



# SPARKS



Vol. 18, No. 3

Puget Amateur Radio Society

March 2002

## *Mar. program - VHF/UHF roving*

This month Lynn Burlingame, N7CFO, will regale us with his exploits as a VHF/UHF rover station. What's a rover? It's a cross between a mobile and portable station. The rover travels to a specific location, usually a hilltop, rare grid square, or (preferably) both, parks his vehicle/ham shack, sets up a few gain antennas, and works as many other stations as he can. When the QSOs run out, he packs up and heads for another high spot. He'll also make contacts while mobiling to the next venue, using horizontally-polarized loop antennas for omnidirectional coverage.

Roving is especially popular during VHF/UHF contests. Lynn worked on six bands from nine different grid squares during the ARRL Jan. VHF Sweepstakes. His pursuit of QSOs has taken him up treacherous logging roads to precarious summits where his little camper had no business being. and he's ready to tell us how he survived it all.

Lynn is interim president of the recently-formed Pacific Northwest VHF Society, which promotes weak-signal activity on all of the bands above 50 MHz. He also has a world-class collection of telegraph keys, and can always be found buying and selling same at our local hamfests.

You can find more details about roving and the VHF Society at [www.qsl.net/pnwvhfs](http://www.qsl.net/pnwvhfs).

## *WPX Contest - Mar. 30-31*

One last reminder: PARS will yet again participate in the CQ World-Wide WPX Contest, occurring on the weekend of Mar. 30-31 this year. We'll start

setting up antennas at 0800 Sat. the 30th at the Senior Center, and go QRV as soon as we're ready.

We've managed to work 50 DXCC countries during each of the last two WPX Contests, including some rarely-heard during the rest of the year. It's a fun opportunity to do some concentrated DXing, and of course we'll have some Extra-class control ops on hand for the benefit of you Techs who'd like to try HFing, and for those of you who don't usually get the chance to work down in the "DX windows." This is a phone-only contest.

## *Hamfest wrap-up*

Well, another Mike and Key hamfest has come and gone. After northern King County got pummeled by a late-winter snowstorm on the night of the 7th, I was afraid we might have to resort to a dog sled to get our merchandise to the event; but by midday Friday the major roads were in good shape, and we proceeded as planned. Hamfest chair Doug Bell, along with Charles Beckmeier, provided most of the transportation and muscle to pack our treasures for the trip south. Your *Sparks* Editor, recuperating from minor foot surgery, spent my time trying to look useful while keeping my sore toes out of harm's way. I had already loaded up my car with goodies donated by former PARS member Alex, WA7EDZ, as well as some additional odds and ends provided by the Shoreline Fire department.

I planned to get to the fairgrounds after the gates opened this year. We arrived about 4 PM and were able to unload after a minimal wait. We set up our two tables quickly, then wandered off to ogle the other dealers' wares before leaving for the night.

*Next general meeting* - Thursday, March 21 at 7:00 PM at the Bellevue Senior Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE in Bellevue. Lynn Burlingame will present a program on VHF roving (see 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, Apr. 4 at 7:00 PM, location TBD. Contact Kirk if you'd like to attend. All PARS members are welcome.

I checked in at a nearby motel, rather than making the trip back home to Shoreline, and had just started dozing off to dream about hamfest bargains when the phone jarred me back to consciousness. Your PARS Vice President was calling to inform me that there was a strange, sporadic buzzing noise in the house, and she was afraid that someone was trying to break in. This seemed like a rather odd noise for a burglar to make, but it's hard to reason with a panic-stricken wife at 11 PM. I told Lisa to call the cops if it continued, which it did and she did. She then discovered that the buzz was emanating from my pager, which I'd left at home and which was busily trying to notify me of receipt of the page she had sent me earlier in the day. Luckily, the local constabulary had yet to arrive, and Lisa was able to make a second call to the police and explain all of this to the bemused dispatcher.

The next morning, Charles and I met for breakfast, then headed to the fairgrounds for the big event. Sales started slowly but were steady throughout the day, bolstered by our own super-salesman Hef, who worked the crowd with his usual aplomb. I understand that attendance was up by about 200 over last year, while there were 7 fewer dealer tables. Ergo, more demand, less supply.

Many current and former PARS members stopped by to chat, including Chuck Graff, Chuck Stroehrer, John Black, Don Hickman, Alex Vdolek, Jimmy Horn, and Bill Martin. (Bill Gates was rumored to be there too, but we had to settle for a Ghostbuster sighting.) A lot of the attendees remarked that they were there for the eyeball QSOs, not the bargains, although they usually

had some bauble in hand while they were telling me this.

At 3:00, everyone called it a hamfest and started packing. We separated out the dross from the things we thought might actually have a chance of selling next year. Doug quickly staked a claim to the unwanted, along with purchased or abandoned widgets from the other dealers, and amassed two pallet loads of stuff which he intended to load into his diminutive Mazda station wagon. I offered to help load his car, and was dumbfounded when we managed to get every last item inside. I doubt there was enough room left over for another PL-259 by the time we were finished loading. Unbelievable! It was the highlight of the hamfest for me.

So how did we fare? With the help of some advance sales to Charles and Doug, we made about \$475 for our efforts. While sales were good, we didn't have as many high-value donations as last year. However, combined with the sale of the two-meter cavities to the Federal Way ARC in December, we've exceeded our sales goal for the club year. This should allow us to pay the bills and still keep dues at the same level next year. My thanks to Doug and Charles for providing muscle and transportation, Hef for spearheading the sales effort, and to Don Hickman and the rest of you who've donated items over the past year. - de N7UK

### ***Comm. Academy set for Mar. 23-24***

The Academy is set for the weekend of March 23-24. Advance registration is required to get into the event. You can register on-line at <http://www.academy2002.org>

#### *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, Britney Spears navel photos, 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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## ***KD7E receives Ham of the Year award***

John Heflin, KD7E, is the recipient of PARS' 2001 Ham of the Year award. Your *Sparks* Editor presented the plaques to Hef at the February general meeting.

The nominating committee, consisting of previous recipients Al Staples, Bob Adams, and Kirk Bellar, recognized Hef for his service as Treasurer, his establishment of the PARS web site, and his help with antenna-raising duties, ham-fests, and whatever else needs to be done. He's also conducted three programs for the club, and is this year's Board member at-large. Congratulations, Hef!

## ***PARS congratulates ...***

New member Van Kichline on passing the Technician exam on Mar. 7. Hef, who was one of the Volunteer Examiners present, informs me that Van got a perfect score on the test. He's already bought himself an Alinco dual-bander, and is still waiting for his ticket from Uncle Charlie.

## ***Ducie Island, N. Korea ops thrill DXers***

The DX world is eagerly waiting activation of Ducie Island, 540 km east of Pitcairn Island, as the newest and most-wanted DXCC entity. After its first DXpedition attempt to Ducie was abandoned in November because of rough seas, the Pitcairn Island Amateur Radio Association hopes to be active beginning around March 18 for one week, according to the ARRL. They expect to be QRV as maritime-mobile prior to arrival on the island. Two stations will be QRV on 15 meters using CW and SSB for 24 hours a day, with stations active on the other bands as well. An additional station will be QRV on 6 meters, and some activity using RTTY is likely.

Meanwhile, a North Korean DXpedition team led by Hrane Milosevic, YT1AD, was forced to abandon its efforts before it could make any contacts. North Korea is the second most-wanted entity among DXers. From the ARRL Letter: "YT1AD reported that the team had a license with the call sign P5A and had started to set up a station, but the military intervened and informed the team that transmitting from [North Korea]

was forbidden. *The Daily DX* cites information from Harry, RA3AUU, who reported receiving a telephone call from YT1AD, who stated that they were unable to get a license to transmit. YT1AD 'was obviously very disappointed and leaving North Korea,' the report said. Meanwhile, Ed Giorgadze, P5/4L4FN, continues to operate from North Korea as his schedule permits. He has obtained oral permission to operate, but his operation has not yet been approved for DXCC credit. More information on P5/4L4FN is on the AMSAT Net Web site operated by Bruce Paige, KK5DO [[www.amsatnet.com/p5.html](http://www.amsatnet.com/p5.html)]."

## ***Field Day - June 22-23***

Even with the snow still threatening, it's not too soon to start thinking ahead to our annual rite of summer. We'll let the trailer stay put this year, and hope we don't have to compete for space with any weddings or revival meetings.

We'll start setting up at 0800 on the 22nd. Starting time for the event is anywhere between 1100 and 1400; once we begin transmitting, we have a 24-hour span to work as many other stations as possible. Field Day is part emergency-preparedness drill, part contest, part picnic/campout, part public-relations opportunity, and 100% fun!

No one has yet stepped up to take on the Field Day chair responsibilities. There won't be much to it this year, since we won't have to worry about moving the trailer or getting permits to park it elsewhere for the occasion. We're looking for somebody to make sure that all the needed equipment and supplies are in place, and someone who can coordinate the Sat. nite potluck if the members decide to hold one.

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## *Minutes of the PARS general meeting, 21 Feb. 2001*

The members met at the Bellevue Senior Center. 12 members were present, a quorum. Two visitors also attended. The President brought the meeting to order at 7:16 PM.

Michael Crick, author of the Ham University instructional software, demonstrated the product and entertained the members by having them take a practice Technician exam.

The Secretary awarded the 2001 Ham of the Year plaque to John Heflin, KD7E [*See article elsewhere in this issue - Ed.*].

Following a break, the President called the business meeting to order. The members approved the minutes of the January meeting as published in the February issue of *Sparks*.

**Treasurer's report:** The Treasurer reported a positive balance as of February 21, and reported income and expenses for the previous 30 days. [*Financial statements are available from the Treasurer - Ed.*]

**Trailer committee:** Charles Beckmeier had not yet gone to Costco to shop for smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

The President remarked that the Communications Academy organizers wanted to put the trailer on display at the Academy on March 23. A Kirkland ARES member had volunteered to tow the trailer to the site. The members voted to allow the trailer to be moved to the Academy site for the event. The President encouraged the members to attend the Academy.

**Contest:** The Secretary reminded the members that PARS would again participate in the CQ Worldwide WPX Contest on the weekend of Mar. 30-31. He noted that PARS had finished in last place in their category in the 2001 WPX contest. The members discussed the possibility of using the club's linear amplifier during the contest; the Secretary said that the club would need

an external power source and an interface cable to connect the linear to the transmitter.

**Hamfest:** The Secretary announced that there would be a work party on Feb. 23 to clean and tag the donated items. Doug Bell, Charles Beckmeier, and the Secretary agreed to meet on the day before the event to pack and move the donations to the hamfest site. The Secretary noted that former PARS member Alex Vdolek, WA7EDZ, would be donating additional items prior to the hamfest weekend.

**Field Day:** The Secretary remarked that there was no Field Day chairman to date. Field Day will fall on the weekend of June 22-23 this year.

**Old Business:** The Secretary remarked that PSE liaison Steve Szombathy had possession of the new repeater controller, but that installation had been delayed by Steve's father's passing in Jan. He also noted that he had some parts to put together RFI filters to try to eliminate the interference to the Senior Center's PA amplifiers. He would coordinate efforts with Dick Schwanke, once he had assembled the filters.

The President was still pursuing the possibility of getting an antenna installed on top of the Senior Center, as well as getting additional AC power to the trailer.

**New Business:** The President mentioned that he would not be running for the position again for the 02-03 club year. The Secretary stated that he would have to give up his duties at the end of the present club year, pursuant to the By-Laws.

The Secretary announced that former member Herschel Whiting, WS7K, had suffered a stroke in Phoenix. His prognosis is unknown. The President thanked the club for the bouquet sent in memory of his mother's passing.

With no further business, the President adjourned at 8:46.

- Respectfully Submitted,  
Kirk Bellar N7UK  
PARS Secretary-Treasurer