



SPARKS



Vol. 14, No. 7

Newsletter of the Puget Amateur Radio Society

September 1998

The Prez sez ...

Hi Everybody! I hope your summer was a bit less chaotic than mine has been. Our move to Hansville has been at least a surprise a day, and often more than that. It was much harder than we had hoped, and we are still sort of camping in our new house. There are still many little problems to be solved, not all of which I can do, and a few big problems that have yet to be worked out. We were without a reliable phone for about 2-1/2 weeks, and that really lets you know how dependent we are on electronics these days. Unfortunately, most of the people I needed to maintain contact with aren't hams, so the radio was not always helpful.

As we pick up the club's activities for this year, I would again urge each and every one of you to pitch in and make it YOUR club. Due to lack of time (and, for a while, a phone), I have not made the contacts with you that I had hoped to, but I'll be talking with you in the near future. The officers, and particularly me, need to hear what you like or don't like, what you want or don't want, and what you can or can't/will or won't do to make PARS viable on a continuing basis.

I'm grateful to Lorie N7LCO for spearheading the program arrangements this year, but I'm certain that she's open to suggestions from the membership. The September program at the Bellevue EOC should be very interesting, especially to those of us (me included) who have not yet gotten into this aspect of community service. I hope to see you all there. - 73 de Jim KC7FEH

[Jim's new phone no. is 360-638-1715 - Ed.]

How we spent our summer vacation

Welcome back! I hope everyone managed to have some fun in the sun this summer. It's been almost three months since most of us have had the chance for an eyeball QSO, so I've asked some of the members to fill us in on their escapades:

Jim Von Seggern, KC7FEH, and his XYL have sold their house in Bellevue, and moved to their new home on the Kitsap Peninsula. Jim now has 30 acres to grow antennas on.

Lorie and Chuck Graff, N7LCO and K7CHV, spent a week at Pond Oreille Lake in Idaho with various kids and grandkids. The Graffs will be starting on a new house in Sequim this fall.

Charles Beckmeier, KC7GMF underwent cataract surgery in July, then hit the road with wife Kathy for a grand tour of the Midwest. Charles assures me that the trip was NOT financed from the club treasury.

Bill Martin, N7EU, vacationed on a friend's ranch in Montana and camped in Yellowstone Park. Bill's also been assembling a 30 meter rig from a kit. Help us cajole Bill into bringing it to one of the meetings, so we can ooh and aah at his handiwork.

John Heflin, KD7E, foolishly squandered his vacation time in Puerto Rico and Aruba without turning it into a DXpedition. Next time, John, how about a leisurely stay on Bouvet Island?

Al Staples, N7VOF, spent almost 11 weeks fishing off the Alaska coast. He and **Bob Adams, KJ7BP**, attempted a thrice-weekly sked on 20 meters, with mixed success.

Kirk Bellar, N7UK (Yours Truly), made the rounds to as many hamfests as time and finances would allow. I also helped out with a couple of

Next general meeting - Thursday, Sept. 17 at 7:30 PM at the Bellevue EOC, 11501 NE Main St. in Bellevue (**Note place!**). John Black, W7HIL, will present a program on emergency operating procedures. And be sure to join us at 6:00 PM for dinner at Coco's, 530 112th Ave. NE in Bellevue (**The "old" Coco's, not the one in Overlake!**). Visitors are always welcome at the meetings and at Coco's.

Next board meeting - At the home of Al Staples, N7VOF, 409 - 109th Ave. SE in Bellevue, Thursday, Oct. 1 at 7:00 PM. All PARS members are welcome.

Seafair parades at the behest of **Chuck Stroehrer, WA7EBH**, who coordinated all of the ham volunteer efforts for Seafair. These kinds of public-service events are a good way to put your license and skills to use helping the community, great PR for hamming, and a lot of fun!

Rekindling old *SPARKS*

One of my happy tasks as your new Secretary is to be custodian of the club's back issues of *Sparks*, and being able to look back at the history chronicled there. The collection is incomplete, though; we don't have vol. 3 no. 10 (Oct. 1989) or earlier. If anyone has any of these issues and is willing to donate them to the club, or at least willing to lend them to me long enough to make copies, please give me a call or e-mail.

The look of the newsletter itself has changed over time, going from unadorned typing to word processing and desktop publishing with clip art and scanned-in photos, and back again. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to put my imprimatur on these pages, and encourage you to make your own contributions to them. This is everybody's newsletter.

Speaking of contributions, thanks to John Heflin, KD7E, for the item on page 4. - *de N7UK*

Birthdays!

Kirk Bellar, N7UK	Sep. 2
Don Hickman, KC7MDA	Sep. 23
Claire Martin, KC7ARX	Oct. 2

Minutes of the PARS general meeting, June 18, 1998

The meeting was called to order by President Lorie Graff, N7LCO, at 7:30 PM, with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 14 members and 2 guests present.

The program was presented by Steve Stroh, N8GNU on spread spectrum radio. Steve presented a number of points to ponder regarding the future of the Amateur Radio Service, and the increasing need to deal with demands to take/share the currently assigned frequency spectrums. He felt that the future lies in amateurs becoming more active in developing new technologies in spectrum use. He stimulated considerable discussion following his presentation.

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.

Lorie stated that she and Joyce Stroehrer are going to participate in a 5K run in September for the benefit of breast cancer patients, and put out a sign-up sheet for any who wish to pledge some financial support for our two runners.

Bob Adams, KJ7BP, the Field Day Chairman, reported that all is well for the event. We plan to run 3 HF stations as well as a VHF station. If there are operators and interest we will run

PARS 1998 - 99 Club Officers:

President - Jim von Seggern, KC7FEH	360-638-1715	Secretary - Kirk Bellar, N7UK	206-542-6742
Vice President - Lorie Graff, N7LCO	425-392-5846	Treasurer - Charles Beckmeier, KC7GMF	425-822-2339

The Puget Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (PARS) is an ARRL-affiliated club serving radio amateurs in the greater Seattle area. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month (except July, August, and December) at 7:00 PM at the Bellevue Senior Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE. Visitors are always welcome.

Annual dues are \$15.00 for individual membership, \$22.50 for family (2 or more). PARS will prorate the dues of new members joining after Jan. 31. Call Kirk, N7UK, for a membership application.

Join us on the PARS net every Wed. night at 7:00 PM, on the WS7K repeater, 443.2 MHz (103.5 Hz PL). The repeater is located on Rose Hill in Kirkland.

Send articles, comments, want ads, threats, etc. for inclusion in this newsletter to Kirk Bellar, N7UK, 19353 Greenwood Ave. N, Shoreline WA 98133, fax to 425-867-2160, or e-mail to n7uk@aol.com.

straight through until 1:00 PM Sunday. There will be a pot-luck dinner Saturday evening.

Trailer Chairman Kirk Bellar, N7UK, says that the trailer is ready, and we will have up to 8 antennas available. We still need a good first aid kit, and Jim Von Seggern, KC7FEH, said that he has some items at his home but still needs to fill in some gaps. Kirk said that the refrigerator and stove do work, but he has been unable to get the furnace to work, which should not be a problem for this event.

Lorie announced that the next Board meeting will be Thursday Sept. 3 at Chuck Beckmeier's house (KC7GMF), because Al Staples, N7VOF, will be out of town. Any members who wish are welcome to attend. The main item of discussion will be the budget.

Chuck Beckmeier passed around some prototype badges that he had a friend make up for our inspection. The badges will cost approximately \$1.50. After some discussion a consensus was reached that each member, and all subsequent new members, should have a badge as part of their dues. It was suggested that the member's name and call sign should be in larger type than on the prototypes.

Lorie asked for some help with the programs for the coming year, and cited Kirk Bellar's help over this past year.

Doug Bell suggested that the club develop a Web Site, and has found a way to do one without cost. He will investigate this further, and was invited to attend the Board meeting in Sept. He felt that this eventually might help defray expenses for *Sparks*, since the newsletter could be put on the Web page and/or e-mail.

Chuck Beckmeier presented two opportunities for public service over the July 4 weekend. The King County Parks Dept. needs people for traffic and parking control and trash policing on the grounds at Marymoor Park for Heritage days on July 4, and there is a need for some communications volunteers for the fireworks display at Marymoor that evening.

Lorie recognized several people who she felt were very helpful to her in the past year: Al Staples, N7VOF; Bob Adams, KJ7BP; Kirk Bellar, N7UK; Jim Von Seggern, KC7FEH; Chuck Graff, K7CHV; Jimmy Horn, KA7GKP; Chuck Stroehrer, WA7EBH; Jim Darby, W7FYH; and Don Hickman, KC7MDA. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Von Seggern, KC7FEH
PARS Secretary-Treasurer

Board meetings held June 4 & Sep. 3

At the June meeting, the officers discussed sending out a questionnaire to the members, budget planning for the '98-'99 club year, committee chairmanships, and plans for Field Day.

At the September meeting, the officers reviewed the proposed '98-'99 budget and made recommendations for committee chairmen. PARS members will receive a copy of the proposed budget along with this issue of *Sparks*.

Board minutes are available from the Secretary.

Field Day '98

Half of our members spent at least some time at our Field Day operation June 27-28, held at Downtown Park in Bellevue. Field Day Chairman Bob, KJ7BP, reports that we made 269 QSOs for a total of about 1260 points (unofficial), compared to 1000 points last year. We had three HF rigs and a VHF station operating almost constantly during the 24-hour period. Bob had to kick everybody out of the trailer at 0130 Sunday so he could get some sleep.

Murphy didn't put in much of an appearance, although we didn't make as many VHF contacts as last year (we did operate 6 meters for the first time, though, thanks to Al, N7VOF), and we had a sparse but enthusiastic crowd for the Saturday night potluck. Thanks to everyone who participated, particularly those of you who loaned equipment and helped to set up and tear down.

If you took any pictures at Field Day, be sure to bring them to the September meeting.

Talk to extraterrestrials with your HT!

Want to try something different with your 2 meter packet station? Hook up to the MIR Space Station! Yes, it's easier than you might think. All you really need to know is when it'll be passing overhead. Here are a couple of sites on the web to find out where MIR is:

<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/osf/mir/mirvis.html>
http://liftoff.msfc.nasa.gov/temp/Mir_loc.html

When you're ready to connect, tune your radio to 145.985 simplex. FYI - I connected to MIR using an HT with 4 watts of power fed into a small 3-element antenna. Yep!

Issue your "connect" command, whatever it might be, to this call sign: RØMIR-1. Once you're connected, you'll be on MIR's PMS, or Personal Message System. To send a message to the crew, all you have to do is issue the command:

SP RØMIR (wait for PMS to ask for a "subject")

Next, enter a subject title. MIR will ask you to type out your message and end it with the /EX command. Type your message to the crew and put an /EX on the end. That's all there is to it.

Make sure to write down the "Saved Message Number". If you want to get a MIR QSL card, you'll need that number.

The ARRL reminds us that the PMS is to be used strictly for messages to the cosmonauts, not for third-party traffic or as a bulletin-board service. Also, the MIR crew is very busy, so you aren't guaranteed a reply.

The U.S. QSL manager is Dave Larsen, N6CO. QSL cards must include date, mode, time of contact, and PMS message number. Send an SASE along with your QSL card to PO Box 1501, Pine Grove CA 95665. - 73 de Hef, KD7E

Roster updates

Next month's *Sparks* will have an updated membership roster. If any of your personal information has changed in the last six months

(address, phone numbers -- including area code, license class, ARRL membership, or e-mail address), please call or e-mail Kirk, N7UK.

Is it Christmas yet?

Well, the merchants are already gearing up for the Christmas season, and so are we. PARS is looking for a suitable venue for our annual Christmas party, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 19. If you'd be willing to open up your home to a couple dozen ho-ho-ho'ing hams and their spouses, or know of a cut-rate, egg nog-resistant meeting room for rent, call or e-mail Lorie, N7LCO.

ARRL members-only web pages

The ARRL has added members-only pages to its site, <http://www.arrl.org>. You'll need the membership number from your QST address label to access them. The pages features an on-line magazine, product reviews going back to 1990, and a searchable index of all QST and QEX articles.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ **PARS BAZAAR** ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

Buy, sell, or trade your ham-, electronic-, or computer-related treasures here. Ads are gratis for PARS members. Call or e-mail Kirk, N7UK, to place your ad. The Editor reserves the right to capriciously refuse any ads he deems unsuitable, e.g. Yugos or Beanie Babies.

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, WA7BUY, 360-457-6671 or kit-susa@olypen.com.

KEYS WANTED - Collector wants to buy straight keys, bugs, keyers, other telegraph-related instruments, books, and ephemera. Kirk, N7UK, 206-542-6742 or n7uk@aol.com.

New PARS meeting time

Starting in October, the PARS general meetings will begin at 7:00 PM, rather than 7:30, so that the Bellevue Senior Center employees can close up by 9:30. This also means that dinner at Coco's will be moved up to 5:30 PM.

Our October speaker will be ARRL Northwest Division Director Mary Lou Brown, NM7N. I'm sure there'll be a lot of discussion about the FCC's and ARRL's proposals to eliminate the Novice and Technician Plus licenses, and the proposed easing of Morse Code requirements. (I'll try to make some sense of these proposals in next month's *Sparks*).

Mary Lou was unopposed for this year's election, so she'll be our Director for another two years. Former Director Mary Lewis, W7QGP, will challenge incumbent Greg Milnes, W7AGQ, for the Vice Director's slot. - *de N7UK*

Upcoming contests

Since we had such an enthusiastic response for Field Day, several members have suggested that we participate in some contests. There are two of particular interest coming up shortly:

★The **Washington State Salmon Run**, hosted by the Western Washington DX Club, will take place Sep. 19-20. Hams around the globe will be working as many WA stations as they can, in as many of the 39 counties as they can. This is our chance to feel like DX. Contest rules are at www.eskimo.com/~oolon/wwdxc

★The **ARRL Phone Sweepstakes** will take place Nov. 21-22. The object is to work as many stations in as many ARRL and RAC sections as you can. It's not hard to work all states in a week-end during this contest. Contest rules are at www.arrl.org, or in the Nov. *QST*.

I intend to work the Sweepstakes from the PARS trailer, and possibly the Salmon Run as well. Call me if you're interested in joining in on the fun. - *de N7UK*

SKYWARN class in Shoreline Sep. 14

This is one last reminder that the National Weather Service (NWS) will hold a SKYWARN spotter training session on Monday, Sep. 14 at 7:30 PM at the Shoreline Historical Museum, 749 N. 175th St. (The June issue of *Sparks* listed a different location).

SKYWARN spotters report severe weather conditions to the NWS, allowing them to make more accurate predictions and warnings to the public. Hams involved with ARES/RACES are particularly encouraged to attend, but everyone's welcome, licensed or not.

The training consists of a single two-hour class. There's no charge for the training. Anyone interested in attending should RSVP to Kirk, N7UK, at 206-542-6742.

Kudos ...

To **Joe Sloss, K7MKS**, for donating some vintage test equipment to PARS for next year's Mike & Key hamfest. It'll look lovely in Lorie's living room.

To **Jim, KC7FEH**, for assembling a new First Aid kit for the trailer. Now he'll be able to play doctor on Field Day.

By the way, PARS always welcomes donations of unwanted ham- and computer-related equipment, either to sell at the Mike & Key flea market in March, to sell via silent auction at the general meetings, or to use in the trailer. Donated items are tax-deductible. Call Kirk, N7UK, to arrange pickup.

EARS hoping you'll call

Eastside Amateur Radio Service - interested parties contact John, W7HIL, at 425-391-8026 or Chuck, WA7EBH, at 425-392-5303. Always room for more help in this community activity.

Proposed '99 PARS Budget

The Board of Directors has agreed on the following proposed budget for the 1999 fiscal year:

EXPENSES (\$)			
BUDGET ITEM	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999 (PROPOSED)
<i>Corporation fee</i>	10	10	10
<i>Insurance</i>	350	350	380
<i>Programs</i>	50	50	50
<i>Field Day</i>	50	150	50
<i>Equipment purchase</i>	100	100	100
<i>Trailer expense</i>	100	100	100
<i>Misc. supplies</i>	30	30	0
<i>Newsletter</i>	200	300	300
<i>Refreshments</i>	100	100	100
TOTAL EXPENSES	990	1190	1090

INCOME (\$)			
BUDGET ITEM	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999 (PROPOSED)
<i>Dues</i>	472	690	(est.) 450
<i>Equipment sales</i>	250	500	(est.) 640
TOTAL INCOME	722	1190	1090

NOTE: The income from dues for 1999 is based on 27 individual and 2 family memberships.