



# SPARKS



Vol. 17, No. 7

Puget Amateur Radio Society

September 2001

## **September program - SSTV and MFSK**

Our own John Heflin, KD7E, has once again offered to put on a program, this time on slow-scan television (SSTV), multi-frequency-shift keying (MFSK), and maybe some other new digital modes if time allows.

SSTV, like the digital modes, has become much easier and less expensive to implement since the advent of PCs. If you have a PC and a sound card, a few simple connections and a shareware program will allow you to receive SSTV images. Add a PC camera, and you're all set to have QSOs in this fun mode.

Hef demonstrated PSK31 last September. This time he'll show off MFSK, another recently-developed mode that promises even better weak-signal performance. It, too, needs only a PC, sound card, and a share ware or free ware program. Chances are good that you already have all the hardware you'll need to join in on the fun.

## **No changes planned for 01-02 budget**

PARS' new slate of officers (President Mark Whitaker, Vice-President Lisa Marker, and Secretary/Treasurer Kirk Bellar), along with Board member at-large John Heflin, held their first Board meeting of the year on Sep. 6. The Board opted to submit the same budget as was approved last year, with no changes. PARS members will find the proposed budget attached to this month's Sparks. The members will consider the budget this month and vote on it next month, in accordance with the By-Laws. The Board also mulled over committee appointments for the new club year, and made the following appointments among themselves:

**Trailer:** Mark Whitaker

**Contests:** John Heflin, Kirk Bellar

**Refreshments:** Lisa Marker

**Webmeister:** Mark Whitaker

Still to be appointed are chairs for the Publicity, Field Day, and Hamfest committees.

## **Field Day '01**

Having witnessed almost none of this year's PARS FD effort, I'm not in much of a position to report on same. Lisa and I did commit some of the event to video, however, and I'm prepared to subject the members to it this month if we have time.

I've asked some of the participants to give me their account of the event for inclusion in next month's Sparks. - de N7UK

## **New controller? Not yet**

The new repeater controller for our 443.2 machine is quietly collecting dust in my garage, while we're still waiting to get access to the repeater site. Our PSE contacts, Steve Szombathy and Jon Fortier, have been busier than usual with their day jobs, and so far haven't been able to let us in.

As I noted in the June Sparks, several members have expressed interest in helping with the installation, and we'll try to accommodate everyone if Steve lets us all in. We'll collect video evidence of the installation for a future meeting.

Meanwhile, if you'd like to comb through all the details of the controller, you'll find the manual at [http://www.nhrc.net/nhrc-10/NHRC-10\\_User\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.nhrc.net/nhrc-10/NHRC-10_User_Guide.pdf). - de N7UK

*Next general meeting* - Thursday, September 20 at 7:00 PM at the Bellevue Senior Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE in Bellevue. Our own John Heflin, KD7E, will present a program on SSTV (see article above). And be sure to join us at 5:30 PM for dinner at Coco's, 14804 NE 24th St. in Redmond. Visitors are always welcome at the meetings and at Coco's.

*Next board meeting* - Thursday, Oct. 4, location to be determined. Contact Kirk, N7UK, for location. All PARS members are welcome.

## Amateurs responding in terrorist attacks' aftermath

From the ARRL Letter: "With lower Manhattan taking on the look of a war zone, some Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service organizations have initiated emergency nets and other activities in response to today's terrorist attacks. Other ARES and RACES groups in the New York City and Washington, DC, areas were reported on alert and standing by if needed. States of emergency have been declared in affected areas.

"In the New York City area, ARES and RACES is active and reported 'very busy' by ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Carrubba, KA2D. An emergency net is operating on the WB2ZSE 147.00 MHz repeater with Guy Richman, KC2AYG, as the net control station. ARRL Hudson Division Vice Director Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, cites information from New York City District Emergency Coordinator Charles Hargrove, N2NOV, that ARES members will be used in search-and-rescue efforts at the World Trade Center site in lower Manhattan. 'Amateurs will be used throughout the night,' Mendelsohn said.

"The New York City Office of Emergency Management bunker is located adjacent to the World Trade Center. At one point, the bunker's entrance was blocked for about 20 minutes by debris from the skyscraper's collapse, said Bob Reed, W2CE.

"The repeater net is handling emergency traffic and shadowing some New York City officials, Mendelsohn said. Hargrove is handling telephones; Mike Bartman, KF2EO, Bill Butler,

N2BGR, and Joseph Albertus, KB2QLE, have been monitored handling medical traffic and shadowing medical officials, while John Kiernan, KE2UN, is at American Red Cross Headquarters in Manhattan.

"Mendelsohn notes that only emergency vehicles and personnel are being permitted into Manhattan. 'All bridges are closed to incoming traffic,' Mendelsohn said, adding that one outbound lane remains open with heavy security on the bridges. 'Jet fighters are in the air criss-crossing Manhattan,' he said. 'It looks like a war zone there - something out of World War II.' The Holland and Lincoln tunnels have been closed in both directions.

'New York City-Long Island Section Manager George Tranos, N2GA, reports that he's working with Carrubba from his house in North Babylon on Long Island. 'Suffolk County ARES is supporting the American Red Cross with communications,' he said. ARES remains on standby in the Emergency Operations Center in the towns of Babylon and Islip, while Islip and Babylon ARES are on-site at Good Samaritan Hospital in West Islip and Brunswick Hospital in Amityville, Tranos said.

"Kenneth Goetz, N2SQW, reported that a New York State RACES net was operational on 7.248 and 3.9935 MHz handling emergency and government-related traffic.

"In the Washington, DC, area, Maryland-DC Section Emergency Coordinator Mike Carr, WA1QAA, reports RACES groups were activated in Montgomery County and put in standby in

### PARS 2000 - 01 Club Officers:

President - Mark Whitaker, KD7KUN  
Vice Pres. - Lisa Marker, K7LAM

206-542-6742

Secretary-Treasurer - Kirk Bellar, N7UK

206-542-6742

**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 North 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 persons at the same address). PARS will prorate the dues of new members joining after Jan. 31. Call Kirk, N7UK, for a membership application.

**Visit our Web page** at <http://www.qsl.net/k7par>. This is always a work in progress, so check back often.

**Send articles**, comments, want ads, Pamela Anderson sightings, 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](mailto:n7uk@aol.com).

**Send all other club-related correspondence** to PARS, PO Box 32, Kirkland WA 98083-0032.

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Howard County and other jurisdictions. Frederick County RACES has not been activated, Carr said.

“Montgomery County Deputy Radio Officer John Creel, WB3GXW, reports that county’s RACES team is fully activated and under ‘full tactical alert,’ and amateur operators have been deployed to five area hospitals to handle traffic regarding incoming patients and blood donations. The RACES operators are coordinating with the American Red Cross in Silver Spring, Maryland. Primary traffic is being handled via the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club 147.955 repeater and the Montgomery County RACES 443.900 repeater.

“Virginia SEC Tom Gregory, N4NW, says he’s asked everyone to ‘monitor the emergency frequencies and to keep a full tank of gas.’ Gregory said a breakdown in local telephone service has hampered efforts to contact - or be contacted by - emergency officials. Gregory said all repeaters would be available. Virginia RACES has activated at the state emergency operations center at Virginia State Police headquarters in Richmond. Virginia RACES was using 7.240 MHz on HF (WC4VA), as well as 145.43, 145.36 for FM voice and 145.73 packet (VAEOC).

“The Old Dominion Emergency and Virginia Emergency nets were said to be active.

“ARES and RACES organizations are locally managed. Teams in other states are on standby in case they’re needed.

“Army Military Affiliate Radio System - MARS - spokesman Bill Sexton, N1IN, reports the World Trade Center attack prompted an immediate response from the SHARES network of federal agencies assisted by the Amateur Radio operators who participate in MARS.

“SHARES is a little-known emergency service that allies MARS-certified amateurs with federal agency operators when normal communications break down. That occurred today when the telephone and cellular telephone circuits became

overloaded. The SHARES nets operate on government frequencies outside the amateur bands.

“By early this afternoon, more than 200 stations had checked in, including participants from the Federal Emergency Management Administration [sic], the Federal Aviation Administration, state emergency operations centers, and Air Force, Navy-Marine Corps and Army MARS members. ‘The bulk of participants were amateurs,’ Sexton said.

“Sexton said that David Muckle, KB2BNW/AAR2CB came on the air from Essex County, New Jersey, within sight of the plume of smoke over the World Trade Center. Arthur Walsh AB4BG/NNN0FAD, checked in from Annandale Virginia, not far from the Pentagon.

“Regional nets also activated across the country. Sexton said the SHARES headquarters staff had to evacuate its Arlington, Virginia, location, but was soon on the air operating portable in northern Virginia.

“The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network - SATERN - has activated its HF net on 14.265 MHz. SATERN also handles health-and-welfare inquiries via its Web site. The Salvation Army has been collecting fresh water, supplies and donations in various localities in the Northeast to truck to New York City. Other disaster-related operations have been reported on the EastCARS (East Coast Amateur Radio Service) frequency, 7.255 MHz, and on 14.326, where an informational net was under way.

“... As news of the attacks spread, messages arrived at ARRL Headquarters from amateurs outside the US expressing their concern and astonishment. ‘We are very sorry to hear about the terrorist attack in USA,’ wrote Berkin and Nilay Aydogmus, TA3J and TA3YJ. ‘We can’t find words to explain our feelings. It is unbelievable.’

AMSAT President Robin Haighton, VE3FRU, expressed his grief in a posting on the AMSAT reflector. ‘These terrible events affect us all,’ he said. ‘My thoughts are with you and all the American people.’... “

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## **Minutes of the PARS General Meeting, 17 May 2001**

The members met at the Bellevue Senior Center. 13 members attended, a quorum. 2 visitors also attended. The President brought the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

Gary Lewis, WA7BBJ, presented a program on amateur television and showed some video tape from ATV operations, including a model helicopter.

Following a break, the President reconvened the members for the business meeting. The members approved, without additions or corrections, the May meeting minutes as published in the June issue of *Sparks*.

**Treasurer's report:** The Treasurer reported a positive balance in the club account. [*figures are available from the Secretary-Treasurer - Ed.*]

**Trailer report:** The Secretary reported that he and several members had dismantled the antennas attached to the trailer, and the President had removed debris from under and behind the trailer in preparation for Field Day. The Secretary had stocked it with soda and snacks, checked the consumable items, replaced the water supply, and loaded TR Log in the trailer's PC.

**Field Day:** The President planned to hitch up the trailer at 0530 on the morning of FD and deliver it to Downtown Park by 0630. The members discussed the logistics of moving the tower, antennas, and generator to and from the park, and where to set up the trailers and equipment in the park. John Brewer agreed to take his fifth-wheel trailer.

**Publicity:** Chair Lisa Marker remarked that she had sent a press release to the Eastside Journal and to local broadcast media. She expected to have brochures ready by Saturday, and would bring them to the park for handout.

The President thanked Al Staples for providing refreshments. Al stated that he wanted to discontinue the job after the current club year.

The Secretary noted that the new Board would consider committee appointments at its first meeting in September.

**Old Business:** The Secretary announced that he had ordered and received the new repeater controller, pursuant to the club's approval at the May meeting, and that he was talking with the club's PSE liaison to allow the club access to the repeater site so that it can install the controller. The Secretary would advise the membership once access is granted.

**New Business:** Don Hickman asked whether the club would try to entice the young hams from Helen Keller Elementary, who would be visiting the PARS Field Day site, to join the club. The President replied that he would try to remember to get the list of names to the Secretary. The Secretary added that the club needed to have a stack of blank application forms handy at the Field Day site.

The Secretary reminded the members that there would be no general or Board meetings during the months of July and August.

With no further business, the President adjourned the meeting at 8:36 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted -  
Kirk Bellar N7UK, PARS Secretary-Treasurer*