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# SPARKS

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Puget Amateur Radio Society

January 2003

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## Dues Due

Annual dues for 2003 are due at the general meeting, which is on Thursday, January 16, at 7 PM - \$15.00 for individual membership, \$22.50 for family (2 or more persons at the same address).

## Upcoming Presentations

January 16	Gene Underwood N7AKA
February 20	Jim Fenstermier on ARRL
March 20	Ron Verschuyf K7AAE
April 17	Rick Beaty NU7Z

## Happy birthday to you!

Jan 24	Art Rolfe	N7YKI
Feb 17	John Heflin	KD7E

## Christmas Party

If you missed the Christmas party, you missed a good party. Thanks to our hosts Van and Margie Kichline, and of course to all those who showed up with the great food!

You may be wondering who won the Ham of the Year award. Well, you'll have to wait to find out at the meeting. At the board meeting, our president expressed a wish to make the announcement at the meeting, though those who attended the Christmas party already know.

## Apologies

Sorry about the short issue this month. I just didn't make enough time to scratch up enough filler to make four pages. How about some more articles from the members? Please email some articles to me at warrenhb@msn.com.

Also, I'm mailing the hard copies about a day late, so if you didn't get your copy in time to be reminded to go to the meeting, sorry, please let me know.

If you'd like to receive both the hard copy and the email version, let me know. Don currently does this. It's easy for me to do. Of course, it's easier for me to send just the email version, and this saves the club some money.

## Radiation Shielded Trousers

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - U.S. jeans maker Levi Strauss & Co. denied Thursday [back in September - Ed.] it was playing on consumer fears by launching a line of trousers fitted with "anti-radiation" pockets for mobile phones.

The trousers, with a lining which the makers say shields against radiation, are designed by Dockers, a brand name of Levi Strauss -- famous for its classic "501" jeans.

Retailers were currently viewing the new line, called Icon S-Fit, with an eye to sales from next spring, a Levi's spokesman said. "We're not implying in any way that mobile phones are dangerous," Levi's European communications manager Cedric Jungpeter told Reuters. "Our intention is not to cash in on consumer fears but provide the consumers with what they want," he said from Levi's European headquarters in Brussels. The finished design was the fruit of extensive market research showing that the fashion conscious were also health conscious, Jungpeter said. "The debate is open. Although no study has proved mobile phones are harmful, no study has proved the contrary either," he added. Officials from Dockers, which announced the launch of its new line in July, were not immediately available for comment.

Worldwide studies into the possible dangers of mobile phones produce often-conflicting conclusions. A recent one carried out by Australian researchers over a three-year period showed that radio emissions from mobile phones did not trigger the growth of tumors in mice, and therefore probably did not do so in humans either. That research followed another Australian study on mice five years ago that concluded cellular phones could foster tumor growth. Swedish research published in August concluded that long-term users of first generation mobile phones faced an up to 80 percent greater risk of developing brain tumors than non-users and the World Health Organization said last year more research was needed. But a Danish study last year of 400,000 mobile phone users showed no increased cancer risk.

## The 5 Megs Experiment: ARRL Says Its Waiting for a New Band

From the Jan. 10 Amateur Radio Newslines at [www.arnewslines.org](http://www.arnewslines.org). The ARRL is out of the 5 MHz

**Next general meeting** - Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7:00 PM at the Bellevue Senior Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE in Bellevue. Gene Underwood N7AKA will speak. 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, Feb. 6 at 7:00 PM at the Cowboy Steakhouse, located on the east side of the Totem Lake Mall in back of the Bank of America Bldg. Take the 124th St. exit off of I-405 and go east to the first street with a left turn lane. Turn left, cross the railroad tracks, continue to the next light, turn right at the bank, go one block and take a right. All PARS members are welcome.

experiment and is now hoping for the creation of a new ham band. Amateur Radio Newline's Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has the rest of the story:

The ARRL has permitted its WA2XSY experimental license for 5 MHz to expire on January 1st. The League says that it is now pinning its hopes on the FCC to establish a new ham band in that spectrum but admits that it is facing some stiff opposition.

An ARRL bulletin says that starting in January 1999, 15 Amateur Radio clubs and individual hams took part in the 5-Mhz experimental operation that basically concluded in 2002. Through these operations the ARRL says that it obtained sufficient information to justify its petition for creation of the new band.

Last May, the FCC proposed going along with the ARRL's request to create a new domestic secondary High Frequency allocation from 5.25 to 5.4 MHz. But in August the National Telecommunications and Information Administration requested that the Commission not go forward with the proposal. The NTIA says that several government agencies with allocations in the proposed spectrum had expressed reservations about sharing the spectrum with hams.

But the ARRL is still very hopeful the new band can be created. In fact, it has been working with the government to resolve the impasse. Meantime, the FCC has yet to act on the 5 MHz request.

For the Amateur Radio Newline, I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP.

The ARRL says that the new allocation at 5 MHz is an urgent priority for Amateur Radio. It says such an allocation would enhance emergency communication activities by filling a propagation gap that exists between the 80- and 40-meter bands. In the meantime, experimental operations on 5 MHz continue on a limited basis in the United Kingdom and in Canada. (ARRL)

#### **Good Information Source: New RF Safety Web Site**

From the Jan. 10 Amateur Radio Newline at [www.arnewline.org](http://www.arnewline.org). Our friends over at the CGC Communicator report that RF Safety Solutions has a new web site dealing with that very subject.

As its name implies, RF Safety Solutions is a company that provides consulting for those concerned with human exposure to RF signals. It was founded in 2002 by Richard Strickland who is a well-known expert in the field of RF safety and who has developed RF safety programs and conducted training for a number of major wireless communications companies and broadcasters

The RF Safety Solutions web site covers RF safety reporting, safety programs and training. There is also a good overview of what RF radiation really is. It's really one of the best thought out places to learn

about R-F safety. Look for it in cyberspace at [www.rfsafetysolutions.com](http://www.rfsafetysolutions.com). (CGC)

#### **Doggie Talk and the Ig Nobel Awards**

From the Jan. 10 Amateur Radio Newline at [www.arnewline.org](http://www.arnewline.org): [We have] word that an inter-species communications device has received special recognition. Amateur Radio Newline's producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more:

No, we are not kidding. An inter-species communications apparatus - as in a dog-to-person translator - is one of the winners of the 2002 Ig Nobel Awards.

What are the Ig Noble awards you ask? They are a spoof of the famed Nobel Awards ceremony and are given annually at Harvard University to recognize achievements that cannot or should not ever be reproduced.

Winners are selected by a secret committee from thousands of nominations. Actual Nobel Laureates present the Ig Nobel's at a ceremony where the winners are hailed with cheers and a flurry of paper airplanes. And if a recipient feels insulted or slighted by the award, it is withdrawn.

For 2002 those victorious included the people behind the definitive study on bellybutton lint and an inquiry into what arouses ostriches. But by far the dog to person translator was one of the

most popular. Its works by listening to the tone of a dog's bark converting that data into an interpretation of the dogs mood.

The device is already on the market in Japan. An English language version called Bow-Wow-Lingual - nope - we are not kidding - Bow-Wow-Lingual - It may be on the market here in the U-S-A in about a year. And we thought that you'd want to know.

For the Amateur Radio Newline, with my dog Daisy, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF.

Hmmmm. If it happens, we wonder what breed will be honored with an Ig Nobel for being the first to dog to get a ham radio license and make DXCC.

More about the Ig Nobel awards is in cyberspace at [www.improb.com/ig/ig-top.html](http://www.improb.com/ig/ig-top.html) (Science Frontiers)

#### **Minutes of the PARS general meeting, 21 November 2002**

The members met at the Bellevue Senior Center. The business meeting began at 7:03 PM, with 9 members, a quorum. The minutes were approved as they appeared in Sparks.

Mike, K7IR, and an associate from SteppIR showed up (after having first gone to the wrong senior center) and gave a good presentation about their Fluid Motion antenna systems including a demonstration of their remotely adjustable dipole antenna.

**Treasurer's report:** Van presented the proposed budget, which was approved by vote.

**Discussion on ham activities:**

- 20 m was lousy today, 15 m was pretty good.
- Every weekday at 11 AM local time on 20 m at 14.305 MHz is an HF net called the Prestigious Group. Recently someone from England checked into this net.
- The Seattle Marathon was coming up on Sunday, December 1.
- Hef mentioned that he bet Van \$20 that he couldn't pass his code test by Jan 1. Van replied he hadn't taken that bet, but that he would take the bet if it would be by Feb 1. Hef said he had to think about that.

**Trailer report:** Chuck Graff has offered to move the trailer closer to the building. Our president proposed that we figure out a way to mount the disassembled antenna pieces to the side of the trailer so they don't sit on the ground.

**Hamfest report:** It's coming up in March. Doug hasn't yet received the flyer he'll need to sign up for seller's tables. [Since then I picked one up at Radio Depot. - Ed.]

**November Sweeps contest report:** Our president sent email asking for members to show up for the contest to put up antennas. Two people showed up, Don and Doug, who put together one of the dipole antennas in the pouring rain. They didn't have enough people or time to put the antenna up on a pole before Doug had to leave, so they left the antenna bungeed to the shopping cart. Doug came back later, used the R5 vertical on 20 m and the random wire with the antenna tuner on 40 m and worked 47 contacts with 26 multipliers. [I didn't use the computer because working alone, it would have been cumbersome with the computer on one side of the trailer and the transceiver on the other. - Ed.] Sunday, Chuck and Don showed up to take the antenna apart. We never used it, but we had fun. Don operated with Doug's help, making 17 contacts with 7 multipliers before he had to leave. Doug continued alone, making 29 more contacts with 11 multipliers, all on 20 m using the R5. This was a total of 93 contacts, 44 multipliers in 11 hours of operation.

Don and Doug noticed that other people's beams seemed to have worked to detriment because they couldn't hear us although we could hear them, apparently because they weren't aimed at us. One of our contacts had mentioned that he needed to aim his

beam at us to hear us better, but this hadn't improved our reception of him.

**Field Day report:** Van made contact with the Microhams [the Microsoft employee ham club that invited us to join them for Field Day last year - Ed.] hoping we could join them this year. They said they would discuss it at their next meeting. They're planning to set up on the top floor of one of Microsoft's parking garages. Neither their trailer nor ours will fit through the parking garage, but if it starts to rain, we could move down a floor for cover. They will be teaming up with Icom again this year. Icom brings all the radios. Last year the Microhams misjudged the food cost and wiped out their treasury, so this year they need to be more careful.

**Christmas party report:** Our president wished for 100% attendance to the Christmas party this year. Van provided a map to his home.

**Web site report:** Our PARS web site is at [www.qsl.net/k7par](http://www.qsl.net/k7par) or just go to a search engine and type in k7par. Van recently added a hit counter, and noticed the site gets quite a few hits. He would like to check with qsl.net to find out a breakdown of where the hits are coming from.

**Ham of the Year award report:** There is a Ham of the Year award committee, and they will be presenting the award at the Christmas party.

**Inventory report:** Charles and Don will be conducting an inventory of PARS equipment in the trailer the next Sunday, Nov 24. Van mentioned that if anyone knows of any other equipment that the club owns please let him know. A complete up-to-date inventory is advantageous for collecting on insurance. Doug mentioned that the manual for the beam antenna is missing.

There was a question about the trailer padlock. The current padlock is a new padlock, but it has been set to the same combination as the old padlock.

**Upcoming contests:** Van announced that the next two contests will be the CQ WPX in late March and Field Day in late June. Van is the Field Day coordinator, but he would like someone else to step up for the CQ WPX contest as soon as possible, so that we will be better prepared than we were for the November Sweeps.

Respectfully Submitted –  
Doug Bell, KD7KKR  
PARS Secretary

<b>PARS 2002 - 03 Club Officers:</b>			
<b>President</b>	Don Hickman	KC7MDA	425-821-7025
<b>Vice-President</b>	Charles Beckmeier	KC7GMF	425-822-2339
<b>Secretary</b>	Doug Bell	KD7KKR	206-362-2421
<b>Treasurer</b>	Van Kichline	KD7QIT	425-820-7278

<b>The Puget Amateur Radio Society (PARS)</b> 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.
<b>Annual dues</b> 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.
<b>Visit our Web page</b> at <a href="http://www.qsl.net/k7par">www.qsl.net/k7par</a> . This is always a work in progress, so check back often.
<b>Visit our Repeater</b> at 443.200 MHz, positive offset, PL tone 103.5 Hz.
<b>Send articles</b> , comments, want ads, etc. for inclusion in this newsletter to Doug Bell, KD7KKR, 12755 27th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98125-4311, or e-mail to Doug at warrenhb@msn.com.
<b>Send all other club-related correspondence</b> to PARS, PO Box 32, Kirkland, WA 98083-0032.