

Puget Amateur Radio Society

SPARKS

VOLUME 14 No. 5

President: Lorie Graff N7LCO 392-5846

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May, 1998

NEXT MEETING:

7:30 pm Thursday

May 21, 1998

Bellevue Senior Center

PROGRAM NOTES

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

June 18--Steve Stroh N8GNU on packet radio

We are publishing this issue of SPARKS a week early to refresh everyone's memory about the details of the Fox Hunt to be held May 16, Saturday. I have put the pertinent data on the last page so that it will be easy to take that along without having so much paper in the car. I hope that there will be a good turnout for this event--the more the merrier, as the saying goes!

THE PREZ SEZ

We have a good slate of dedicated members running for office for the next club year which starts on July 1, 1998. The nominees are: Jim Von Seggern for President Lorie Graff for Vice-President Kirk Bellar for Secretary/newsletter editor Jim Darby and Joycer Stroeher for Treasurer.

Elections will be held at the May 21 meeting.

Volunteers are needed for the many important positions that keep our club functioning--programs, publicity, membership, refreshments, fox hunt, Field Day, trailer. If you'd like to be involved, please let me or any of the officers know, and remember, if we don't get enough volunteers I'll be bugging you!

I hope we'll have a good turnout on Saturday, May 16, for our Fox Hunt. This is always a fun activity and a great one for the kids. We'll meet at the Senior Center in the parking lot at gam and should be finished before noon. Bring your 2 meter hand-held and/or a direction finder if you have one. We'll split up into teams.

Our June club activity will be Field Day operations on the weekend of June 27-28th in the trailer at the Bellevue downtown park. We always have a picnic pot-luck on the Saturday evening and it's a fun time for everyone to get

together. Mark your calendar.

We have a great program this month. Joe Schloss K7MKS is going to show us how to resurrect a boat anchor and it's rumored that he'll have some prime examples to show off. See you at Coco's on N.E. 24th in the Overlake area for dinner before the meeting about 6:00pm. 73 Lorie N7LC0

Minutes of
THE PUGET AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETING
April 16, 1998

The meeting was called to order by President Lorie Graff N7LC0 at 7:30 pm, with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 16 members and 3 guests present. The program was presented by Jimmy Horn KA7GKP, on the up-and-coming fox hunt for May 16. Frequencies for start-up and the fox were given as well as the boundaries within which the fox will be. Some hints for fox-hunting, and some simple pieces of equipment were discussed.

Following refreshments, the business meeting was convened. The minutes of the previous meeting, as published in SPARKS, were approved. The Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Jim Von Seggern KC7FEH, and was approved. At the present time, we have 26 paid members.

Lorie announced that we are now on the public library computer info sites, and some members have seen the entry for PARS. Apparently we are the only radio club listed so far.

Public Service announcements were made by Chuck Stroeher WA7EBH. He needs some volunteers for the crew races on the opening day of boating season on May 2, and also for the Norwegian Independence Day parade in Ballard on May 17. John Black W7HIL added that there is a continuing need for more volunteers for the 911 group.

The Senior Center is not available for our September meeting and we cannot have the meeting at the 911 center because it is not large enough. Tours for groups of up to 10 members can be arranged through Lorie. John Black suggested the EOC, and Chuck Stroeher will check into that.

At the last Board meeting, we discussed the need for a secure metal enclosure for the generator and some fuel at the trailer site. Lorie asked that anyone who had ideas of how to get one to let us know.

Al Staples N7VOF announced the nominees for new officers. For President Jim Von Seggern KC7FEH, for Vice-President Lorie Graff N7LC0, for Secretary Kirk Bellar KE7TN, and for Treasurer Joyce Stroeher N7JPW and Jim Darby W7FYH. There were no additional nominees from the floor.

Jim Von Seggern announced that at least one of the batteries in the trailer will need to be replaced and at the last Board meeting it was suggested that we might consider a pair of 6 volt batteries in series. John Black voiced strong

opposition to this, on the grounds that the gel cells currently in use have a much better tolerance for being accidentally off charge than standard wet cells, in addition to being no maintenance. This will be taken up again at the Board meeting.

Field Day will again see us located on the northwest corner of the Bellevue Downtown Park.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Von Seggern KC7FEH
PARS Secretary- Treasurer

May Birthdays

Ron Mawer KB7TYB

Public Service Opportunities

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

Always room for more help in this community activity.

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

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Congratulations to Kirk Bellar, who recently upgraded to Extra, and now has a new call-sign, N7UK. There'll be a new sound on the net!

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.

We are please to announce another new member, who joined since the April meeting. John Heflin KD7E is now on board officially. It is a pleasant duty to send out revised rosters. Welcome, welcome, John!

From Mary Lou Brown NM7N, here is the second portion of a letter she disseminated to the NW Division clubs concerning membership problems.

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. (ed. these were published last month.) 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.

Below are a series of things clubs are doing to attract and assist newer amateurs. Obviously the larger clubs have more resources on which to draw, but some exciting things are happening with the smaller clubs too. I have tried to group them topically.

1. Classes:

a. One club is holding General classes specifically designed for the Tech pluses. The class consists of code practice over 2 meters and five one-hour class sessions per week, three on the air and two in person.

b. It was suggested that the resources of several clubs could be pooled to keep a continuous series of classes going. (Obviously this applies to more metropolitan areas.)

2. Construction projects

a. Through the construction of small projects such as small power supplies and antenna tuners new hams can learn good construction techniques and get together with others who share their interest. New hams especially need to have Elmers help them, at least for the first few projects.

b. Put together your own kits for construction projects. One club has done this very successfully, by scrounging and buying parts at flea markets, seeking discounts for quantity purchases, designing their own circuit boards, etc. The club charged a nominal fee for the kits, and thereby made some money for the club's coffers. They also have enough funds on hand to fund the purchase of parts for the next project. Projects have included code practice oscillators, DF'ers, antennas and a simple transceiver. Computers were used to allow those doing the construction of the code oscillator to use computer-aided design in selecting the parts values as well as how to build the device. About 15-20 members were involved in developing the kits and assisting with the construction. The latter was carried out in a group get together and a few did their construction individually.

c. A member of one club put together a CD ROM that had the entire project in ready to print format. This gave each one building the project a complete booklet about the project.

d. Another club selects projects, arranges for the kits, and then has a construction meeting where the kits are assembled.

3. Club meetings

a. A large club (out of this division) has large raffles as door prizes. They feel this has resulted in their large attendance at club meetings.

b. Hold periodic "Ham Open House" nights, where all amateurs and potential amateurs are invited to Open Houses to see typical ham shacks. They say that such should include modest as well as complete stations. Club members organize transportation for the visits, so that youth can also be involved.

c. One club had a program in which various types of hand keys were shown and demonstrated.

d. Some clubs have had meetings in which various aspects of amateur radio are explained and demonstrated (Dxing, contesting, ATV, satellites, microwave work, 6 meter and grid square contacts, other types of VHF/UHF weak signal work, etc.)

e. Try to cover the business portion of meetings expeditiously, so time can be spent on the scheduled program. This will help keep up interest and participation.

f. Some clubs make a concerted effort to participate in communications for local walks, runs, bike races, etc. Often a newer ham is paired with a more experienced one, Getting the newer hams involved with ARES/RACES has helped in getting the newer hams to become more involved and eventually upgrade.

g. Some clubs have regularly scheduled bunny hunts. An effort is made by some to pair off newer hams with those more experienced. After the bunny is found, a social get-together and rehash of problems and techniques has made the event more meaningful and fun.

4. Elmering

a. One let a Technician use their station so they could be net control for a local net. The owner of the station was there as control operator and to lend assistance if needed. The net members made the tech feel welcome and commented that a good job had been done.

b. "I did meet a person in the club who got me going in VHF/UHF weak signal and contesting." Some invite the new ham to their shack and let them try out or at least see how these various modes operate.

c. Several clubs operate CW practice and/or nets on 2 meters. Technicians are encouraged to listen and participate. Several have upgraded as a result of the practice.

d. At least one club has an e-mail Elmer and is establishing a WEB site At mailto" link to the Elmer.

e. Elmers are listed according to topics of expertise. A paper listing these is available to anyone who wants it.

f. Some new hams are introduced to nets, contesting, etc. by letting them act as recorders, etc.

5. Operating

a. While this point belongs under both club meetings and Elmering, it is one that was mentioned several times. New hams need assistance in the proper way of operating. For example, what is the proper use of the repeater, DX pile-ups, on-the-air CW and SSB operation, etc. It was felt that strong leadership at both the local and national level would be needed.

b. Often new hams do not have the equipment to get on HF. A few clubs have an HF rig they can loan out to a new ham to use until they can get their own. Use of a vertical or homebrew dipole can also be part of the package. 73 Mary Lou NM7N

Here is the information on the Fox Hunt, scheduled for Saturday May 16. The pack will meet at 9:00am in the Bellevue Senior Center parking lot. The fox will establish communication with the pack on 147.10, +, 103.5 tone, so that we all know when to start. The fox will thereafter use 145.61 simplex for his signal.

The boundaries of the territory where the fox may be hiding are:
SR 520 on the north S. E. 60th St. on the south the east shore
of Lake Sammamish on the east. Lake Washington to the west.

Look for places of public access within this territory. Look for high points of elevation to get some information about the direction of the fox's signal. If you have a directional portable antenna bring it along. You can, however, participate quite successfully with just your H-T radio, so don't let a lack of sophisticated equipment stop you from coming along.

And with that we'll bring this issue to a close. I hope there will be a good turnout on Saturday, and I hope that a lot of you will join us for dinner at Coco's before the meeting on May 21. See ya' there! 73 Jim KC7FEH