

Puget Amateur Radio Society

SPARKS

VOLUME 11 No. 8-9

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Aug.-Sept,1997

NEXT MEETING:

7:30 pm Thursday

Sept. 18,1997

Puget Auditorium

Hello everyone! It's time to get back into the swing of things for the fall. I hope you all had a fun and interesting summer. We certainly did at our house.

I am greatly indebted to Jim Darby W7FYH for filling in for me as Secretary at the June 19 meeting. Thanks very much, Jim!

This is an August-September issue this time to get us caught up with the events of the summer, and get the word out about the resumption of meetings in September.

THE PREZ SEZ I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer, now that it finally arrived. Mine has been a busy one--running two businesses, babysitting my two little granddaughters every Friday, and trying to squeeze in time for a few mini vacations with Chuck.

September will be here all too quickly and we'll be back to our PARS meetings starting Sept. 18. I'm hoping that each of you will take a few minutes out of your schedules and think about how you might contribute to YOUR ham radio club during this next year. We need a membership chairman, someone to coordinate programs, a special events chairman, and a cookie person to see that there are refreshments for each meeting. Each of us has something we can do to make PARS an exciting club, a club that will attract new members and keep our old members interested. Our Field Day activities attracted several local hams, thanks to the flyers Tom Grotte mailed out. These hams may come to one or more of our meeting, and we'd like them to join us as members.

Last year we sent out a member survey asking members to tell us what they were interested in, what they wanted to see in programming. Some of the suggestions were:

Spread spectrum and the future of Pansat

Sunspot history and mechanics

meteor scatter

propagation characteristics

data compression techniques

TCP/IP in ham radio

DX day or weekend

transmitter hunts

What would you like to add to this list? What could you present as a club program? Who do you know that might be able to present a program on any of the subjects listed? I will personally be calling each member during the

first week in September to ask what you will do to help me make this year a special one for PARS. There are just a handful of members who continually volunteer to do the lion's share. Won't you please get involved?

If you want to e-mail a response to me, my address is jehlor@aol.com. I won't suggest you try calling me on my mobile radio--you'll have to ask Chuck about that. I'll be talking to you soon. 73 de Lori N7LC0

TREASURERS REPORT At press time, I have not yet gotten all of the records from Chaz, so I don't have a complete Treasurer's report, but the current bank balance is \$2009.21.

The next general meeting will be Thursday Sept. 18 at 7:30 pm at the Puget Auditorium, our usual location. The program will be presented by Mike Dinkleman N7WA, a member of the Mike and Key Club, on contesting.

Public Service Opportunities
EARS (Eastside Amateur Radio Service)--interested parties contact John Black W7HIL 391-8026 or Chuck Stroehrer WA7EBH 392-5303. Always room for more help in this community activity.

MINUTES
of
PUGET AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETING
June 19, 1997

The meeting was called to order by President Al Staples N7VOF, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. A quorum was present.

The program was presented first, given by Susie Crickmore, Deputy Director of the Snohomish County 911 Center, on the organization and operation of the Center.

Following the program, the minutes of the May 15, 1997 meeting were approved.

V-Pres. Bob Adams KJ7BP then led a discussion of Field Day. In his absence, Tom Grotte WB7TEJ has been coordinating with the city, and all seems to be in order. We have again requested that the sprinklers be turned off for the Saturday night, and hopefully it will happen this year. Al and Bob and John Black W7HIL are bringing radios and antennas. Press releases have been given out, and brochures are ready for visitors. Lori Graff N7LC0 said that Chuck Stroehrer WA7EBH has a radio which we might be able to borrow for the event, with the possibility of purchasing it later on for a permanent trailer HF radio. Tom has three A-frame wood signs which need to have signs about Field Day put on, so they can be distributed around the site directing people to us. Chuck Stroehrer said that Jack Burrell has a sign shop on Northup Way, and has offered to make Ham radio signs at a reasonable price. Correct operating procedures for Field Day were discussed, to allow for submission of the scores to ARRL. Bob will have a guest log-book and everyone is encouraged to wear their hats. There will be cold drinks and snacks, and possibly a pot luck supper if there are enough who are interested.

Pres. Al mentioned that the trailer was broken into on July 12. The lock was pried off the wall with minor damage to the wall, but nothing seems to have been taken from the trailer.

The question of a new meeting site was discussed. John Black suggested that we might put in a check to reserve the Bellevue Senior Center for October and November, even though there is no assurance that the \$20/hour fee can be waived. Final management of this issue was referred to Pres.-elect Lori Graff N7LC0.

John Black then read a very humorous article pointing out some good safety issues relating to working on antenna towers.

Chuck Graff K7CHV brought a box of electronic equipment obtained from a friend that is available to members.

President Al noted that this is his last meeting to preside, and was congratulated on having survived 18 months.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Jim Von Seggern KC7FEH

PARS Secretary

July birthdays

John Black W7HIL

Eppy Eppenstein N7 CAL

Jerry Sampont WA7BUY

Al Staples N7VOF

August birthdays

Bob Adams KJ7BP

Jim Darby W7FYH

Jimmy Horn KA7GKP

Chuck Stroehrer WA7EBH

September birthdays

Kirk Bellar KE7TN

Don Hickman KC7MDA

-----The Board of Directors met on July 16 at 8:30 am, to assess three potential new meeting sites for 1998. The Bellevue Senior Center, the Blakemore Building, and the Northwest Center were considered. The Board, after consideration of several factors for each site, will recommend to the membership that the meeting site be moved to the Blakemore Building in downtown Bellevue, in 1998 because it is close to the present site and therefore presents no new commuting problems for the members, and because it is available at no cost since it is not handicapped-accessible.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Von Seggern

Sec.-Treas. PARS

Field Day was carried out quite successfully this year. Tom Grotte WB7TEJ brought the trailer down to the Downtown Bellevue Park, and there were no crew casualties in setting up. HF rigs were provided by Al Staples N7VOF and Bob Adams KJ7BP, John Black W7HIL brought a VHF/UHF rig and Tom Grotte set up 10 meters in a pine tree(?) The tri-band Yagi was put on the

tower, and John had an 80m dipole between trees and Bob put up and R5 vertical. The baluns on the Yagi and the dipole failed, but John and Jim Darby W7FYH came up with the necessary items to get them on the air.

A total of 27 states and provinces were worked, along with Australia, New Caledonia and Kure Island. We had 22 visitors sign the guest book, 19 of whom were hams, and at least 11 club members were present at some time or other. An excellent pot-luck supper was provided by the ladies (in the rain, of course). All in all, a rather good week-end. I'm sorry I could not be there. Thanks to Al Staples for providing the data to me.

For those of you who (like me) are perpetually behind in their reading, we offer our congratulations to Chuck Stroehrer WA7EBH for being mentioned in QST magazine May '97. He was cited as being the Ham of the Year for the club. A further acknowledgement of a very active and valuable member of the amateur community. Hooray for Chuck!

I am indebted to Kirk Bellar KE7TN and Chuck Graff K7CHV for the information on swap meets this fall. I had some conflicting data regarding dates, so I hope this is accurate.

Sept. 27-28	Lower Columbia ARC, Longview, WA
	Walla Walla Hamfest, Walla Walla, WA
Oct. 11	North Kitsap ARC, Silverdale, WA
Oct. 25	Bellingham Hamfest, Ferndale, WA

Excerpted from the Northwestern Division newsletter.

The next three years will be very critical for amateur radio. As far as this country is concerned spectrum protection is the most critical. It is anticipated that we have seen just the tip of the iceberg in the area of spectrum requests and auctions. Commercially supported communications are expanding exponentially. Mary Lou Brown, N.W. Division Director for the ARRL predicts it will do so for a while until those subscribing have reached the saturation point. There could then be a breathing spell until the rest of the country catches up in their desire for world wide communications. It is going to take constant surveillance on our part to protect what spectrum we now have. Amateurs will have to become more active in contacting their congressman on the various issues. When input is needed the word will be put out via the ARRL Section Managers and Assistant Directors. Notice will also be placed on the Northwestern Division web page (www.srv.net/~n7nhf).

From the ARRL newsletter

US Astronaut Mike Foale KB5UA continues to be sporadically active on Amateur radio from the Russian Mir space station. Foale has been using 145.985 MHz while over the U.S, and the 145.200/800 MHz split pair elsewhere. He expects his new Mir 24 crewmates, Anatoli Solovov and Pavel "Pasha" Vinogradov to be active on the radio when they are "settled in".

Those who have worked the Russian Mir space station on both voice and packet are eligible to receive a Mir Achievement Award, an 8x10 inch

certificate suitable for framing. A \$10 donation includes all shipping and handling costs. Send a QSL or postcard with your name address and call sign to Mir QSL manager Dave Laarsen N6C0, box 1501, Pine Grove, CA 95665; e-mail doc@volcano.net. Larsen reminds hams not to call Mir on voice until they hear Mir calling CQ.

A survey of ARRL Volunteer instructors shows that most teach 1-2 classes per year, and the majority of their students obtain Technical licenses. Classes average 8 students. Graduates are 5% novice, 88% tech, 5% general, 1% advanced and 1% extra.

And in keeping with the above, the recently ended National Boy Scout Jamboree at Ft. A.P. Hill in Virginia yielded 37 new or upgraded licenses; 2 novices, 28 techs and 7 tech +

Archie comics have traditionally been one of the best Amateur Radio tools for use in classrooms, scout gatherings, and other youth get-togethers. These books introduce young people to lifetime adventures through Amateur Radio, and in many cases are the first step in getting a license. But we gave away the last ones several months ago.

The ARRL needs your financial assistance to replenish the supply of these popular materials. The cost of the minimum print run of 100,000 copies is \$30,000. Donations to the Archie Comics will be used only for that purpose, and donors of \$25 or more will be listed in the front of each book, Special recognition will be given to clubs and others who make substantial contributions. The ARRL is a 501 (c) 3 organization, and donations to the League are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by the IRS.

Make checks or money order payable to "ARRL-Educational Activities Fund", and on the memo line write Archie Comics. You may donate via credit card, a donation form is on the Web, <http://www.arrl.org>, or you may call 860-594-0340. Our deadline for donations is Oct. 31, 1997.

CW, officially banned from MARS (Military Affiliate Raddio System) last fall, has been allowed back on a limited basis. Barbara Carter, acting chief of Navy-Marine Corp MARS has been fighting on behalf of CW enthusiasts and has won permission to resume the use of CW on Dept. of Defense MARS frequencies for everything but official MARS traffic, according to a decision handed down at a joint service conference July 1977.

I think that about winds it up for this time. Lots of things to get caught up on. I hope that we'll have a good turnout at the next meeting to kick off this year. Unfortunately, I will again be absent, but I'll be thinking about you all.

73 de Jim

KC7FEH