Jr) Vendors: 551 Total: 2448

2009:

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

2008:

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

2007:

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

This pretty well tracks within the norm of the past six years. It wouldn't and couldn't happen without the help of everyone down there. I received quite a few positive comments. Most of those that weren't so hot dealt with the issue of egress. But gee whiz, we had both floors loaded out before 5:30PM. My thanks to you all. A truly team effort (Club member and non) and you are truly a fine group of people.

## FM'12: Registration Report

By Diane Dinkelman KB7DNE

The Flea Market is over for this year. On this occasion it was bitter sweet. I, my daughter Susan, and my Granddaughter Corrine arrived around 9:00am Friday. We met our new crew member Michelle WA7PVE walking in as we as we drove up. At first it started out with many little things to do, such as making sure all of my Fleamarket items for the people working the Pavilion were in place. Then out to the Registration booth with key in hand to set up. When I got there, my booth and the drive through that our Sellers use was blocked out with large concrete blocks and caution tape. **WHAT!** Fairground construction had invaded the Registration booth!

What to do? Call Mike N7WA, no call Hal N7NW, no call Mike. Be calm Diane, be calm. It will be ok. My crew was talking to the Foreman of the construction crew and so did I. We came to a mutual arrangement that would work for all of us. Finally after a half hour of discussion I was able to go open the door, get set-up, and my crew could set up the road with caution tape. Everything would be OK now. We could all get stated on our set ups. **WHAT!** The key doesn't fit! What to do now? Call Mike N7WA to get the fairgrounds man to bring the right key. The fairgrounds man came out, tried the key and said this key won't fit, I'm going to have another one made.

Wiping away my tears I decided to see which route our Sellers could use to get to Registration. Could we go by the roller coaster as we use to do before they started to refurbish it two years ago, or would we use the one we have been using for the last two years? We had a very nice discussion with the Forman's Boss and worked out arrangements with him. **[Continued on Page 4]**

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**FM'12: Registration... [Cont'd from Page 3]**

Finally the key was made and it fit. I was on my way. The fairgrounds man brought me a table and I set up my booth. All was well. **WHAT!** It's 11:00! Hurry, hurry, hurry! Get the road marked out and the Gold Gate set-up before lunch. Well, almost done.

**WHAT!** The Pizza is here already! Rush, rush, rush! 2:00 is coming too fast. Gobble the pizza down, check the floor lay-out. The crew is back to finish the road set-up and I run to Registration for last minute things that need to be done. Some of the rest of my crew Wayne K6DOW, Jim KD7BAT, his wife Rusty, Sally Martin, Teresa AD7CT, and her daughter Jess, arrive. The road is all set up. We can relax for a minute. **WHAT!** It's 5 to 2! Run, run, run, to your places crew and let's get the Sellers in and on down to the pallet dock where they can take over.

**WHAT!** Vandy N7EAM and Jim K7ND are late! Jess you go to the Pallet gate Michelle WA7PVE you go to the Orange Gate, Susan you run them there in the go-Cart, but hurry back so that you can run Packets. **OH!** There they both are here, all is well. Will that phone ever stop ringing? **WHAT!** I can't call out! Call Mike N7WA! To get Gil W7GIL to fix it, the Sellers are coming through. Finally the phone is fixed.

The Sellers seem to come in all at once this year, fortunately my crew as usual in their professional way, got them all in OK. The rest of the Event was grueling but not too bad. Our customers seem to be in good spirits and laughed and joked. Load out was not too bad and then again our customers seem to be in good spirits there also. All in all it was a pretty good Event.

We did have one of the crew get sick Friday evening with a high fever and her mother had to take her to emergency care Saturday. They both missed all the fun on Saturday. Jess we are thinking of you and wish you a speedy recovery.

Thank-you Registration team again this year for the great work you all do. Oh by the way our new member Michelle did real well and can hardly wait for next year. She will be a great access to our team. I would be amiss if I didn't mention all the great work that everyone working the Fleamarket does. Last but not least the wonderful Chinese dinner that Hal N7NW arranges for all of us volunteers Saturday evening after the Event.

Until Next Year - Diane KB7DNE

**FM'12 – Retrospective**

By Michael Dinkelman N7WA



What?... Who?... Where?... Oh? It was just a dream. Thank Goodness. I was dreaming that we were throwing

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around tables and chairs, selling tickets, running pallets, and being buried under tons of radio gear....

Huh? You say it wasn't a dream. Come on. Who would subject themselves to such madness. Huh? Every year you say? Come on, I know I'm sitting on a beach in Costa Rica somewhere. Huh? Oh just Dick, WA7NIW? Puyallup, you say? One hundred and twenty of us, you say? Well, I say this is surely group madness.... Huh?

Every year you say... 'Wow!'



Just kidding... (except for the Wow part). It was another successful running of the M&K ARC Puyallup Fleamarket. You guys did great and as I have said before, it was truly a team effort. I can't thank everyone individually though I have tried hitting many of you up as I've passed you or worked with you. It's a commitment to do this, I know, and I don't care how small a part you played – it was important.



So how about some random thoughts about the event as they come to me? (I'm serious about the random part.)

- **Love those plastic pallets. We'll be getting more.**
- **You probably have noticed we moved the ARRL into their own "booth" It was a gamble but one that paid off. They like it, we like, and they'll be there from now on.**
- **The donation thing for the pizza lunch worked out great. I should have gotten a couple more extra-large pizzas but I think we had enough to meet the minimum hunger requirements.**

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### FM'12 – Retrospective... [Cont'd from Page 4]

- This year, table setup started on the second floor. Seemed to work out better. Just part of our constant/continual improvement plan.
- I hereby designate Carl N7CJR "Banner Master". He put up the club banner out at the gate and took 'em down. He also gets the "brave soul" award for climbing the ladder.
- Good eats at hospitality. Thanks Michelle. If you didn't have a warm and full belly at the event – it was your own fault.
- I received some more old pictures from Dick WA7UEW at the Country Store. Some from a club VHF operation in 1974 on Cougar mountain and a few from the first Field Day at Marrowstone. Once I get them digitized, I'll post 'em.
- On a similar note, Karl DeJong swears he has some pictures from a Longacres fleamarket. (If you don't know what Longacres was you're either a youngster or a recent transplant.)
- Don't try to outpace Dan N7QHC when it comes to tossing tables. Thanks for the help on teardown Dan. (I was hoping he would need a break so I could get one. Nope!)
- George AE7G learned two lessons this event. 1) come prepared for inclement weather. 2) don't ask me where help is needed. Thanks for taking tickets George when we lost Jessie to a temperature of 102.
- We had a tag team managing the ticket sellers this year. Hats off to Kathy KB7QMO and Kathleen KF7MUD (K squared). I think the co-chair approach works well and I heard of no issues out there.
- Hal, for next year, let's see if the pallet jack supplier can provide some additional handtrucks for loan out. Should be pretty cheap and we had a waiting list this year.
- This year, we wrote the EXIT procedure out and put copy on EVERY table. Then, when someone came and asked about how to get out I would ask, did you read the procedure? No.... As they say, you can lead a horse to water...
- Anybody buy a vinyl dress? Boy, did I get an earful about that.
- Annie! What can you say? Constantly on the move.
- Did I mention Kathleen KF7MUD? Her chair duties didn't start until Saturday. So she found a spot that needed some attention on Friday directing traffic.
- We always need to remember that there are scuz-buckets out there. Someone lifted an item out of the Country Store. That'll come out of our pockets.
- I sold a bunch of stuff at the Country Store. How about you? Commission free for workers.
- I need to get me some wire and braid and start undercutting Eric N7DLV. Sounds like a pretty lucrative operation there.
- From the "Gotta do better department". Kathy KB7QMO had to carry a heavy microwave all the way from the Gold gate to hospitality. I think we could have found someone to bring that in on a pallet for her.
- Mike KA7CSE came down and did upstairs pallet crew after being sick all week. Then he convinced a new Ham friend of his to try pushing some pallets around. HOOKED! (fish on!) The new guy stayed around to help with load out. I think we may have a new worker for next year.

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- I hear those new VE exam digs are pretty nice. Lots of Extras passed this year too.
- I think we are getting older. By 6:30PM Friday, it was getting pretty quiet. When we started pushing people out at 7:30PM, there wasn't much to push out. There was a time when the place was humming until 8PM. Everyone needs their sleep now.
- Get a chance to ride in Alan KB7SVU's "track vehicle"? Could hear that thing coming down the road two blocks away. I did get a ride. It was hard not to giggle the whole way. Men and their toys... eh? I wouldn't try mounting a mobile rig in there Alan. It would shake apart.
- Announcing was setup nicely this year. However, I think Ivy WA7IVY is building a new empire as the announcing booth was twice as big in floor space as in previous years.

Well, that's all that comes to me now. I am sure more will pop into my head over the coming days. If you weren't there, you missed another good one. We had vendors from as far east as Montana and as far south as Arizona and buyers from all over Washington and Oregon. I was told by one knowledgeable wise man that the "junque" seemed much better this year and well priced to him. One final thanks to all that participated. Until next year, 73.

## Celebrate Our March Members!

By Dave Smith KB7PSN, Treasurer

As of March 2012, 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:**

Clinton Pozzi	N7HAM	23 Years
Dan Humphrey	N7QHC	21 Years
Robert Crooker	KB7PEC	19 Years
Kathy Martin	KB7QMO	18 Years
Jack McCall	W7TMW	14 Years
Jim Etzwiler	KD7BAT	13 Years
Dorothy Lowell	KB7WSO	12 Years
Gail Richardson	KI4JVM	7 Years
Laura Bendit	KF7ELG	3 Years
Gerard Hickey	WT0F	2 Years
Brett Traicoff	* No Call *	2 Years
Gregg Allyn	W7BFX	1 Year
Marisa Allyn	KF7NER	1 Year
Pat Clifford	KF7NDH	1 Year
Al Todd	KB7TBC	1 Year

## M&K: Radio Officer Report

By Hal Goodell N7NW, M&K-Radio Officer

Well this month was not quite as eventful as last month, thank goodness. While the winter weather continues with snow accumulations at the repeater site on East Tiger coming and going. There has been several days of 8 to 10 inches of new snow, followed by a warming trend and snow nearly melting. The road which had been plowed is now covered again, especially on the north side which is protected from the warming of the sun (what sun we had) and rain. [Continued on Page 6]

March 2012

**Radio Officer Report... [Continued from Pg 5]**

So this makes access to the repeater site not possible with the usual means. Fortunately our repeaters continue to operate and power has remained on the site.

Our two meter repeater continues to be cursed with the intermod on the squelch tail as weather worsens then goes away with good weather days. We continue to monitor the situation and will get up there to do further outdoor troubleshooting when the weather improves.

The two meter repeater was used as talk in for our fleamarket and performed very well during this time. Thanks to all the users who stood by and let the traveling hams have access for directions.

-Hal Goodell, Radio Officer

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**ANOTHER PLAN**

By Mitch Gill NA7US

Well friends, *I am no quitter!* When I try something I give it my all.

Jan and I are avid trailer campers. We go on short weekend excursions throughout the summer and mostly on the Puget Sound or to Pacific Beach. I always bring my radios and have a screwdriver antenna that mounts on the top of the ladder attached to the RV. One of the other hobbies I have is flying stunt kites and we always manage to put up a few stationary kites as well. That is when I got the idea! A kite antenna for QRP! What a brilliant idea it was to put 500 feet of wire attached to a kite and put it up in the air. I was drooling at the chance to work a lot of DX with my kite and I began preparations. Jan protested and painfully reminded me of my many other projects (she called them screw ups) of the past. She asked if I had to use anything sharp or anything with fire. It was only after and when I told her "No" did she hesitantly leave me alone to complete the task.

**THE PLAN**

I need some time to formulate a plan and I think best laying down so I took a nap and dreamed about my idea. When I woke up I was ready to go knowing that I got some great ideas from that dream if only I could remember any of the dream. Drat! Now I am going to have to start all over again but if I take a nap now it will be so late that I might as well go to bed for the night. Decisions, decisions.

Not tired so I decided to go ahead and build my QRP Kite Antenna. I had the kite so there was no need to change anything there. I just needed to attach a wire to the kite next to the string and let it fly into the nether region. Well that's what I thought.

**Lesson one.** Make sure the wire is very, very light or otherwise you end up with a kite that lifts no more than 10 feet off the ground with half of it still on the ground.

Ok, so I spent 2 hours looking for someplace to sell me wire and I got lighter wire. Once again I tied the wire to the kite and....

**Lesson two.** Kites are attracted to trees. Even though there was only one tree anywhere near the

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park, the dang thing nailed it about 50 feet up. I can not believe that I nailed the only tree. What gremlins are at work whenever I do a project? They follow me and torment me and I am sure they were laughing their little heads off. Drat, must stay away from the trees.

Ok, so I decided to move to the beach for this test. The wind will be stronger as well and even though it was a mile walk to the water, I felt good as the wind was up. I released the kite and started to reel out the line. 100 feet, then 200 feet and then all the way to 500 feet. It took 20 minutes to get it up that high and I knew that it would take a lot longer to bring it in but no big deal as I had plenty of time to work the world!

**Lesson three.** If you are intending to work the world with a kite antenna it is a good idea to bring the radio, keyer and batteries with you.

Drat. No one is around to hold the kite!

**Lesson four.** Bring a friend or a wife (if you can get her to stop laughing) or pay some kid a dollar to hold the kite while you walk back and get the radio equipment.

I finally found a young man with a kind heart and a mother who had no job and he claimed he had not eaten for weeks. He even had a sign to prove it. After a short negotiation I agreed to pay him \$10 dollars to hold the kite and I began the long journey back to the campsite.

I went back and got the radio, batteries, key, logbook, pencil and a grounding rod and hammer. I only had a twenty and the young man told me he would be right back with the change. I was set. That is, I was set until I hammered the ground rod into the sand without knowing that I was on a razor clam bed during the off season.

My anonymous friend who held my kite had moved me over the bed before handing the kite back to me. I had no idea that a ground rod could go through a clam like a knife goes through butter. How did I know that? Because the Fish and Game Warden pulled the stake out and showed me what was left of the clam on the rod. I received a ticket, a stern warning and was told to move off the clam bed.

**Lesson five.** Bring an extra set of batteries in case yours die and they did and no I did not have extra batteries. I got so mad that I lost control of the kite and it crashed into the ocean which made it a thousand times harder to reel in. Hours later I got it to shore, walked back to the campsite and through it all in the trash. Kite \$49, wire \$25.

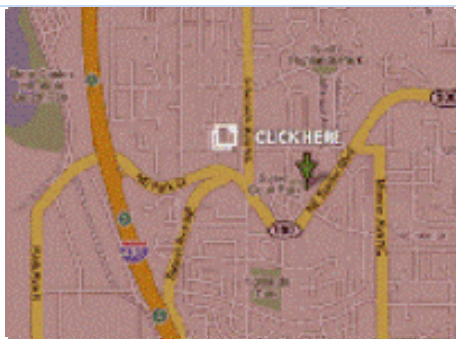
**And I didn't even get my change back. I am out almost \$100!**

Maybe next year I will try again but since I can't play with fire or solder or now kites or wires I am not sure what I am going to do. Maybe two cups and some string. Then again, I could build a tower out of wood but will have to get a nail gun. That could be fun, then again... *[maybe not!]*.

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

Area	Elmer Coordinator	Email	Phone	Also...
Homebrew, DX, antennas	Jeff Wandling, W7BRS	<a href="mailto:dew7brs@gmail.com">dew7brs@gmail.com</a>	206-605-2278	New Hams, satellite work
Beams and Towers	Alan Hughes, KB7SVU	<a href="mailto:kb7svu@juno.com">kb7svu@juno.com</a>	253-840-4947	Beam antennas and towers, safety
Contesting	Mike Dinkelman, N7WA	<a href="mailto:mwdink@clearwire.net">mwdink@clearwire.net</a>	253-631-3756	Contest operations
CW	Mike Dinkelman, N7WA	<a href="mailto:mwdink@clearwire.net">mwdink@clearwire.net</a>	253-631-3756	Learn CW, operating proficiency
Digital Modes	Earl Palmer, N7EP	<a href="mailto:earl_palmer@msn.com">earl_palmer@msn.com</a>	206-818-9246	Digital modes, software, TNC's
D-STAR	Steve Hatch, WA7DAD	<a href="mailto:stephen@hatch.net">stephen@hatch.net</a>	206-851-8842	D-STAR technology and operation
Emergency Comm	Tim Kane, K7ANE	<a href="mailto:k7ane@arrl.net">k7ane@arrl.net</a>	206-251-7467	CERT, ARES, organizations & Eq't
HF Operation	Dale Tongue AC7NP	<a href="mailto:dale.tongue@gmail.com">dale.tongue@gmail.com</a>	425-432-4254	Eq't, Antennas, best HF operating practices
New Members	Dick Radford, WA7NIW	<a href="mailto:wa7niw@arrl.net">wa7niw@arrl.net</a>	425-828-9791	Getting started, Eq't selection and operation
QRP	Frank Qualls, AB7HA	<a href="mailto:franklin_qualls@hotmail.com">franklin_qualls@hotmail.com</a>	425-802-1837	Low power operation, design & construction
VHF/UHF Operation	Dave Smith, KB7PSN	<a href="mailto:kb7psn@yahoo.com">kb7psn@yahoo.com</a>	425-235-5095	6 meters and up; radios, antennas, modes

### Mike & Key Awards Banquet... [Continued from Page 1]



**Directions:**

From the north: Take 405 South toward Renton. Take exit 5 for WA-900 E toward Sunset Blvd NE/Park Ave N. Turn left onto Sunset Blvd NE. Drive about 1/2 mile then turn left to the Viet Wah Asian Food Market (Tea Palace is right behind). Follow the Tea Palace Restaurant sign to the destination.

**Address:**

[2828 Sunset Lane NE, Renton, WA, 98056](http://2828SunsetLaneNE.Renton.WA.98056)

**Tentative schedule for the evening:**

- Happy hour starts at 5:00pm
- Family style dinner starts at 6:00pm
- Awards program starts at 7:30pm. (Gary Bryan - KG7KU will be the M.C.)
- Event over at 9:00pm

**I will be around during the Flea Market and at the next General meeting to collect money for your attendance in this event. You can also send a check, payable to Mike & Key ARC, to the club PO Box – PO Box 4234, Renton, WA 98057-4234.**

**Looking forward to seeing you there!**

## Wear the Mike & Key Club Logo

By Jim Aigner N7MU

You may have noticed the Mike and Key logo prominently displayed on fleece jackets and an assortment of shirts. Our Club logo was digitized into two sizes, a small version for the chest suitable for embroidery on the front of shirts, vests, and jackets and a large version for use on the back of sweatshirts, vests, and jackets.

You can buy new clothing with the club logo or have your own items embroidered by a vendor or do it yourself. There are a few vendors who have our logo and can do the work for you. You can find just about everything - shirts, vests, sweatshirts, and jackets in the online catalog: <http://www.sanmar.com> . Prices with the logo are about 10% less than catalog list prices.

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

### Morse Code Classes - Email received from Bill Balzarini KL7BB...

Morse Code CW Classes offered over the next 4 months at <http://HamShare.com>.

Morse Code CW #030 Saturday March 17th at 10:AM to 12:Noon

Morse Code CW #035 Saturday April 21st at 10:AM to 12:Noon

Morse Code CW #040 Saturday May 19th at 1:PM to 3:PM

Morse Code CW #045 Saturday June 16th at 10:AM to 12:Noon

Explore and enjoy the Ham Radio World of CW as these classes will take you into the world of CW.

There will be "Lots of Practice-Time opportunities" to increase your CW understanding and operating proficiency.

Subjects covered: Dits, Dahs, Spaces between letters and words + the CW language.

Classes are conducted in the South King County (Highway 167 and 18) area and are open to all.

Contact: [Email.Hamshare@Yahoo.com](mailto:Email.Hamshare@Yahoo.com)

See WEB-Site: <http://HamShare.com> Look for "Morse Code CW Classes"

## Calendar of Notable Events – 2012

By David Smith / KB7PSN

*Here are a few Notable Events to put on the Calendar this year –*

1. **Saturday, March 17** - General Membership meeting, 10:00 am @ Salvation Army, Renton, WA.  
Election of 2012 Board from those nominated in January & February. Those nominated must be present to be elected.
2. **Saturday, March 31** - Awards Banquet, 5:00 - 9:00 pm @ Tea Palace Restaurant, Renton, WA.  
The Awards Banquet is the time for various awards to be given to members in recognition of their accomplishments. Newly elected Board Members are also recognized at this Banquet. Meal cost is \$20.00 person. Emcee = Gary Bryan/KG7KU. Chairperson = David Smith/KB7PSN.
3. **Tuesday, April 3** - 2011 Board Meeting & 2012 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm @ Salvation Army, Renton, WA.  
The 2011 Board passes the torch off to the newly elected 2012 Board Members.
4. **Saturday, June 23** - Field Day @ Ft. Flagler State Park, WA.
5. **Saturday, August 18** - General Membership meeting, 10:00 am @ Gene Coulon Memorial Park, Renton, WA.

## Pacific Northwest Hamfairs & Events

Source: PNW Hamfair webpage at <http://www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm>. (Used with Permission)

**March 10, 2012. Mike & Key Swap Meet.** Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* For information, contact [dmdink@yahoo.com](mailto:dmdink@yahoo.com) or [n7wa@arrl.net](mailto:n7wa@arrl.net) . <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm> [Flyer in PDF](#). (298K)

**March 31, 2012. MicroHAMS Digital Conference.** Redmond, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <http://www.microhams.com/registration/>

**April 14, 2012 Yakima Hamfest.** Yakima, Washington. Selah Civic Center, 216 South 1st Street, Selah, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* For information, contact Lindsay Kooser (509)965-6612 [n7rhw@arrl.net](mailto:n7rhw@arrl.net) . <http://w7aq.org/> [Flyer in PDF](#). (208K)

**April 14, 2012. Communications Academy.** Seattle, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <http://www.commacademy.org>

**April 20-22, 2012. Idaho State Convention.** Boise, ID, Voice of Idaho ARC. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* Info, Lynn Rasmussen , W7RAZ, (208)550-7710, [w7raz24@gmail.com](mailto:w7raz24@gmail.com) . <http://www.idahostateconvention.com/>

**May 4-5-6, 2012. EmComm West.** Reno, Nevada. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <http://www.emcommwest.org/>

[Statements as posted on the Website: "Please email any comments, corrections, questions, etc. to [n7cfo](mailto:n7cfo) (at) [n7cfo.com](http://www.n7cfo.com)."

*N7CFO-Disclaimer: " I do my best to keep up with scheduling changes on these events, but there is always the chance that one will be canceled or re-scheduled and I will not find out about it. Please verify all dates and locations with the sponsor." ]*

### Email Received – W7TED (SK)...

**From:** Ken Gibson <n7elf@junett.com>

**Sent:** Sat, March 10, 2012 2:55:07 PM

**Subject:** W7TED SK

Greetings - the following message was posted earlier by Rob, K7KXO

"It is with great sadness that we must inform the membership that Ted Axtel W7TED became a Silent Key this morning. Ted was a valued member of Pierce County ARES and the entire Amateur Radio community. He will be missed by many. We would ask that you keep Ted's family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We will post more information when it becomes available."

Ted was an invaluable ARES team member, and was largely responsible for getting the Puyallup EOC amateur radio operations and digital operations up and running over the past few years. Ted was the Puyallup EOC Emergency Coordinator, lead for the Emergency Communications Response Team (ECRT), and had a particular emphasis on digital and amateur television operations. Ted always made his W7TED repeater and any other resources available for emergency communications and training purposes.

On a personal note, it was Ted Axtel, along with Paul N7VBJ and Jim N7RHX that I count among my early Elmers in digital operations. Ted will be greatly missed.

I conveyed condolences by phone on behalf of WWA District 5 ARES to Ted's family via his son, Ted Axtel Jr. earlier this afternoon.

-73 , Ken N7ELF, ARES WWA , Region 5 District Emergency Coordinator

NNN0HWY/NNN0GCC FIVE

Navy-Marine Corps MARS

WA Telecommunications Assistant to the State Director



March 2012

## M&K General Meeting Minutes

By Robert Grinnell KD7WNV, Secretary

Meeting held February 18, 2012

Meeting was called to order at 1002 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: Mail was for the Treasurer.

**Treasurer** – Dave KB7PSN: See him to pay dues or get reimbursement.

**Activities Manager** – George AE7G: Not present. Jim N7MU is handling door prizes.

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

**Radio Officer** – Hal N7NW: Received new surplus batteries (retired from UPS service) from Costco. Shared four with the owner of our repeater site.

### Quorum present.

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

Sam N7RHE made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded Greg W7HRC. Motion passed. (Robert KD7WNV subsequently noted that the minutes were in error with regard to the holder of the Alligator Award—it should have listed Mike W7XTZ.)

**Vice President** – Kathy KB7QMO: No membership applications to vote on. If you want another Club patch, they are available for \$5. Pins cost \$3. Please ensure that your dues are paid up by next month—you must be a paid up, current member to vote in elections.

**Relay Editor** – Gary KG7KU: Nothing to report. Gary appreciates everyone's input.

**Webmaster** – Jim KD7BAT: As noted in the Board minutes in the *Relay*, it has been suggested that we should consider something like a blog. There has been some discussion among Jim, Relay Editor Gary KG7KU, and officers regarding viability. Right now we have the Reflector, Facebook, and the website for long-term storage. A blog is updated every day or every other day. Unless we have someone to really keep that active, he doesn't think it is viable at this time. But he is still open to discussion, and suggestions for improvement.

### Standing Committee Reports:

**Strategic Planning** – Mike N7WA: Will have an article in the upcoming *Relay* related to budget discussions at the last couple of meetings. Received some great pictures of the very first Field Days and banquets conducted by the Club. They are now digitized, and he will try to get them up on the website soon.

**Facilities** – Daniel KL7WM: We have signed the new rental agreement with the Salvation Army.

**Education** – Tim K7ANE: There will be a Tech course in Bellingham, Saturdays 9am-4pm, April 14 & 21; see

## *K7LED Relay*

ARRL website. Another Tech course will be in Federal Way, March 2-4, contact Daniel Stevens or [training@fwc.org](mailto:training@fwc.org). The Microhams will have their annual Digital Conference on Saturday, March 31. Cost is \$25 in advance; it includes lunch (walk-in is \$35, and you take pot luck). Daniel KL7WM announced an introductory DSTAR class on February 25, at the Tukwila Fire Station 51. Contact Daniel or register at [www.tukwilaradioclub.org](http://www.tukwilaradioclub.org). Robert KD7WNV announced that ESCA has set its schedule for spring classes, again offering simultaneous, but separate, Tech and General courses running Monday evenings 7-9pm, beginning March 26, concluding with the exam on May 14. Location is Brier City Hall; contact Dan Good, [dan@esca1.com](mailto:dan@esca1.com).

**Public Service** – Robert KD7WNV: The booklet preparation is in progress. We picked up a new advertiser, SteppIR in Bellevue, for a half-page ad. The committee will meet today to coordinate remaining work and schedule. Copies of 2011 booklet were put on the tables before the meeting, and Robert solicited assistance from everyone with any corrections or deletions that should be made in the Nets list. Upcoming public service events include the Chilly Hilly bike ride on Bainbridge Island, February 26, and two Seafair parades: the St. Patrick's Day Parade downtown on March 17 (conflicts with next Mike & Key meeting), and the All Fool's Parade in Woodinville, March 31.

**Technical** – Alan KB7SVU: No report.

### Other Committees (as appropriate)

**VE Exams** – Scott AG7T: We had 4 people take exams last month. Awarded 2 Technician, 1 General, and 1 Extra.

**Flea Market** – Hal N7NW/Mike N7WA: Just 3 weeks away now. Today's program is a Flea Market orientation. Ivy WA7IVY is handling ticket sales for the Chinese dinner Saturday night after cleanup. Cost is \$12 (there is a limit of 50 persons).

**Awards Banquet** – Dave KB7PSN: The banquet is March 31, 5-9pm at the Tea Palace in the Renton Highlands. Dave is selling the tickets; cost is \$20. We will have awards and install the new officers/Board. Kathleen KF7MUD noted there is a limit of 60 persons.

**Field Day** – Ivy WA7IVY: ARRL has published the 2012 rules. We are already registered on the ARRL Field Day Station Locator. We need a Points chair and a VHF chair. Food Chair Michelle WA7PVE is looking for some people to bring supplementary grills.

**Logo** – Dan N7QHC: Distributed name tags for some newer members.

### Old Business:

**Officer Nominations** – Ivy WA7IVY: Ivy nominated Robert KD7WNV for President. Robert KD7WNV nominated Ivy WA7IVY for Secretary.

### New Business:

**Alligator Award** – Mike W7XTZ still holds the award. He showed a book of pictures documenting the Alligator's adventurous travels.

### Good of the Order:

Dave KB7PSN: Received an email from Darla, friend of Frank K7VMG, with a prayer request for Frank. He fell recently, is at Good Samaritan Hospital, and has pneumonia.

[Continued on Page 10]

## March 2012 General Mtg Mins... [Continued from Page 9]

**K7LED Relay**

John NU6A complimented Gary KG7KU on his continuous effort and the quality of the *Relay*. The attendees gave Gary a round of applause.

Rita KD7CNU relayed that Ft. Flagler State Park is holding its annual work party next weekend, February 25-26. More info is in the *Relay*. They won't be doing any work at Camp Wilson (the Barracks) this year, but she encourages anyone who can to go. They will have a dance this year.

The next Mike & Key Board meeting will be on the first Tuesday of the month, March 6 at 7:00 pm, at the Salvation Army in Renton.

### **The Flea Market will be March 9-10.**

The next Mike & Key General Membership meeting is the third Saturday, March 17, 2012.

John WA7HQQ made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Scott AG7T. The motion was passed. Meeting adjourned at 1044 hours.

15 guests; 62 members, 49 ARRL members

**Attested: Robert Grinnell KD7WNV, Secretary**

## M&K Board Meeting Minutes By Robert Grinnell KD7WNV, Secretary Meeting held March 6, 2012

### Officers present

- X\_President – Ivy Nelson-Groves (WA7IVY)
- X\_Vice President – Kathy Martin (KB7QMO)
- X\_Secretary – Robert Grinnell (KD7WNV)
- X\_Treasurer – Dave Smith (KB7PSN)
- X\_Activities Manager – George Thornton (AE7G)
- X\_Radio Officer – Hal Goodell (N7NW)

### Trustees present

- X\_No. 1 – Mike Dinkelman (N7WA)
- X\_No. 2 – Kathleen Weiss (KF7MUD)
- X\_No. 3 – Tim Kane (K7ANE) (CoB)
- X\_No. 4 – Alan Hughes (KB7SVU)
- X\_No. 5 – Daniel Stevens (KL7WM)

### Other officers (non-voting)

- X\_Relay Editor – Gary Bryan (KG7KU)
- \_\_Webmaster – Jim Etwiler (KD7BAT)

### Visitors

Michael Hansen, KG7MX.

Chairman of the Board Tim K7ANE called the meeting to order at 1907 hours.

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes of the previous board meeting was made by Daniel KL7WM, seconded by Ivy WA7IVY. Motion passed.

### Officer Reports

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

**President** – Ivy WA7IVY: Nothing to report.

**Vice President** – Kathy KB7QMO: New member applicants: Martin Grote, KI7JD; Jim Mitchell, KJ7QT; Howard Hultgren, KE5OEZ; Jim Long, WA7HCP. All recommended for approval.

**Secretary** – Robert KD7WNV: Mail was picked up by the Treasurer.

**Treasurer** – Dave KB7PSN: Distributed budget status by email prior to meeting. Has received tabs for the trailers, will

pass along to Alan KB7SVU. One of our CDs matured this past month. He transferred the accumulated interest to the general account, and rolled the principal into another 6-month CD.

**Activities Manager** – George AE7G: Balance of door prizes fund is very healthy for this early in the year. This puts us on track to hopefully have an Elecraft KX3 as grand prize for end-of-year drawing. Tim K7ANE mentioned that Wouxon is coming out with a dual-band mobile rig at about \$200 that would be another good option. George indicated that we will have the deferred presentations on the Salmon Run for the April program. Kathy KB7QMO mentioned that Fran N7FWZ is ready to do Gene's (W7AKA, SK) presentation on organizing a public service event. It has not yet been scheduled.

**Radio Officer** – Hal N7NW: The repeater is functioning, despite losing power on the ground several times. There is still snow up there. Cameras have been going on fritz, so Bob anxious to get up there and check on the security system. We still have the intermod problem, seems related to wet weather and other atmospheric factors. Repeater is ready for Flea Market talk-in.

**Relay Editor** – Gary KG7KU: The *Relay* is moving forward this month as usual, no special inserts to consider. Jim KD7BAT discussed the question of a blog at the last general meeting; have heard nothing further. As per Gary's email, this is a busy weekend, so he would appreciate early receipt of submissions.

**Webmaster** – Jim KD7BAT: Not present.

### Standing Committee Reports

**Strategic Planning** – Mike N7WA: Still plans to do an article on budget proposals; may not make it into this month's *Relay*.

**Facilities** – Daniel KL7WM: Nothing to report.

**Education** – Tim K7ANE: Daniel KL7WM announced an Extra class at Tukwila Fire Station 51, running two successive Friday nights and Saturdays, March 16-17 and 23-24. Cost is \$25, which includes the test fee. Class will use the Gordon West book. Robert KD7WNV noted that ESCA is again offering simultaneous but separate Tech and General courses running Monday evenings 7-9pm, beginning March 26, concluding with the exam on May 14. Location is Brier City Hall; contact Dan Good, [dan @ esca1.com](mailto:dan@esca1.com). Tim mentioned that there will be ACES training in Tukwila, two successive Friday nights and Saturdays, May 4-5 and 11-12.

**Public Service** – Kathleen KF7MUD: Robert KD7WNV discussed the booklet. We picked up enough new advertising that we expanded the booklet by four pages (one physical sheet). Besides StepplIR (already announced), we added a full page ad from a group comprised of Federal Way ARC, Tukwila TECTeam, and HamShare.com; and a half-page from West Seattle ARC. Additional content includes a listing of DSTAR repeaters (produced by Daniel KL7WM), expansion of the hamfests page to include conferences, and a tribute to Gene Underwood, W7AKA (SK) for his public service work. The printing cost will be higher than budgeted, but so will the revenue, and the net cost will be similar to last year, and at a favorable variance to the net budgeted cost. George AE7G added that the Redmond Cycling Club will be paying for a half-page ad (in gratitude for RAMROD support) even though an ad was not submitted.

**Technical** – Alan KB7SVU: Nothing to report.

*[Continued on Page 11]*

## March 2012

### Board Meeting Mins... [Continued from Page 10]

#### Other Committee Reports

**By-Laws** – Dave KB7PSN: Has found the minutes from last committee meeting, and is working on integrating into previous discussions.

**Logo** – Jim N7MU: Not present.

**Field Day** – Ivy WA7IVY: Has printed out the ARRL Field Day packet for band chair notebooks. Tim K7ANE has volunteered as Points chair. We still need a VHF Chair.

**Flea Market** – Mike N7WA / Hal N7NW: Tables are sold out and we have a waiting list. Things are all lined up. Ivy WA7IVY reported that about half of the after-event dinner tickets have been sold.

**Awards Banquet:** Dave 12 of 60 sold. Paid second deposit. There will be an article in the *Relay*. Gary KG7KU is MC. A discussion of program ideas followed.

#### Old Business:

**Donated equipment:** We will try to finish testing the TS-130 on site at the Flea Market, to see if we can assess its status and put it up for sale at the Country Store. George AE7G will

## K7LED Relay

bring the radio, and Robert KD7WNV will bring an MC-50 mike that should work with it.

**New Business:** None.

#### Good of the Order

Dave KB7PSN asked about the Salvation Army telling us not to enter the building before 7:00 PM on Board meeting nights. Daniel KL7WM will follow up. So far, they have been pretty adamant, and we have signed the agreement, but with the other group using the other door, it may not be a big issue anymore.

RAMROD has already raised about \$3,000 for MRNP Ranger Margaret Anderson, killed in the line of duty January 1st.

There being no further business, Tim K7ANE adjourned the meeting at 2031 hours.

**Attested: Robert Grinnell KD7WNV, Secretary**

## M&K-K7LED Club Library

By Tim Kane – K7ANE



If you drop by the club library at Toku's (AD7JA) TV repair shop in Skyway, or stop by the library table at the next Club General membership meeting you'll find five new books. The books were selected based on the preference survey we held at the general meeting a couple months back, plus input from the board and others.

The nice weather and the impulse to get outdoors seems to have influenced the results. Antennas are clearly the number one interest of club members at present, as reflected in the fact that three of the five new acquisitions relate to this key outdoor element of our stations.

The other two publications focus on mobile amateur operations, by car, boat, and even airplane.

Based on what you told us the new books include:

- **Stealth Antennas, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 2010**
- **Amateur Radio on the Move, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 2005**
- **GPS and Amateur Radio, 2007**
- **ARRL Guide to Antenna Tuners, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 2010**
- **Small Antennas for Small Spaces, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 2011**

**Let me know if there's something you'd like to see the club acquire, that's not already on the list.**

In the meantime, take a look at the new books at the library at Skyway TV & Radio Service, 11818 Renton Avenue South, Seattle. Enjoy some of the benefits of your membership, expand your knowledge, or just have a nice summertime read.



## HamRadioBooks'dot'Com

By Andrew Baze AB8L



Has it been a year? Wow! Here you go, the 12<sup>th</sup> and final episode in the serialized and abbreviated version of *The Road Home*, which is available in full form in your **Mike & Key library** (as well as **HRO, Universal Radio, and Amazon.com**). You can experience “the rest of the story”, which includes the adventures of a few more characters (and a bad guy!), and additional radio and emergency preparedness details (non-fiction), by reading the full book or Kindle e-book.

Whether you're only reading the shortened serial or the full book, I hope you love the story!

Are you interested in what happens next? I'm working on that book now, set in the post-disaster rubble of the Seattle area. I plan to release the book later in 2012.

And in the meantime, keep an eye out for my nonfiction book on personal emergency communications planning and technology. It's in editing now and due to release soon. You will probably find it interesting ☺

73, Andrew AB8L

### *Home At Last!*

Robbie inhaled sharply and turned the steering wheel hard to the left. He overcorrected, and now they were aiming too far left. In the last fraction of a second, he turned the wheel back toward the right, not as hard this time. With a horrible screech of metal on metal, they scraped through the gap.

Robbie cringed but didn't stop. He kept pressure on the accelerator and drove over the chain-link fence without slowing down. As soon as the front wheels drove over the far edge of the fencing, he felt the front end sink slightly in the soft dirt. But because of his speed, there was enough momentum to keep them going. The rear wheels cleared the fence and three seconds later, the truck pulled up onto the solid shoulder of the smaller, neighborhood street. Robbie stopped the truck and put the transmission into park. He was panting. He had been holding his breath the whole time.

“Did I break anything?” Robbie asked.

“Wait for a minute, and stay alert,” Jeff said. “I'll take a look, and then I'm going to fix the fence. Honk if you're worried about anything. This should only take a few seconds.” Jeff opened the back door of the cab again, and looked around on the floor, then stuck something in his back pocket. He hobbled around the truck, inspecting the damage from the scrape with the fence. He gave Robbie a “thumbs-up”, then crutched his way over to the fence. When he reached the fence, he balanced on one leg and lifted the flattened section until it was vertical again. Holding the center in place with one hand, he grabbed his crutch and pushed the end into the dirt, then propped it into the fencing on the right side. This kept the fence upright as Jeff pulled out two zip-ties and reattached the top of the fence on the left side, then the right. He attached two more in the middle, one on each side. When was done, it was difficult to notice that the fence had been cut at all. It almost looked as good as new. Jeff retrieved his crutch and hobbled back to the truck.

“Why did you do that Dad?”

“Well, there's a chance that we may need to come or go again, and if we leave this open, I guarantee you that someone will take their car and get stuck, blocking the way. Now we have a private back-door to the highway.”

“Cool. It's a secret highway on-ramp that goes the wrong way. I always wanted one of those,” Robbie said grinning.

“Who wouldn't want one of those?” Jeff answered, grinning back. Then his expression turned serious again. The light-hearted moment was over. “Now let's get home. We better call your mom. I know she's worried about us.”

Jeff pressed the transmit button on the radio. “KD7KFT, this is NM8J. Can you read me?”

*[Continued on Page 13]*

*HamRadioBooks'dot'Com... [Continued from Page 12]*

There was no answer. Jeff called again. Still no answer.

"Maybe she's busy outside and doesn't have the radio turned up loud enough," Robbie said.

"Maybe," Jeff replied with a frown, clearly concerned. He called again. The radio stayed silent. They continued driving.

Robbie turned onto their street, Southeast Seventeenth Court, heart racing as he anticipated seeing his mother and sister soon. Jeff looked from side to side, scanning for damage in the neighborhood. He was relieved to there was very little visible damage. Their neighbors were probably relatively safe, and things might be back to normal here in a matter of weeks, even days.

"We're almost home, Dad!" Robbie said, excitement clear in his voice. "And it doesn't look that bad around here. This could be way worse." He realized that he had been hoping for this all day long, and now it seemed like things were finally getting better, even in the midst of this disaster.

"Yeah. This is good news. It looks like our neighborhood is in pretty good shape."

"How long do you think it will be before things are back to normal?" Robbie asked.

"No idea. Might be a few days. This was a big quake."

Robbie was quiet, thinking about his friends from school, wondering how they were doing, whether they were OK or maybe even homeless, or worse. He kept driving.

---

Moments later, they arrived at their home, and Robbie pulled carefully into the driveway. He put the transmission in park, and exhaled deeply. The house was in one piece, they were in one piece, and they were finally home.

Jeff's door was already open, and he was fumbling his way out the door and retrieving his crutch at the same time. Robbie jumped out and ran to the front door. It was already opening.

Marie ran out and hugged Robbie. "I'm so glad you're OK!" she cried, squeezing him tightly. Then she stood up abruptly.

"I'm OK, don't worry," Jeff said as he hobbled closer.

Marie ran to him and hugged him too, careful to not knock him over. She didn't say a word, just put her head on his chest.

Lisa emerged in the doorway. "Daddy!" she cried, and ran to join the hug.

"Come here Robbie, you too."

Robbie walked over and they all hugged together.

"We're all safe now," said Jeff. "But you wouldn't believe the day we've had..."

Wiping a tear from her eye, Marie said "I'm so glad you're back. It must be crazy out there." They hugged each other again, and stood embracing quietly for several seconds.

"What happened to your radio?" Jeff asked Marie,

"The battery was running low, so I decided to turn it on for monitoring once an hour, like we talked about in our communication plan. I was going to recharge it from the bigger battery, but I've been busy."

"Makes sense. Good call. By the way, can you guess what Robbie did today?" Jeff said, changing the subject.

"What?" Lisa asked, clearly intrigued. Marie raised an eyebrow. This was going to be good.

"He drove us home, sometimes going the wrong way on the highway. And sometimes backwards. Oh yeah, he also rescued me from the ledge I was stuck on, after I fell off of a cliff."

Marie and Lisa looked at him dumbfounded. They could tell he was serious. Marie actually had her mouth open. After their sixteen years of marriage, she didn't get surprised by his antics much anymore, but this time she was flabbergasted. She quickly regained her composure and closed her mouth.

"It sounds like you have some stories to tell," Marie said, beaming at Robbie.

"We do," Jeff replied, looking at Robbie, who was blushing now. "Today was a big day for a lot of reasons. But one of those reasons is that Robbie showed that he was a real man."

"Yay, Robbie's all grown up!" cried Lisa.

Robbie smiled and looked at his family, relieved and happy that they were all safe and together. In the back of his mind, he wondered what would happen next.

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# Ham Nets & Events – 2012 – March / April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>11</b> 1700 – NWWA-LDS Net 147.34 (Weekly) 2000 – King Co. ARES Net 147.08 (Weekly) 2015 – Kids Net 145.49 (Weekly)	<b>12</b> 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)	<b>13</b> 2000 – Seattle Red Cross Comm Team Net 147.080 (Weekly) 2000 – Snohomish Co. ACS/RACES Net 146.92 (Weekly)	<b>14</b> 2000 – Evergreen Interie Gen/Tech Info Net – 145.33 (Weekly) 2000 – Educational Radio Net – PSRG 146.96 (Weekly)	<b>15</b> 1900 – M&K Public Service Net 146.82 (Weekly) 2000 – Computer & Packet Net 145.33 (Weekly)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>1000–M&amp;K Club Meeting, Renton</b> <b>1230– M&amp;K Ham Radio Exams, Renton. Scott-<a href="mailto:ag7t@arrl.net">ag7t@arrl.net</a></b> <b>Public Service: St. Patrick's Day Parade – Seattle</b> <a href="mailto:hamstationun@seattlehams.org">hamstationun@seattlehams.org</a>
<b>18</b> 2200 – NW Astronomy Net 145.33 (Weekly)	<b>19</b> 1900 – Seattle ACS Net 146.90 (Weekly) <b>1930 – PSRG Net 146.96 (Weekly)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 2100 – NWSOAR Net 146.82 (Weekly)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 0900 – WA State Emerg. Net (WSEN) ARES HF Net 3.985 (Weekly)
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 2000 – YL Net 145.33 (Wkly)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> → <b>March 31</b> → <b>MicroHAMS Digital Conference, Redmond, WA.</b> <a href="http://www.microhams.com/registration/">http://www.microhams.com/registration/</a>	<b>31</b> <b>Public Service: All Fool's Day Parade – Woodinville</b> <a href="mailto:hamstationun@seattlehams.org">hamstationun@seattlehams.org</a> <b>M&amp;K Awards Banquet</b> Renton – 7:30pm - <b>Tea Palace Asian Restaurant</b> Dave- <a href="mailto:h67zsn@yahoo.com">h67zsn@yahoo.com</a>
<b>01</b> – <b>APRIL</b> –	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b> <b>M&amp;K Board Mtg</b> Salvation Army Bldg Renton, 7pm	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Relay Articles Due – 23:59:59	<b>14</b> <b>Communications Academy. Seattle.</b> <a href="http://www.commacademy.org">http://www.commacademy.org</a> Yakima Hamfest – Yakima, Washington. Contact Lindsay Kooser (509)965-6612 <a href="mailto:dl7rhv@arrl.net">dl7rhv@arrl.net</a>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> April 20-22, 2012. Idaho State Convention. Boise, ID Info, Lynn WTRAZ (208)550-7710, <a href="mailto:W7ra24@gmail.com">W7ra24@gmail.com</a>	<b>21</b> <b>1000–M&amp;K Club Meeting, Renton</b> <b>1230– M&amp;K Ham Radio Exams, Renton. Scott-<a href="mailto:ag7t@arrl.net">ag7t@arrl.net</a></b>