

# Puget Amateur Radio Society

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## *SPARKS*

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VOLUME 14 No. 4

April, 1998

President: Lorie Graff N7LC0 392-5846

NEXT MEETING:

Vice-President: Bob Adams KJ7BP 454-0506

7:30 pm Thursday

Secy-Treas. Jim Von Seggern KC7FEH 885-7333

April 19, 1998

Bellevue Senior Center

Please note the new meeting site, at the Bellevue Senior Center, 4063 148th Ave. N. E. We will meet in the crafts room, doors open at 7:00pm. (See the attached map).

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### PROGRAM NOTES

April 16--Jimmy Horn KA7GKP speaking about fox-hunting to occur in May.

May 21--Joe Sloss K7MKS -- The resurrection of a boat anchor.

June 18--Steve Stroh N8GNU on packet radio

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### THE PREZ SEZ

This year is flying. It's hard for me to believe that my term as club president is almost over, only three more months to go, and there are still projects to complete. A major goal for this year, having the club trailer ready to use as an operating station for members and for emergency use, is well on the way. We need a large box, preferably metal, so we can securely store the generator and gas cans adjacent to the trailer. Does anyone know where we might locate such an item?

Nominations for officers for the next club year will be presented at the April meeting by Al Staples, N7VOF, President of the Board and the nominations chairman. If any member wishes to be nominated for an office please let Al know. Elections will take place at the May meeting.

Our club is now listed in the King County Library System community resource database. Club information may be accessed by using a terminal in any King County Library or through the internet at <http://www.kcls.lib.wa.us>

Our new meeting location will not be available to us for our Sept. 17 meeting as the Senior Center will be closed for the entire month of September. I had hoped we might have a tour of the Bellevue 911 center for our Sept. program and use their conference room to hold our meeting. The director of the 911 center told me he can't accommodate a group as large as our club for a tour. He has to limit a tour to no more than ten people at a time. Does anyone have an idea for a meeting place for our Sept. 17 meeting? Please let me know if

you are interested in a tour of the 911 center. If there are ten members who want a tour, it can be arranged.

Don't forget dinner at Coco's on N.E. 24th at 148 Ave. N.E. in the Overlake area at 6 pm before the meeting. Hopefully I'll be able to make it this month.

73 Lorie N7LC0

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MINUTES  
of  
THE PUGET AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETING  
March 19, 1998

The meeting was called to order by President Lorie Graff N7LC0 at 7:30 pm, with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 22 members and 4 guests present. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Pres. Lorie introduced Phil Ferrell K7PF, who presented a most interesting talk on transmitter fingerprinting, as it relates both to amateur radio detection of repeater jammers and abusers, and to the cellular telephone industry in its efforts to combat cloned phones and other abuses. The meeting was then adjourned for refreshments.

Following the break the business meeting was convened. The minutes of the meeting of February 19, as published in SPARKS were approved.

Chuck Graff K7CHV acknowledged the list of donors of equipment for the recent Mike and Key swap meet, and also acknowledged those who staffed the table during the sale. This was a most successful event for the club. Lorie expressed the gratitude of the club to Chuck and to Kirk Bellar KE7TN for MANY hours of work on this project.

The Treasurer's report was then read by Treasurer Jim Von Seggern KC7FEH, and approved. The club has a very healthy bank balance at present. The complete report is available upon request.

Trailer Committee Chairman Kirk Bellar KE7TN reported that nothing new was done on the trailer in the last month, due to the time spent on the swap meet. There were a few donated items that were kept for the trailer, such as a keyer (Bill Bingham WA7VEH), two grid dip meters, and a 5 element 2 meter beam antenna from the station of the late Tom Grotte WB7TEJ. Kirk also said that we have a 25-2000 mHz scanner donated by Puget Sound Energy which was not working. He has managed to get it working, and made a motion that the club spend up to \$150 for a discone antenna and the related cable and fittings, to make the receiver operable in the trailer. The antenna can also be used to transmit in the VHF-UHF bands. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Publicity Co-Chairmen Don Hickman KC7MDA and Jim Darby W7FYH met with Lorie recently, and Don reports that brochures have been posted in all the area branch libraries. Jim reports that we can also get on the KCLS community

bulletin board on the internet, and Lorie reports that she will do the appropriate interviews with the library. Efforts continue to get meeting notices in the local newspapers. Lorie is trying to get a story about ham radio into the papers.

Public Service Chairman Chuck Stroehner WA7EBH needs people to work the UW crew races on opening day of boating season on May 2, and on May 17 for the Lief Erickson Day parade in Ballard. John Black W7HIL again stated that we need to get organized for making the trailer available to the city in the event of an emergency. It was stated that the Board has discussed this and felt that we first need to know what the city needs from us.

Nominating Committee Chairman Al Staples N7VOF, the immediate Past President, is now actively seeking candidates for the offices of President, V-President, and Secretary. Bob Adams KJ7BP and Jim Von Seggern KC7FEH are prohibited by the By-Laws from re-election to their respective offices, and Lorie has previously served in a variety of offices and prefers not to run for a second term as President this time.

The meeting was concluded by a discussion of the Bellevue 911, ARES and RACES emergency organizations by Chuck Stroehner, who is the coordinator for the amateur radio support for all of those groups.

The meeting was then adjourned. Respectfully  
submitted, Jim Von Seggern KC7FEH Pars  
Sec.-Treas.

The Board met Thursday, April 2, at Al Staples home. Items discussed were the the trailer and preparing it for emergency use, and the possibility of using club badges. Complete minutes are available upon request.

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#### Public Service Opportunities

EARS (Eastside Amateur Radio Service)--interested parties contact John Black W7HIL at 391-8026 or Chuck Stroehner WA7EBH at 392-5303.

Always room for more help in this community activity.

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WANTED TO BUY Ham radio and test equipment that glows in the dark (anything with tubes). I enjoy restoring and most of all operating these beauties from a BYGONE ERA. They will get a loving home. Also will buy any tubes, parts, extra manuals, pre 1970 CQ-73-ARRL handbooks, or anything else relating to ham radio of that era. These items are of great value as a resource when restoring equipment.

Jerry Sampont WA7BUY

2309 East 3rd Ave.

Port Angeles, WA 98362-9011

phone 360-457-6671

e-mail bluff@olypen.com

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#### LEGISLATIVE ALERT---YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

On Friday, March 27, Representatives Michael Bilirakis (R-FL 9th) and Ron Klink (D-PA 4th) introduced HR 3572, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection act of 1998. Mr. Bilirakis is the primary sponsor, and Mr. Klink is the Democrat

co-sponsor, making this a truly bipartisan bill.

The "operational" portion of the bill is Section 3 (see below), which if passed would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" if the commission reallocates any primary or secondary Amateur Radio frequencies. You can look up the full text of the bill on the House THOMAS web site at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?cl05:H.R.3572>.

The bill has been referred to the House Commerce Committee. While it is too early to offer any prognosis, it should be noted that the House has only about 40 days left actually in session before the proposed October adjournment. That means our strategy is very straightforward--a simple numbers game of gathering as many House co-sponsors as we can. With enough co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle, we might be able to make a convincing argument to take the bill up under suspension just before the adjournment as they attempt to clear the loose ends. Alternatively, should the bill not make the suspension calendar, we might be able to demonstrate enough support that it could easily be reintroduced the following session as a simple, popular, non-controversial measure.

Here is Section 3: "Sec. 3. FEDERAL POLICY REGARDING REALLOCATION OF AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM."

Section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934 is amended by adding at the end of the following new subsection:

- (y) Notwithstanding subsection (c), after July 1, 1998--
  - (1) make no reallocation of primary allocations of bands of frequencies of the amateur radio service;
  - (2) not diminish the secondary allocations of bands of frequencies to the amateur radio service; and
  - (3) make no additional allocations within such bands of frequencies that would substantially reduce the utility thereof to the amateur radio service; unless the Commission, at the same time, provides equivalent replacement.

WRITE TODAY TO YOUR CONGRESSPERSON IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Ask them to become a co-sponsor and supporter of HR 3572, The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998.

73 Mary Lou Brown NM7N ARRL NW Division Director

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The PARS net on Wednesdays at 7:00pm (443.2 mHz repeater, +, 103.5 tone) needs more checkins. It's a good time to say a few words about what you're up to, and to disseminate information about the club. Join us, and bring a radio friend.

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It's time for nominations for club officers again, folks. The offices of President, V.-Pres. and Secretary are open this year. Take a good look at your capabilities and schedules, and give some SERIOUS thought to being a candidate for one of the club jobs. It's a great way to get tuned in and turned on to the greater community of Amateur Radio. The nominating committee wants you!

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April Birthdays                  Chuck Graff K7CHV                  Lorie Graff N7LC0  
And my apologies to Les Ellis KC7TQP, who I missed in March. I'm very sorry about that, Les.

On another note from Mary Lou Brown NM7N, I am printing a portion of a letter she disseminated to the NW Division clubs concerning membership problems. The rest of the letter will appear in the May SPARKS.

March 26, 1998

First of all I was pleased to hear from so many of you and to receive so many well thought out responses to the membership problems. The responses received center around two areas: what clubs are doing to promote more amateurs to join, and comments from and about Technicians on their perspective. I shall address these in reverse order. Since many comments covered similar points I have generally summarized them. Direct quotes from the input I received are in quotation marks.

1. Comments from or about Technician Class Amateurs:

a. I think we all recognize that breaking into and becoming part of a group that has been together for some time is difficult at best. Hence many felt that they did not really feel welcome at club meetings. I remember one comment I received from a new ham, "no one even said hello to me or asked me my name." Many felt that the club was an "old" boys group and did not have much to offer them. "The core of the club are retirement age folks and the young folks seem to take their test, attend a few meetings, and then you don't see them at the meetings again."

b. There are a lot of activities competing for their time. Hence they need to feel that a club has something to offer them.

c. Conversations on 2 meters are no longer interesting. There is little exchange of information relating to the hobby. " Instead, the repeaters have become a personal tool for families to discuss shopping lists and coordinate family activities. Many even use private DTMF codes so they won't be bothered with other activity on the repeaters, emergency or not."

d. "Even if we get on CW, the older hams are not willing to slow down for us." Many feel they are "left out in the cold to fend for themselves." "Saturday I worked a new Tech + who had been trying for 3 weeks to make a contact with no response. The beginners who are slow are often left out or ignored by those who have gotten more proficient in CW."

e. One remembers when novice/techs were eager and bustling with energy for the hobby. At that time they were readily accepted and encouraged by the older hams. With the advent of the No Code Tech, a lot of this support went away. It has also changed how amateurs perceive the hobby. No longer is the emphasis on the development of the technology, but more on just personal use of that which is available.

f. "Speaking from the standpoint of a Technician class operator, one reason for this may be the fact that many General class and higher operators consider Techs to be some sort of subhuman form of life. I've seen some of the flames come across packet bulletins, and it's downright scary!"

g. "Not all of the young people have the funds to get equipment and construction is not a viable option since "hands on approach" is not taught."

h. It was noted that many of the new members of the clubs are female, mostly spouses, that "chose to participate with their husbands in the hobby and the club, but very few, maybe 2%, are interested in anything but 2 meters."

i. "If you want to attract more technician class hams you need to do more for them."

And speaking of new members, we are pleased to announce two new members for PARS. Bill Martin N7EU and his wife Claire KC7ARX joined at the March meeting. Welcome, welcome to both of you. Claire was not able to attend last month, but we hope we'll get a chance to meet her this time.

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We are indebted to Chuck Beckmeier KC7GMF for the following words, which I'm sure will resonate with those of us who are less than "tech no-nerds".

Do you remember when... A computer was something on TV from a science fiction show. A window was something you hated to clean, and ram was the cousin of a goat.

Meg was the name of my girlfriend, and gig was your middle finger upright. Now they all mean different things and that really mega bytes!

An application was for employment. A program was a TV show. A cursor used profanity, a keyboard was a piano.

Memory was something you lost with age, A CD was a bank account; And if you had a 3 1/2" floppy you hoped nobody found out.

Compress was something you did to the garbage, not something you did to a file; and if you unzipped anything in public you'd be in jail for a while.

Log on was adding wood to the fire. Hard drive was a long trip on the road. A mouse pad was where a mouse lived, and a backup happened to your commode.

Cut you did with a pocket knife; Paste you did with glue. A web was a spider's home; and a virus was the flu.

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper and the memory from my head. I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash, but when it happens they wish they were dead.

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Thanks Chuck, I needed that, especially after a frustrating week getting this one

back in order! And on that happy note, I shall end this edition of SPARKS. Don't forget to tune in to the PARS net on Wednesday at 7:00pm on the WS7K repeater. I hope to see a lot of you for dinner on Thursday, and all of you at the meeting.

73 de Jim KC7FEH

