



SPARKS



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Newsletter of the Puget Amateur Radio Society

December 1998

Mary Lou Brown, NM7N, is Silent Key

From the Dec. 4 ARRL bulletin: "Northwestern Division Director Mary Lou Brown, NM7N, of Anacortes, Washington, died December 3, 1998. She was 71. Brown was just re-elected without opposition to a new two-year term on the ARRL Board. Her husband, Bob, NM7M, reports that Director Brown collapsed and died at Los Angeles International Airport, apparently after suffering a heart attack. She was returning from Australia where she had just taken part in the Lord Howe Island, VK9LX, DXpedition.

"... Brown has been the ARRL Northwestern Division Director since 1995 and was a vice director from 1990 through 1994. She also served as a member of the ARRL Executive Committee.

"ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, said Brown was held 'in the highest possible esteem' by her peers on the ARRL Board. He noted that Brown was elected to the Executive Committee after just one year as a director, and was re-elected twice. 'Her enthusiasm for Amateur Radio extended beyond organizational affairs to on-the-air operating, especially operating with friends,' he said. 'Anyone who was fortunate enough to be able to call Mary Lou their friend -- and their numbers are legion, all over the world -- knows the true meaning of friendship.'

"Brown received her doctorate from Columbia University. Before retiring to Washington, she taught physical education at the University of California at Berkeley and served as a department chairperson.

"Northwestern Division Vice Director Greg Milnes, W7AGQ, accedes to the position of Director. Milnes also was just re-elected to a new two-year term. The vacancy in the position of Vice Director will be filled in due course by appointment by President Rod Stafford, W6ROD."

Those of us who were acquainted with Mary Lou will recognize what a great loss this is for the northwest amateur community. I had the pleasure of chatting with her at numerous hamfests around the state, and at the NW Division conventions in Seaside, and always found her to be personable and willing to take the time to listen to whatever half-baked opinions I had about the latest FCC brouhaha.

PARS could always count on her for a worthwhile program during the year. We were particularly fortunate to have her at the October meeting, when she helped us to iron out the controversial license-restructuring proposals.

There will be a memorial service for Mary Lou on Thursday, Dec. 17 at 2:00 PM at the Guemes Island Community Church, Guemes Island (across the channel from Anacortes).

Mary Lou established a scholarship several years ago, which awards \$2500 annually to a Northwest Division amateur pursuing a bachelor's degree. The club will consider making a contribution to the scholarship fund in her memory at its January meeting. If you'd like to make an individual contribution, send your check to The ARRL Foundation, 225 Main Street, Newington CT 06111. - de N7UK

Next general meeting - Saturday, Dec. 19 at 7:00 PM at the home of Don and Pat Hickman, 12807 NE 136th Street, Kirkland. This will be our annual Holiday party and Ham of the Year Award presentation -- see page 2 in this issue for details.

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



★ ★ PARS Holiday party ★ ★

Don and Pat Hickman have graciously offered to be our hosts for this year's party. This will include a potluck dinner, and the Ham of the Year committee will announce this year's recipient at the party. Here are the particulars:

When: Saturday, Dec. 19 at 7:00 PM

Where: 12807 NE 136th Street, Kirkland. See the map on the last page.

What to bring: Call Don or Pat at **425-821-7025**, or e-mail Don at **donhickman@juno.com**, so that they can coordinate who brings what (salads, entrees, desserts, etc.). This is a BYOB event. The club will provide pop, punch, plates, and eating utensils. It's a good idea to bring suitable serving utensils with your potluck item.

Be sure to RSVP to Don or Pat as soon as possible, so that we can know how many people to plan for. Don't forget to tell them if you're bringing your spouse or other guest.



The Prez sez...

I don't have a great deal to say this month. I was too late to get into the last newsletter, so I'll have to be really on my toes after the New Year.

I want to thank Pat and Don Hickman for hosting the Holiday party this year. I hope that we'll have a good turn-out. It is a pleasant way to get to know some of your compatriots in ham radio better, and a good way for our significant others to get acquainted as well.

Arzetta and I extend our very best wishes for a Happy Holiday season to you all, and for those who we don't get to see at the party we hope that you have a very Happy New Year!

- 73 de Jim KC7FEH

Hamfest donations

It's not too early to be thinking about donating your unwanted ham-, computer-, or electronics-related items to the club for the Mike & Key hamfest in March. All donations are tax-deductible.

As mentioned in the meeting minutes this month, we'll also sell items on consignment for club members. We still have yet to determine what percentage of the sale PARS will keep.

Call Hef, KD7E, to arrange for a donation pickup, or if you have something to consign.

Birthdays!

Herschel Whiting WS7K

Joe Langjahr KJ7DG

Larry McIntyre WB6VZU

December 12

January 3

January 8

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 (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.

Visit our Web page at <http://www.qsl.net/k7par>. We've just started building this page, so check back often.

Send articles, comments, want ads, inane drivel, 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.

Minutes of the PARS general meeting, November 19, 1998

The Society met at the Bellevue Senior Center. 15 members were present, a quorum. 3 visitors, also attended. The President called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM.

Following introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance, the President introduced the night's speaker, Doug Wetzel, K7IP, from the Northwest Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) group. Doug described various aspects of APRS and demonstrated mapping software that could track an APRS-equipped station from anywhere in the country. A question-and-answer session followed.

Following the break, the President convened the business meeting. He lauded John Heflin, KD7E, for his efforts to demonstrate ham radio to Boy Scouts during the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA).

The President noted that the October meeting minutes had listed Al Staple, N7VOF, rather than John Black, W7HIL, as a Ham of the Year committee member. The members approved the October minutes with no other corrections noted.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer reported a positive balance as of Nov. 6 [PARS members may request budget reports from the Treasurer - ed.]

Old business: Bob Adams, KJ7BP, reported that he had repaired and repainted the steel box donated by the Treasurer, and had locked the club's generator in the box. The lock has the same combination as the trailer door.

The Secretary reported that the club's 1997 Field Day score had appeared in the Dec. issue of QST. The club made 1260 points, 30 more than W1AW. He also noted that he had purchased and installed the crystal marker unit and FM unit in the club's IC-740 transceiver, in response to motions passed at the October general meeting, and that the units worked satisfactorily.

Hef, KD7E, announced that he had loaned the club a 486 computer and had donated a 386 computer, both of which he had placed in the trailer; and had loaded the 486 computer with logging software for the ARRL Sweepstakes contest. He also announced that he had sent an application to the Mike and Key club for two tables, two seller's admissions, and one helper's admission for the hamfest in March. He reminded the members that he would accept equipment donations and consignments.

New business: The President reported that Don Hickman, KC7MDA, and his wife had offered to host the club Holiday party at his home in Kirkland on Dec. 19. He offered two other alternatives: An abbreviated meeting and social, with refreshments, at the Bellevue Senior Center on the normal meeting night (Dec. 17); or dinner at the Old Country Buffet in the Factoria area of Bellevue, at a cost of approximately \$7.00 per person. After some discussion, the Vice President moved that the club accept the Hickmans' offer to host the party. The members approved the motion. The Vice President agreed to coordinate the arrangements with the Hickmans.

The Vice President said that she had been talking with the Issaquah and Maple Valley radio clubs about having a combined fox hunt, possibly in May or June. She also raised the possibility of having a group project to construct direction finders, and offered plans for a direction finder to the members.

The Secretary reminded members that he would be operating in the ARRL Sweepstakes from the trailer on Nov. 21-22, and he encouraged everyone to participate. He also asked for volunteers to help set up the tower and beam antenna on the morning of the 21st.

With no further business, the President adjourned the meeting at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted-
Kirk Bellar, N7UK
PARS Secretary

ARRL Phone Sweepstakes results

Quite a few members participated in the phone Sweepstakes during the weekend of Nov. 21-22, PARS' first club effort in this event. Saturday afternoon looked more like a trailer-stuffing contest than a radio one, as KD7E, KD7DEY, Doug Bell, Deutschland visitor Andreas Hofmann, and Yours Truly chased down contacts and multipliers, while other members dropped in to chat and watch the spectacle. New member (and new ham) Tim Monk, KD7DEY, made his first-ever radio contact during the contest.

We were attempting to make Clean Sweep (all 79 ARRL and RAC sections), and came pretty close, with 76 sections claimed. Maine, Quebec, and Newfoundland eluded us. We made 157 QSOs for a total claimed score of 23,864. Hef, KD7E, was good enough to loan us a 486 computer and load it with contest-logging software; it took all of the challenge out of avoiding duplicate contacts!

Thanks to Lorie, N7LCO, for hauling the club's tower and beam antenna to the trailer site, and especially to Al, N7VOF, and Bob, KJ7BP, who assembled same while braving the bluster Saturday morning. Al was also good enough to help us take everything down Sunday afternoon.

Another fine first effort from K7PAR. It was great to see so many of you show up, if only to see what was going on. Given the level of interest in the Sweepstakes, we'll be looking for another contest to participate in, probably in February. Stay tuned! - *de N7UK*

No Dec. Board meeting, minutes

Contrary to what I reported in last month's Sparks, the board elected not to hold a December board meeting. Not surprisingly, there are no December board minutes, either. The board will meet as usual on Thursday, Jan. 7; all PARS members are welcome to drop in and see what kind of mayhem we can think up.

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.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ **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. furbys or poker-playing dogs.

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**.

That's it for December, gang. If this month's edition looks a bit skimpy, it's because we wanted to get it out early, to let everyone know about the Holiday party in plenty of time to RSVP to the Hickmans. Again, please be sure to contact them without delay if you plan to be there, so that we have time to coordinate the potluck. Hope to see everyone there, but if you can't make it, happy holidays and best wishes for the new year!

- 73, N7UK