

# SPARKS

Vol. 19, No. 3

Puget Amateur Radio Society

March 2003

## Upcoming Presentations

March 20	Ron Verschuyt K7AAE
April 17	Rick Beaty NU7Z

You are invited to our meeting to be held at 7 PM on Thursday March 20 at the Bellevue Senior Center, at 4063 148th Ave NE.

Our speaker by many requests is Ron Verschuyt K7AAE who will be speaking and showing a video on the communications during the last Kuwait - Iraq war. We are providing extra time for the many expected questions from the members and guests.

Hope to see you there to enjoy the meeting and coffee, juice and cookies.

73

Don Hickman

## Happy birthday to you!

Mar 26	Doug Bell	KD7KKR
Apr 1	Tim Monk	KD7DEY
Apr 4	Chuck Graff	N7CHV
Apr 17	Larry Larse	WB7FEP

## Congrats, Don!

Don Hickman passed his code test, so now he needs to study for the General test.

## CQ WPX Contest, March 29-30

We will be participating in the CQ WPX contest this year. Van Kichline is coordinating this. We'll discuss the particulars at the next meeting.

## Communications Academy 2003, March 22-23

### Emergency Communications: It's A Different World Now -

Two days of training and information on various aspects of emergency communications. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS), EOC Support Teams, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), REACT, and anyone interested in emergency communications should attend.

Learn, network, and share your experiences with others. Pre-registration is important for planning

purposes - see web site below or call for a paper registration form from the number listed below.

**Conference Fees:** Early registration —Feb 15-Mar 15—\$7.50 per day. Mar. 16 -Mar. 20—\$10.00 per day Late Registration/ Day-of Registration: \$15.00 per day or \$25.00 for both days.

Box lunches will be available for \$8.00 per day.

**Register on-line at** <http://www.commacademy.org>

### Highlights:

- Emergency Management
- Regional and national hazards
- ARRL Emergency Communications Course Levels 1 and 2 Review
- Hazardous Materials Awareness Certification
- Communications protocols
- Technical demonstrations
- Emergency communication team contacts
- Communications van displays
- Field communications practice

### Saturday Keynote Speaker: Homeland Security and Washington State Glen L. Woodbury

Director, Washington State Emergency Management Division, since 1998 President, National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) Vice Chair of Washington State Seismic Safety Committee

Shoreline Conference Center  
18560 1st Ave NE  
Shoreline, WA. 98155  
206-368-4122

C/o W. Washington Medical Services  
Communications  
PO Box 15624 Seattle, WA. 98115

**On-line Registration at:**  
<http://www.commacademy.org>

Phone: 206-524-6567  
Fax: 206-296-3838  
E-mail: [n7lsl@arrl.net](mailto:n7lsl@arrl.net)

## Mike & Key Swap Meet

The Mike & Key ARC Swap Meet was on Saturday, March 7. The day before, Van, Charles, and yours truly met at Don's house to load up Charles' trailer with our donations and drove down to Puyallup. We had lunch across the street from the Puyallup Fair site, then got in line. We unloaded the trailer onto palettes, which were taken to our table by Mike &

**Next general meeting** - Thursday, March. 20 at 7:00 PM at the Bellevue Senior Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE in Bellevue. Ron Verschuyt K7AAE will be showing a video as well as speaking. 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. 3 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.

Key volunteers. We set up our table, then took turns manning our table and looking for cool stuff from other sellers' tables.

Van and Charles stayed overnight at a nearby motel. I took my purchases home and came back the next morning. Don showed up to help later. Several members came by our table including Mark Whitaker. **It was a lot of fun!** We made \$325 for the club.

I bought about \$160 of stuff, including a 6 meter PLL synthesized FM transceiver kit for \$50, 16 recent issues of a magazine called Electric Radio "celebrating a bygone era" about working on boat anchors, and most of a \$2500 oscilloscope for \$5! I also got an IBM 360 vintage computer circuit board containing transistors, integrated circuits, and pre-integrated circuit modules, for 50 cents.

We loaded all the leftovers back onto palettes and into Charles' trailer. My stuff alone took an extra palette. Most of that was free stuff, including a telephone power supply that produces the 30 Hz ring tone from 60 Hz, apparently without using an oscillator, and a commercial grade Channel 6 TV modulator, most of which I will probably donate next year, after I've had fun figuring out how it works.

We eventually unloaded the leftovers into my barn. It's not the best place for electronic equipment, so we need to consider a better place.

73

Doug Bell

### **Dealing With Neighbors and RFI**

From the January 2002 issue of the K7LED Relay, the newsletter of the Mike & Key ARC:

There are two tools that may help with a neighbor. The first is the pamphlet ARRL jointly publishes with the Consumer Electronics Manufacturers Association. See: [www.arrl.org/news/rfi/neighbors.html](http://www.arrl.org/news/rfi/neighbors.html)

The second is the older, now sadly out of print, FCC RFI information. It is reprinted in the ARRL RFI <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/6834> or is available at <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/tvibook.html>. This explains in very clear terms that interference to non-radio equipment is not caused by a rules violation at your station, but by that equipment improperly functioning as a radio receiver.

When your neighbor first comes knocking, hand him or her a copy of both sets of material and suggest he read it through. Then he can come to you with any questions. It may be a good idea to stay off the air for a while, but if you do, set a time limit, as in "I will stay off the air tonight, to give you time to read the material." Without a time limit, your neighbor's problem is solved – you are off the air, which is the first solution that comes to his or her mind.

When you do start talking with the neighbor, start by talking about what the FCC requires of you. "The FCC requires that I operate my station legally. If my station transmits signals that are not on my assigned frequencies, the rules are very clear – I must put a filter on my transmitter to eliminate those signals." At this point, your neighbor is listening, because you are talking about your responsibilities. You can then show him your station (clean up the rat's nest) and point to that low-pass or band-pass filter with pride.

It is always a good idea to clean up all RFI at your own home. You can then show him or her the filters you have put on your own equipment. This shows that the filters work and that they cause no harm. Besides, it is a really good "diplomacy" tool to be able to say, "I'm sorry you can't watch TV at your house while I am on the air, but you can come to my house and watch TV while I am on the air." They usually get the idea then that the problem might be on their end.

You can then explain to your neighbor that you would take care of any problems at your station, but will also help find a solution to the problem, even if it is not caused by any rules violations at your station. Most reasonable neighbors may not agree that it isn't your fault, but if you are willing to help solve it, that is good enough for them.

As I say in my club RFI talks, what happens when that first knock occurs sets the tone for all that follows. The interpersonal aspects of RFI are most important, because knowing all of the technical solutions won't do any good if your neighbor won't let you into the house to try and help them. <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/rfigen.html> for all of the ARRL's RFI material.

Ed Hare, W1RFI, ARRL Lab  
225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111

### **Radio Rules: FCC to Consider Receiver Standards**

From Amateur Radio Newsline Report 1335 - March 14, 2003 (See <http://www.arnewline.org>):

The FCC has decided to consider on an item that it has been extremely reluctant to act on in the past. That being the setting of interference immunity performance specifications for receivers.

Specifically, the FCC says that it will consider a Notice of Inquiry concerning the possibility of incorporating receiver interference immunity performance specifications into its spectrum policy on a broader basis.

It all falls under MM Docket No. 00-39. It's titled Interference Immunity Performance Specifications for Radio Receivers; Review of the Commission's Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television. You can read more on the web at the U-R-L appearing in the print edition of this week's Amateur Radio Newsline report. It's all in cyberspace at

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-231820A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-231820A1.doc). (From the CGC Communicator)

### **Radio Politics: Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act in Both Houses**

From AR Newsline Report 1335 - March 14, 2003:

The ARRL Letter reports that the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003 now has been introduced in both chambers of Congress. Idaho Senator Michael Crapo introduced the Senate version of the bill, S 537, on March 6. Its original cosponsors were Senators Daniel Akaka and Larry Craig. Florida Representative Michael Bilirakis put the latest House version of the bill, HR 713, into the legislative hopper on February 12th.

HR 713 and S 537 are twin ARRL initiatives aimed at ensuring the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. The legislation would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to -- or sharing with -- other services unless the FCC provides equivalent replacement spectrum elsewhere.

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act legislation has already been introduced twice before Congress. League President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, believes this third time could be the proverbial charm. (ARRL)

### **A Milestone for SETI@Home**

From AR Newsline Report 1335 - March 14, 2003:

And finally this week a story about a screen saver that is close to the hearts of many radio amateurs. Amateur Radio Newline's Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, is here with the latest on a project called SETI@Home:

After what adds up to more than a million years of computation by well over 4 million computers networked worldwide, the SETI@Home screensaver that crunches data in search of intelligent signals from space has produced a list of candidate radio sources that deserve a second look. And in a few days the scientists behind the project will use a giant radio telescope to take a second look based on this data.

SETI@Home is more than the usual screen saver. It's actually a very high tech data processing program disguised as a screen saver. It springs into action after a computer is idle for a given length of time. Its purpose is to analyze radio telescope data downloaded to the machine over the Internet, search for strong or unusual signals from space and file a report back.

Many hams worldwide have embraced SETI@Home and have it running around the clock on their PC's. They are the first to tell you that that the project is in keeping with the spirit of Amateur Radio itself.

Now, three members of the SETI@Home team will head to Puerto Rico to use the giant radio telescope at Arecibo to revisit up to 150 places in the cosmos.

These places in space have been identified as the source of possible signals from intelligent civilizations based on data already processed.

The candidates for that second look are particularly strong signals or ones that have been observed in the same spot more than once, some of them five or six times. SETI@Home project coordinators say that limited analysis of the signals will be done while the team collects the new data. This will permit the observations to be halted and repeated if -- by chance -- a very strong signal reappears.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ

### **Six Year Old Oregon Girl Gets General Ticket**

From the February 2003 issue of the Maple Valley Hamlink, newsletter of the Maple Valley ARC: <http://www.kc7key.org>

A six-year-old girl from Roseburg, Oregon has upgraded from Technician to General. Mattie Clauson, KD7TYN -- a fourth-generation Amateur Radio operator in her family -- could be the youngest General class operator in the US. Her new ticket was granted January 13.

Mattie allowed that the element 3 test "was pretty hard" and she had to study for a long time before passing it on her third attempt. "The Element 3 test was a lot harder than the Tech test," she said. She was ambivalent about the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse code exam, characterizing it as "not too hard, just a little, but kind of easy, too."

Her parents, Tim and Charlotte Clauson, AC7SP and KD7QZB, say Mattie became interested in Amateur Radio when she was five. The Clausons discovered "a kid-friendly study book," Ride the Airwaves with Alpha and Zulu by John Abbot, K6YPB (no longer in print - Ed). The Clausons say Mattie, who already knew how to read, dove into it right away. Her mom and dad helped her to study, explained the "hard questions" and encouraged her to take practice tests at various Web sites. She obtained her Technician license last July and became KD7SDF.

The Clausons said Mattie learned Morse code using several different computer programs, and they helped her practice by tapping out letters -- and later words -- for her. In the end, she passed her code exam on the very first try. For the time being, Mattie says, she's sticking with phone operation but plans to give CW a try in the future. Mattie says she prefers HF over VHF "because I can talk to people in other countries."

Homeschooled with her sisters, Mattie loves to read, and that may contribute to her precocity. Among her favorite books are those by Cynthia Wall, KA7ITT, Encyclopedia Brown, and Nancy Drew. Her parents say ham radio has been a very useful tool in homeschooling - in terms of letter recognition, spelling, science, geography and other subjects.

For her part, Mattie says she hopes that she can be an inspiration to other youngsters her age to get involved with Amateur Radio. "I think that since I got my license, whether Tech or higher, other kids can do it also," she said. Mattie's late great grandfather, S. A. "Sam" Sullivan, was W6WXU.

"The ham community has also been very supportive, especially in the Roseburg area," said Charlotte Clauson. "Their enthusiasm has made Mattie's experience with ham radio very positive." An article on Mattie Clauson appeared February 3 in the Statesman Journal of Salem, Oregon. [news.statesmanjournal.com/article.cfm?i=56021](http://news.statesmanjournal.com/article.cfm?i=56021)

Tim, Charlotte and Mattie Clauson are all ARRL members. Mattie and her mom are working on their Amateur Extra tickets.

### Minutes of the PARS general meeting, 20 February 2003

The members met at the Bellevue Senior Center. The business meeting began at 7:05 PM, with 8 members (a quorum), and 2 guests. We did not do the pledge of allegiance since we didn't have a flag.

Our speaker, Terry Dettman, gave an interesting presentation about emergency communications courses at the Communications Academy.

The business meeting began at about 8:20 PM. The minutes were approved as they appeared in Sparks.

**Discussion on ham activities:** Al loaded up MM slow scan TV software and Echolink on his computer, and it worked perfectly, according to Hef.

Van, Don and Doug talked about having used the club repeater to conduct the last club board meeting.

Terry talked about his kids having gotten all excited about his HF contact with a ham in Wisconsin.

Don described how he passed his code test! Congrats, Don! He described the G7FON code practice software he used, which can be downloaded free off the Internet.

**Hamfest report:** Don requested donations. Members should bring equipment to Don's house by Saturday, March 1. On Sunday, March 2, at 1 PM members will meet at Don's house to clean up and price the donations. The swap meet will be on Saturday, March 8.

Don requested that Hef come to help sell, since he is so good at it.

Terry mentioned two presentations that will be at the swap meet, one on PSK31, and one he will be giving on antennas, antenna couplers, etc.

**Field Day report:** Van could not make the last Microhams meeting, and hasn't heard from them about our club joining them for Field Day.

**Upcoming contests:** Van passed out the rules for the CQ WPX contest in late March. It will be just a few days after the March meeting. He will need people to help set up and tear down.

**Web site report:** Van's server crashed, and he spent 49 hours restoring it.

**QSL Cards Received:** Doug passed around the 6 QSL cards that the club received. Somehow we need to figure out who should answer them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully Submitted –  
Doug Bell, KD7KKR  
PARS Secretary

PARS 2002 - 03 Club Officers:			
<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/k7/par">http://www.qsl.net/k7/par</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 <a href="mailto:warrenhb@msn.com">warrenhb@msn.com</a> .
<b>Send all other club-related correspondence</b> to PARS, PO Box 32, Kirkland, WA 98083-0032.