



From your Club President...

Amateur Radio is so AWESOME

By Gary Bryan KG7KU, President

Ham Radio Operations... is absolutely Awesome! Whether it is a Parade event, Bicycle, Marathon, Contesting, Cruise, Car-Rally, Crew Races and yes - Field Day or Fleamarket - you guys Brave It All and Tough It Out!

If someone were to ask me: 'Gary, how many Hours do you spend doing Ham Radio and Public Service?' I would have to say 'I don't know. And I don't want to know. It's not about Hours, it's about Effort. This is Ham Radio and this is My Watch.'

You see, we are the Eyes and Ears to awareness of our surroundings. We are your Voice. We are your Hands. We are your Feet. We have already processed Information as to Strategy in the event of Emergency. We detect the Weather patterns and shifts in Wind direction. We sense Temperature and understand its Effect. We make microsecond Assessment of those around us. We know the Road conditions. We are On It.

For the safety of the Families who come out to participate in, or watch the event we are There for You.

I am so Blessed to have been introduced to Amateur Radio... to have been brought into such a Professional-Class League of Public Servants through Ham Radio Communication.

Thank you so much for what you do to contribute to having a Safe World!

See you at the upcoming December 19 General Membership Meeting. A couple things: (1)Your approval is needed at the Dec 19 meeting to finalize the Board-Approved proposed 2016 Club Operating Budget; and (2) Did someone say a Party? Yep. Come join us at our December Meeting!

Celebrate our December Members

By David Smith, KB7PSN, Treasurer

As of December, 2015, these folks have been Mike & Key members for the number of years stated. Congratulations to all of you, and thanks for your participation and service.

Happy Anniversary this month! Each of you makes us who we are.

John Becker	K7PFR	43 Years*
Ken Rau	K7YR	43 Years*
Raleigh Elkins	WB7WNF	36 Years*
Norman Ahrens	N7KWZ	28 Years*
Michael Ross	KB7YXB	22 Years
David Smith	KB7PSN	22 Years
Marilyn Olson	KB7WSH	21 Years
Fred Lowell	N7PZ	19 Years
Robert Ledoux	KE7JPI	8 Years
Vandy Eam	N7EAM	6 Years
Allen Evenson	AE7TG	6 Years
Kathryn Shuman	KF7TTM	4 Years
Jerry Olson	WA7CCR	3 Years

* Life Member, having been with the club 25 years or more.

Another Mistake I Have Made

submitted by Dan, N7QHC

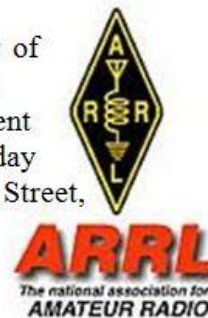
I have heard a lot about attic antennas, so I thought I would put up a ten meter dipole in mine. A quarter wave antenna should work and is an easy way to get on the air.

Except... mine wasn't working. I could hear little or nothing. Uh oh! My new house has a metal roof! My mistake - back to the drawing board.

I think this is a great teaching moment from one Club member to us all. Do you have one? Send it in. Thank you Dan! -Ed.



The *K7LED Relay*, published monthly, is the official newsletter of the Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club. The Mike & Key ARC is an ARRL-affiliated club dedicated to the growth and betterment of Amateur Radio. The Club meets at 10AM on the third Saturday of each month at the 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.



Postal Address:
P.O. Box 4234
Renton, WA 98057-4234

Web Site:
www.mikeandkey.org

Send dues to:
Mike & Key ARC
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Renton, WA 98057-4234

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

Email:
info @ mikeandkey.org

Send newsletter submissions to:
Michael Dinkelman, *Relay* Editor
n7wa @ arrl.net
253-631-3756

224.120 output / 222.520 input
(PL 103.5)Tiger Mountain

Reflector:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/mkarc>

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Club Library	‘Toku’ Okumura	AD7JA	ad7ja @ msn.com	206-772-2450
Webmaster	Jim Etwiler	KD7BAT	kd7bat @ arrl.net	425-788-7887

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, send Email to the *Relay* Editor: n7wa @ arrl.net.

M&K Club – December Activities

By Robin Carter WA7BRI, Activities Manager

Well boys and girls, it's time again to put Tim Allen's "Santa Claus" into your DVD players and get ready for the holidays because the Mike & Key Club's Christmas Party is "coming-to-town" on Saturday, December 19, 2015 at our General Meeting!

This festive occasion will not only deliver the usual sought-after raffle items of interest for our monthly drawing, but our Annual Grand Prize Raffle this year will do double-duty. In addition to our December Grand Prize Raffle of an Elecraft KX-3 at our Annual Christmas Party, there will also be a Secondary Grand Present under the "raffle-drawing tree" ... A Five-Piece Component QRP CW Station consisting of the following items:

- MFJ-9220 Multi-Band CW Transceiver with 20-Meter Module
- MFJ-BM15 15-Meter Band Module for the 9220 CW Transceiver
- MFJ-1317 13.6 VDC, 2.89 Amp Switching Power Supply
- K4VIZ Miniature CW Key
- Genuine CW Speed-X Straight Key

So not only will Santa be raffling off a brand new, factory assembled Elecraft KX-3, but this year the North Pole Elves included an Elecraft KXAT3 Internal Antenna Tuner factory installed as well. All raffle tickets purchased since last December, 2014 until November, 2015 will serve as the "drawing pool" for both of this year's Grand Prizes.



As this year draws to a close, please remember to send along your ideas and suggestions for future presentations in the New Year to me at ric@centurytel.net. And in the Spirit of Christmas, I'd

like to thank each of you for supporting our club throughout 2015 and wish each of you a blessed holiday season and prosperous New Year!

M&K December Door Prizes

by Robin Carter WA7BRI, Activities Manager

This month's "Regular" Raffle Items include the following:

- Amateur Radio 96 Page Log Book
- Destiny X-53, 4.5 Channel+6-Axis Gyro Copter; 100 M R/C Distance
- iHome Full-Size Enclosed Audio Headphones
- Pittsburgh 4.5" Diameter Mechanical Suction Cup
- Storehouse 20 Bin Portable Storage Case
- Titan 25'x1" Quick-Read Tape Measure with LED Light & Bubble-Level
- Innergie 10 Watt USB Auto-Adapter



Here is the "Runner-Up" Annual Grand Prize

... A 5-Piece Component QRP CW Station consisting of the following items:

- MFJ-9220 Multi-Band CW Transceiver with 20-Meter Module
- MFJ-BM15 15-Meter Band Module for the 9220 CW Transceiver
- MFJ-1317 13.6 VDC, 2.89 Amp Switching Power Supply
- K4VIZ Miniature CW Key
- Genuine CW Speed-X Straight Key



Membership Committee Report

By Rita Danielson KD7CNU

After the very productive Flea Market flyer stuffing event at the November general meeting, the Membership Committee met at the Skyway branch of the King County Library.

We had a productive meeting putting the final touches on the Christmas party for our December 19th meeting. We want you to come and have a fantastic time. Wear your holiday finery as there will be a prize for the most decked out. There will be Subway sandwiches, vegetable tray, cookies and two different punches for you to enjoy. Please make plans to join us. We will have our party after the general meeting. Robin, WA7BRI, has so graciously allowed us to be the program for this month. Thank you, Robin.



2014 Holiday Finery

We are also in the process of finalizing the Awards Banquet. The banquet will be held Saturday, April 9 at the Burien Elk's Lodge. We will be in the Ballroom so there will be plenty of room. We would like to see as many of you and your significant others join us. We are finalizing the menu and you will be able to make your choices at a later time. Kathy Martin, KB7QMO, will have more information for you.

Rachelle Gill, KG7QCN, has been designing a brochure with Club information to be available at the Flea Market and to be available at the various classes held for HAM Radio at the request of Daniel Stevens, KL7WM.

Those attending the Membership Committee meeting were:

- Gary Bryan--KG7KU
- Kathy Martin--KB7QMO
- Rachelle Gill--KG7QCN
- Ric Danielson--K7RIC
- Rita Danielson--KD7CNU
- Joan Wraalstad--no call
- James Wraalstad--WQ7H
- Dave Smith--KB7PSN

Remember we are YOUR committee, if you have any suggestions, questions or concerns, please see one of us at the general meeting, or e-mail us at mikeandkeymembers@gmail.com

Respectfully
73/88
Rita--KD7CNU

Hams Brave Wind and Rain to Bring Happiness to Many

Submitted by Dick WA7NIW

On December 6th, a group of 18 Hams, 8 of whom are Mike and Key members braved wind and rain to help out with the 76 Seafair Holiday Cruise, formerly known as the Special Peoples' Cruise.

The weather was blustery, but the spirits were high as we tracked 428 guests and chaperones from 3 bus loading locations to 7 destinations, and back. There were also many additional guests who arrived by private vehicles to go on the cruise.

While the event brought many cold fingers and toes, it also brought many warm hearts. This event is the highlight of the year for many of the guests. I know it is for me, and I suspect also for many other Hams who come out year after year. Thanks to all of you who participated this year.

Do you want a warm feeling inside? Come out next year.

Fleamarket Update

submitted by Michael, N7WA

We just completed our second organizational meeting of the Fleamarket Committee. Things are progressing well.

Registrations are coming in normally. The first floor is nearly sold out and the information tables will soon be.

The Club spent the November meeting stuffing and labeling 12,000 flyers. Some sealing remains but I expect the mailing will go out the first week of January. Thank you all for your help!

After an initial flurry - worker signups have dropped off. Please remember to sign up for duties at Volunteer Spot or have me sign you up. Most of you should have received invitations to Volunteer Spot which is our on-line sign-up list. It's possible I missed some new members or some of you have changed your email. Just ask me for a invitation.

Bell Ringing
submitted by Jim KD7BAT

The volunteers from the Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club completed bell ringing for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 5 at Fry's in Renton.

Thanks to Mike Dinkelman, N7WA, Gil Drynan, W7GIL, Al Hopwood, KB7THX, Robin Carter, WA7BRI, Tim Kane, K7ANE, Dick, WA7NIW, and Merideth Radford, Eric Snyder, N7DLV, and Jim Etwiler, KD7BAT for making this happen again this year.

The smiles, the enthusiasm, and the greetings of our members goes a long way toward encouraging passer-bys to filling the kettle a little at a time.

Double thanks goes to Gill, who brought the fresh donuts and Ryan Martin, N7TNI, for stopping by and visiting the bell ringers.

The Salvation Army is very happy to have us participate in this program. We pick up the kettle and man it all day. Some other sites require scheduling up to three shifts of three hours each and the Salvation Army supply transportation to and from the site.



Editors note: The Budget will be sent as a separate email for those getting the E-Relay. It will not be attached to the E-Relay.

From the Treasurer, Dave KB7PSN

Attached is the updated 2016 Mike & Key Budget, as approved by your Board. At the December meeting, the membership will be asked to vote on this budget, giving your Board a direction for 2016.

Your vote at the December General Meeting will be either **FOR THE BUDGET** or **AGAINST THE BUDGET** as written / presented. The second page of the 2016 Budget includes a Summary of Changes

Discussion

We always assume what is called a 'zero balance' budget. In other words, we assume we have no money, and no liabilities, on January 1 of the New Year. However, in reality, we have started the last five years with several thousand dollars in the General Operating Account.

Although we generally see a deficit in each proposed budget, we traditionally end the year with surplus funds to start the next. As shown within the attached budget file, last year's 2014 budget was approved with a \$5,975.00 deficit. As of December 2, 2015, the Club's Year-to-Date actual (+ predicted expenses) has a deficit of \$1,347.62, well below the 2015 budget deficit.

Next year's 2016 proposed budget is being submitted to the membership for approval with a \$4,600.00 deficit.

As of December 2, 2015, the General Operating Fund had a balance of \$4,404.48. The total value of the CD assets the Club owns is near \$26,024.89; hence, funds are available to cover this deficit.

Your vote at the December General Meeting will be either **FOR THE BUDGET** or **AGAINST THE BUDGET** as written / presented.

Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club Club Meeting, 27 November 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by the Gary.
Pledge of Allegiance.
Member and Guest Introductions

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.

Officer Reports:

President - Gary KG7KU: No report.

Secretary - Jim WQ7H: No report.

Treasurer - David KB7PSN: The books are in order. The budget will be voted on at the December General meeting. If you have input for the budget, come to the next board meeting.

Activity Manager - Robin Carter WA7BRI: An assembled KX3 transceiver with the optional antenna tuner is the grand prize for next month raffle. There will be a 5-piece QRP rig as a second prize.

Chairman of the Board - Monica KF7QLX: No Report.

Radio Officer - Hal N7NW: The repeater survived the storm. The club call is being renewed. The Lake Chelan club has been contacted about their plans for the rebuilding their repeater and how we may assist them.

Vice President - Rachele Gill KF7QCN: A quorum was present.

Sam Sullivan N7RHE motioned to accept the minutes as published in the Relay. Christopher Rose AE7XQ seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Milestones for November:

Robin Carter WA7BRI for 5 years of membership.

Theresa Edwards KO7E for 5 years of membership.

Curtiss Hedges KF7LZG for 5 years of membership.

Marshall McKinney KF7EHA for 5 years of membership.

David Tebrink K7NZU for 5 years of membership.

William Harris W7KXB for 10 years of membership.

Adam Koczarski K7ARK for 10 years of membership.

Ken Rodger AD7II for 10 years of membership.

Jim Aigner N7MU for 15 years of membership.

Steven Cook KD7IQL for 15 years of membership.

David Mitchell WA7DTM for 15 years of membership.

Greg Pietrucha W7HRC for 15 years of membership.

Dick Radford WA7NIW for 15 years of membership.

Scott Robinson AG7T for 15 years of membership.

Charles Sundberg K7PHZ for 15 years of membership.

Fred Roberts W6TKV for 20 years of membership.

Michelle Cross WB7AYU for 40 years of membership.

Pete Hedberg K7WTG for 45 years of membership.

Charles Stroehrer WA7EBH for 45 years of membership.

New Members:

Peter Kirkham KG7MYT was approved by the membership.

Editor Reports:

Relay Editor - Mike N7WA: Thank you for the relay articles. Great job.

Webmaster - Jim KD7BAT: Changes to the web site include the new Relay, updated repeater list, net list, and club listing. Classes for 2016 were added.

Committee Reports:

Membership - Rita KD7CNU: The committee is meeting at the Skyway Library today. Discussing the Christmas party, which takes place at next months general meeting. Banquet plans are underway. A new brochure is being designed to hand out at the Flea Market.

December 2015

K7LED Relay

Facilities and Publicity Peter Glaskowsky K4PNG: Daniel Stevens has agreed to be the chair of the committee. He needs more members for the committee.

Public Service - Robert Grinnell KG7WNV: The Seattle marathon is the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 28th. The Special Peoples Cruse for Sunday, December 6th, needs more volunteers. Contact Dick Radford WA7NIW if you are interested. Production of the Public Service booklet begins soon. People are needed to update the lists that are published in the booklet. We are looking for more advertising support. If anyone has updated information for the booklet, please contact Robert. The Northshore Emergency Management Coalition is being formed by the cities of Kenmore and Lake Forest Park with the Northshore Fire district.

Technical and Special Interest - David Yarborough WA7DY: The Wednesday night technical net is getting between 4 and 7 people checking in. If you know what a dipole antenna is, you too can be an Elmer. Feel free to check in.

Exams - Scott AG7T: 9 people participated last month. There were 5 Technician, 2 General, and 1 Amateur Extra tests passed.

Flea Market - Hal N7NW: Please sign up to volunteer. 120 people are needed in March. There is a Chinese dinner after the flea market. It is a great way to share and unwind. From Mike N7WA: Email Mike for a volunteer invitation or he can sign you manually. Jim Monson K7JGM and George Thornton AE7G are the new co-chairs for security and they need volunteers. The next Flea Market meeting will be Tuesday, December 8th at 7:15pm.

Field Day - Ivy WA7IVY: The results are out. We were 9th in the country and 1st in our class. We maxed out on GOTA points. The committee is on hiatus until after the flea market. We will need people to climb towers and pull the trailers next year.

Logo Committee - Tim Kane K7ANE: Tim has found a source for similar badges to those that we have had. They are \$14.00 each plus \$4 shipping and handling. If you include a fastener the cost could be \$20. Tim also found has a laser badge about \$9.

Awards committee Gary Bryan KG7KU: The members of the committee are Toku AD7JA, Jim KD7BAT, George AE7G and Gary. Contact the committee with suggestions for members deserving of recognition at the awards banquet.

Education and training: Jim KD7BAT:

Licensing classes

There is a Technician class and a General class finishing today in Ballard

Year to date, there have been 12 classes which created 235 New Hams, 64 Generals and 45 Extras.

There is a Technician class in January 9 and 16, 2016 in Auburn and a Technician class on February 20 and 27, 2016 in Ballard. Contact KL7WM@aol.com

Other training

There is an ACES class on January 16 and 17, 2016 in Everett and another ACES class on February 20 and 21, 2016 in South Seattle College.

MicroHAMS Digital Conference is March 19, 2016

Communication Academy is April 9 and 10, 2016

Old Business: Tim has boxes for each equipment trailer to store parts. Tim has found loose bolts from the trailer whose purpose is unidentified.

New Business: Dave Smith has announced that he is not running for treasure. The replacement is to be vetted by the board. If you have any interest and wish to run for the office of treasure, contact the board to present your credentials.

Alligator Award: Dean N7XS holds the plush pet.

Good of the order:

From Michelle Cross: Thanks to Dale AC7NP for donating the IC-735, which was awarded to Michelle at the picnic.

Dean Holton's old call was inadvertently recorded in last months Relay. His call is N7XS.

Sandra Dunkel K7OZY reported on a Social Security scam using fake email addresses. Kathy Martin suggested that everyone go to the SSN website and set up an account so that no one else can.

Christopher Rose shared his concern that hams are at risk of losing the 220mhz band.

George Thornton AE7G wanted to thank everyone who participated in helping with the GOTA in this year's Field Day event.

The next Mike & Key Board meeting will be on the first Tuesday of the month, December 1st at 7:15 pm, at the Salvation Army in Renton.

The next Mike & Key General Membership meeting is on the third Saturday of the month, December 19th at 10:00 am at The Salvation Army in Renton.

Christopher Rose AE7XQ made a motion to close the meeting and was seconded by David Yarbrough WA7DY. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 hours.

Attendance:

Guests: 10

Members: 54

ARRL Members: 47

Total: 64

Attested: James Wraalstad WQ7H, Secretary

Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting, 1 November 2015

Officers present:

President Gary Bryan KG7KU Present
Vice-President Rachelle Gill KF7QCN Present
Secretary Jim Wraalstad WQ7H Present
Treasurer Dave Smith KB7PSN Present
Activities Mangr Robin Carter WA7BRI Present
Radio Officer Hal Goodell N7NW Present

Trustees present:

No. 1 Jim Monson K7JGM Present
No. 2 Monica Cook KF7QLX Present
No. 3 David Yarbrough WA7DY Present
No. 4 Tim Kane K7ANE Present
No. 5 Peter Glaskowsky K4PNG Present

Visitors:

Michael Hanson KG7MX
Laura Bendit KF7ELG

The COB called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Peter Glaskowsky K4PNG motioned that the minutes be approved as published. Tim Kane K7ANE seconded. The motion passed.

Chairman of the Board – Monica KF7QLX: The new rope that was purchased for the towers was not put back into the trailers after field day and is missing. We need to install a tongue jack on the tower trailer. Sam Sullivan N7RHE from the audit committee has requested an audit of the equipment.

President - Gary Bryan KG7KU: No Report

Vice-President Rachelle - Gill KF7QCN: There are three new applications for membership. Mariana Varotto WA7EE, Philip Koepp KF6IXD, and Brian Haggerty KG7FWK

Hal N7NW motioned that the applicants be approved to be brought to the General Membership. Peter K4PNG seconded and the motion passed.

Hal N7NW motioned that the board advise the Treasurer that applicants 90 days grace to pay the dues after which their application is invalid. Peter K4PNG seconded and the motion passed.

Secretary - James WQ7H: No report.

Treasurer - David KB7PSN: The books are in order.

A donation was made to the ARRL.

The post office box rental was paid.

Sam Sullivan has requested a current inventory of equipment for the January audit.

David introduced Laura Bendit KF7ELG as a candidate for treasurer. Laura spoke with the board about her interest in being the treasurer of the Mike and Key club. Peter

K4PNG motioned that she be accepted as a candidate for the office of Treasurer. Rachelle KF7QCN seconded the motioned and the board voted in favor of the motion.

The rental for the picnic will be paid in January.

Activity Manager - Robin WA7BRI: The KX3 is the grand prize at the yearend party taking place at the December General Meeting. A five piece QRP rig is a runner up prize.

Radio Officer - Hal N7NW: The Picnic reservation will be made after the first of the year.

Relay Editor - Mike Dinkelman N7WA: no report.

Webmaster - Jim Etwiler KD7BAT: no report

Education & Training - Jim Monson K7JGM: No report.

Membership – Rachelle Gill KF7QCN: Planning the awards banquet. The production of the new flyer for flea market continues.

Technical – David Yarbrough WA7DY: The Wednesday night net is going great.

Public Service –Tim K7ANE: No report.

Facilities – Peter K4PNG: Gary KG7KU has determined that Daniel Stevens is the committee chair.

Field Day Ivy WA7IVY: No Report

Flea Market Hal N7NW: The flyers are getting prepared to be mailed out. The next meeting is December 8th at 7pm at Mike Dinkelman's House.

Old Business: The Lake Chelan club has a new repeater, duplexer, and a controller. They have to locate an antenna. Hal is recommending a good will donation to the Chelan group but that it should not replace the ARRL donation for next year. Hal N7NW is motioned to donate \$500 to Lake Chelan Club. Tim K7ANE seconded. The motion passed. Hal would like to send a letter that we would be making a donation in April.

New Business:

David presented the 2016 budget. Hal N7HW made a motion to accept the budget for 2016. Gary KG7KU seconded and the motion passed.

Good of the order: Tim Kane is looking for a good welder to work on the trailer. He needs an hour or two of light welding.

Next Board meeting will be on January 5th, 2016 at 7:15 pm at the Salvation Army Building in Renton.

There being no further business, the COB adjourned the meeting at 8:33 pm.

Attested: Jim Wraalstad WQ7H, Secretary

Pacific Northwest Hamfairs & Events

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

Link: [The Pacific Northwest Hamfair and Events Calendar](#)

Also: [Western Washington Amateur Radio Licensing Classes, Training Classes and Examination Sessions](#)

February 20, 2016 Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet. Rickreall, OR <http://www.w7sra.com> .

March 5, 2016 **Mike & Key Swap Meet** Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA.
<http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>

QST QST QST

submitted by Jim K7JGM

Are you interested in the Mike and Key Flea Market?

Are you interested in Security?

Then I have a deal for you!

- You **do not** have to lift, sweep, mop, pull, push, climb, stack or install anything! Just take 1 or 2, 2 hour shifts and you can get into the Flea Market for FREE!
- Add the Hospitality area for a FREE snack!
- Stroll through the market, check out the goodies on the tables while people watching for FREE!

SUCH A DEAL!!!! Please sign up at VolunteerSpot using the link sent to you back in October. If you need the link resent or you never got an initial link, contact Mike, N7WA at n7wa@arrl.net or contact Jim, K7JGM at K7JGM@ARRL.NET. I look forward to hearing from you!

Note: You CANNOT signup without a link. - Editor

Noisy Christmas Lights

Submitted by Michael, N7WA

There been quite a bit of chatter of the RFI reflector lately about a product that seems to be popular this year. The general description is a "LED Lightshow" Projection Stake Light. These have appeared at Lowes, Target, Toy R Us, Walmart, and others. I saw something similar at Fry's last week. They just rip up the HF bands if you are close by. The ARRL is trying to get some samples or testing but I expect they won't be able to do much over the short Christmas season before they are gone.

Just be aware and hope the neighbor doesn't buy one.

SDR Project

Submitted by Michael, N7WA

In the January QST, there is an interesting DIY project that might be interesting for a group project. It's a Software Defined Receiver that uses an inexpensive USB dongle to do most of the work. Because these dongles are limited to 25Mhz-1.7GHz they wouldn't be normally usable on the lower HF frequencies. However, the project includes an up-converter to take the lower frequencies and move them up into the UHF/VHF range (so 10MHZ becomes 110MHZ).

To operate the dongle requires free software (SDR#) and a computer with a USB port. The computer can be either Windows or Linux. When done, you have the poor man's equivalence of a Flex receiver. OK..., maybe there's a bit of hyperbole there but you will have a receiver that covers 1Kz to 1.7GHz.

Personally, my intent is to build this is as a RFI chasing device when coupled with my laptop (it does AM as well as SSB, FM, and CW). I am just curious if others would like to build one as well (for whatever reason). I can't imagine it taking more than an evening or two and if you need group support to learn how to solder, this would be the place.

The two most expensive parts are the dongle (about \$25 on Amazon) and the mixer circuit (about \$20 from Mini-Circuits). The rest is just simple stuff. If it cost more than \$75 with all new parts including the enclosure, I would be surprised. Scrounging or a group buy could lower the price.

Take a look at the article when the January QST comes out. I have a copy on my tablet I can show at the Club meeting.

Calendar DECEMBER 2015 / JANUARY 2016						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
13 (December)	14	15	16	17	18	19 10:00–M&K Club Mtg Christmas Party! 12:30- M&K Ham Radio Exams Contact: Scott— ag7t@arri.net [Salvation Army- Renton] <i>RAC Winter Test</i> <i>OK DX RTTY Test</i>
20 <i>ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW</i>	21	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas	26 <i>Stew Perry 160M Test</i>
27 <i>Stew Perry 160M Test</i>	28	29	30	31	1 (January) Happy New Year	2
3	4	5 Board Meeting Salvation Army HQ 7:15PM	6	7	8	9 <i>NAQP CW Test</i>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 10:00–M&K Club Mtg 12:30- M&K Ham Radio Exams Contact: Scott— ag7t@arri.net [Salvation Army- Renton] <i>NAQP SSB Test</i>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 <i>CQWW 160M Test</i>	30 <i>CQWW 160M Test</i>
31 <i>CQWW 160M Test</i>						

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