
SPARKS

Vol. 19, No. 4

Puget Amateur Radio Society

April 2003

Upcoming Presentations

April 17 Rick Beaty NU7Z

You are invited to our meeting to be held at 7 PM on Thursday, April 17th at the Bellevue Senior Center, 4063 148th Ave NE.

Our speaker will be Rick Beaty NU7Z who always gives an interesting and informative talk on the VHF and UHF spectrum.

We serve coffee, juice and cookies and invite you and other interested people to visit our meeting. We are out by 9 pm.

The Amateur Radio Newline

I've been including a few articles from recent issues of the Amateur Radio Newline (abbreviated ARNewline). You can sign up to receive the weekly Amateur Radio Newline at <www.arnewline.org> or hear it Mondays on the PSRG Net at 7:30 PM on the 145.33 repeater.

Radio Honors: World Amateur Radio Day

From ARNewline Report 1338 - April 4, 2003:

Amateur Radio Supporting Education' is theme for World Amateur Radio Day. It's coming up real soon. RSGB newsreader Jeremy Boot, G4NJH, is here with the details:

The theme of this year's IARU World Amateur Radio Day is to be 'Amateur Radio supporting technology education in the classroom'. World Amateur Radio Day is marked on the 18th of April each year to commemorate the anniversary of the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union on that date in 1925.

Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, the Chairman of IARU Region 1 writes: "There is no doubt that the future of amateur radio belongs to those that are now in the classroom. In keeping with this theme, I would like to encourage every society in the Region to let our young people know that amateur radio is a unique hobby - simultaneously sport, scientific study, personal pleasure and collective activity. And that radio amateurs today are voluntary and selfless researchers in the technological field of amateur radio, an important resource to every country, and something to be proud of."

"But the 18th of April is not only a day to think about our future, it is our day, a day for celebration. All of us, societies and individuals, can celebrate in our various ways - organizing presentations, club meetings, parties, honoring senior radio amateurs who go back to the early years of IARU, or just putting our equipment on the air and making just a single QSO on this day, so realizing how large our ham community is."

Jeremy Boot, G4NJH

Again, the date for this year's World Amateur Radio Day is Friday, April 18th. (GB2RS)

U of W Fox Hunt

PARS has done a fox hunt before, but using cars. This one is on foot, on the U of W campus. Sounds like fun, but I have a meeting in Renton at the same time! Maybe I can make the next one.

The first event must have been April 5, but this message was sent April 14, and it says "this weekend," so the second event should be on April 19, right? Sorry I didn't notice the discrepancy in time to confirm it.

From: "Graylan Vincent"
<gvincent@u.washington.edu>

To: "UW Amateur Radio Club"
<arcuw@u.washington.edu>

Sent: Monday, April 14, 2003 4:36 PM

Subject: UW Ham Club transmitter hunt this weekend!

CQ CQ CQ!

The SECOND UW Ham Club transmitter hunt will be this Saturday at 10:00 starting at Red Square. This is the second such event (hopefully of many) and is open to everyone! No special hardware is needed; all you need is a 2m handheld radio or scanner (capable of receiving the 144-148 MHz band). You don't need a directional antenna or any DX'ing experience, just yourself, a receiver, and be ready to have some fun!

For the unfamiliar, this 'bunny hunt' is the ham radio version of hide and seek. One person will hide with the bunny somewhere on campus and everyone else will try to find them by homing in on their signal. Don't worry, we'll teach you how to do this.

Next general meeting - Thursday, April 17 at 7:00 PM at the Bellevue Senior Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE in Bellevue. 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, May 1 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.

So, bring a friend, spread the word, charge your batteries, the hunt is on!

Where: UW's Red Square (middle of campus)

www.washington.edu/home/maps/?89,66,665,523

When: This Saturday (April 5th, 2003), 11:00 AM

Who: Anyone and everyone! A ham radio license is NOT required. We'll teach you everything you need to know.

What: Bunny hunt! Bring a 2m HT or scanner, and preferably earphones/headphones. Also bring appropriate clothing for the weather and good walking shoes.

We'll be using 147.54 MHz (simplex), so if you show up late, just hop on the frequency to get a hold of us.

73's

Graylan Vincent (KC7YVN)
gvincent@u.washington.edu

Happy birthday to you!

Apr 17	Larry Larse	WB7FEP
Apr 25	Lorie Graff	N7LCO

Congrats, Don!

Correction from last month: Don Hickman passed his code test, and had already passed his General written exam, so congratulations, Don, on receiving your General license!

CQ WPX Contest, March 29-30

Van, Doug, and Hef were the only ones who showed up for the CQ WPX contest this year. Oh, yeah, there were also some policemen - we'll tell you about it at the meeting! Also remind me to tell you about the two contacts I made on 160 m using the (not so) long wire!

Radio Rules: FCC Considers Interference Immunity for Receivers

From ARNewsline Report 1338 - April 4, 2003:

We predicted a month ago that it would happen. Now comes word that the FCC has issued a Notice of Inquiry, seeking comments on possibly requiring receiver manufacturers to build in a certain level of interference immunity. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more:

As noted on the CQ Magazine website and elsewhere in cyberspace, amateurs have been frustrated for years by trying to explain to neighbors that interference problems were really the result of poor design. Bad engineering in their TVs, stereos, cordless phones and other receivers.

Now, because of the need to protect Digital Television transmissions, the FCC is seeking comments on the current immunity performance

and interference tolerance of existing receivers. It's also looking at the possibilities for improving receiver immunity in the not too distant future.

The FCC says that it is soliciting input from the public on possible approaches to achieving desired levels of receiver immunity. This runs the gamut from better product warning labels to the possibility of implementing mandatory standards governing the manufacture, import and sale of consumer electronics reception gear.

It is all in FCC E-T Docket 03-65. You will find it on the web by using the document search engine at www.fcc.gov.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF

Again the inquiry into interference immunity standards can be found in FCC E-T Docket 03-65. (CQ Website, FCC)

FCC: Vanity Fees May Be Going Up

From ARNewsline Report 1338 - April 4, 2003:

If you are planning to go for a vanity call sign, do it now or be prepared to pay a few cents more. The proposed hike to \$16.30 for a vanity call comes in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making dealing with fee collection matters released on March 26th. Its all in M-D Docket No. 03-83 and comments on it are due no later than April 25th. (From FCC release)

Radio Law: Ham Radio CC&R Bill Reintroduced in Congress

From ARNewsline Report 1339 - April 11, 2003:

Another Congressional attempt is under way to provide relief to amateurs prevented by private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions from installing outdoor antennas. The ARRL Letter says that New York Representative Steve Israel has again introduced the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act" into the current session of Congress. The measure, designated HR 1478, would require private land-use regulators such as homeowners' associations to reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio antennas consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities. (ARRL)

Emerging Technology: Tube-Type PC's

From ARNewsline Report 1339 - April 11, 2003:

It seems that a venerable old friend simply refuses to die the death of technical obsolescence. The vacuum tube continues its reemergence into the audio marketplace, this time - believe it or not - in Personal Computers.

The first tube motherboard appeared last year in response to PC gamers who craved the allegedly "more natural" sound produced by vacuum tube

technology. Those who have seen the boards call it a strange sight to behold.

More on this May-December marriage of filament and silicon can be found at the website at www.neoseeker.com/Articles/Hardware/Reviews/aopenax4btube.

(CGC Communicator, Clayton Creekmore and neoseeker.com)

Minutes of the PARS general meeting, 20 March 2003

The members met at the Bellevue Senior Center. The business meeting began at 7:02 PM, with 7 members (a quorum), and 1 guest, plus our speaker. Don was out of town, so Charles presided.

Our speaker, Ron Verschuyt, showed a very interesting video, **The Last Voice From Kuwait**, made after the first Iraq war, about a brave Kuwaiti ham who continued to broadcast news using packet radio from Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation under the nose of the occupation force. Presumably, they couldn't decode the packet signal, and so didn't figure out what he was doing. On the video, the news commentator explained how he had decided to announce the information received as having been "smuggled out of Kuwait" in order to not raise suspicion that it was going via ham radio. The Kuwaiti ham explained how he had been raided once, but had given them some old equipment. They showed the tower and antenna farm he had used.

Ron also gave an interesting presentation about digital modes including packet radio using Winlink 2000, Pactor I, II, or III, Airmail, and Fastlink. He mentioned a few programs available on the World Wide Web:

For modes that don't need a TNC:
Stream - iz8bly.sysonline.it
MT63 - iz8bly.sysonline.it/mt63/index.htm

For Pactor I, II, and III:
Airmail - www.airmail2000.com -
Navigate through the following pages:
downloads, mad science projects,
ham version, download version 3.1

MIXW2 - 17 digital modes for \$50

The business meeting began at about 8:11 PM.

The minutes were approved as they appeared in Sparks.

Treasurer's report: We received \$325 from the hamfest, and \$185 so far in dues, plus another \$15 - \$30 expected to come. This is a little bit lower than we had projected in the budget, but more than our operating expenses for the year. We still have some surplus capital from last year.

Discussion on ham activities:

10 m FM had been open. The previous week someone worked stations from Missouri and Wisconsin using his mobile scanner on 29.6 MHz.

Van reported that the previous week, Kirkland ARES tested a new repeater site - Bridal Trails is now finally functional, which they've been working on for several years. They had ARES teams spread out all over the Kirkland area looking for communications holes. They were driving around, stopping, and contacting a really busy net. He reports that it's a really nice repeater system - you can contact it on frequencies in the 6 m, 2 m, 220 MHz, or 440 MHz bands, and it retransmits simultaneously on all four bands. The frequency on the 440 MHz band is 441.075 MHz, with 103.5 Hz tone.

Charles mentioned that he had talked earlier that evening on the same repeater to Dave Condit, who had mentioned that he had been speaking to someone over that repeater as though he had been standing next to him - the person was in Mount Vernon at the time! So, apparently, it has some good coverage to the north; Charles hadn't had a chance to try it to the south. It's the highest point in Kirkland at Bridal Trails.

Al reported the 20 m band had been lousy the previous few days. He thinks we've had the best of times as far as the sun cycle goes.

Bob brought and passed around the 40 QSL cards that he had received because PARS had used his call, KJ7BP, for some contests over the last 3 years. [We had done this because his prefix, KJ7, was less common than the club's, K7, making it a better catch for the CQ WPX contest, where each new prefix is a multiplier - Ed.] We'll have to figure out how to respond to these. [The QSL card dates are 3/26/1995, 3/27/1999, 3/25-26/2000, 3/18/2001, 3/24-25/2001, and 3/31/2002. They're from Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Panama, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden. We should answer these along with the 6 we've received listing K7PAR as the contact, with dates 3/28/1999, 7/30/2000, 11/19/2000, and 9/15-16/2001, from Canada, Hungary, Japan, Rarotonga (South Cook Islands), and Russia. Note that we got a card listing KJ7BP on 3/27/1999 and one listing K7PAR on 3/28/1999 - did Bob work that contest separate from PARS? - Ed.]

Charles told how Van, Doug and he had loaded up his trailer with all of the equipment PARS had planned to sell at the Mike & Key ARC Hamfest, and were all ready to leave, but he couldn't find his keys. After looking in the obvious places, and just before we resorted to routing through the stuff in the trailer, Don opened up the center console of Charles' vehicle, picked up a set of keys and said, "What are these?" That was a big relief!

Field Day report: Van had written to the Microhams and hadn't heard back from them about our club joining them for Field Day. It doesn't seem like their level of interest is extremely high, so he's working on Plan B.

CQ WPX DX Contest March 29-30: Van needed to get an idea of who was interested in participating. We'd be operating out of our PARS trailer at the Senior Center. We needed to make plans for set up and clean up. Van would be available all day Saturday and the latter half of Sunday. We would set up for two radios. We could probably have more, but he didn't think we have more than two HF antennas normally set up. We'd set up early Saturday morning and operate for the 48 hours of the contest. He wasn't sure what the local times of the contest were, but he thought that we could start Friday night if we wanted to. He'd be sending out e-mail for volunteers for setup, participation, and cleanup. Bob encouraged us to use the club call instead of his this time, since it's getting confusing for him to sort the QSL cards.

Web site report: Charles congratulated Van on his work on the PARS website.

Hamfest report: We took four palettes from Charles' trailer up to the hamfest to sell, and we brought four palettes back to Charles' trailer after the hamfest to bring home. Admittedly, one of those palettes was stuff Doug bought [from all over the hamfest - Ed.], but there are three palettes of our stuff left over, even though we sold \$325 worth. Right now, that's about a cubic meter of stuff in Doug's barn, which is less than water tight, and Doug's a bit worried about the humidity during rainy days. In the past, the leftovers have come to the meeting, but we haven't done that for a couple of years because last year Doug took it all. [There was nothing left of sufficient value to the club. - Ed.] This year, he has it all, but he's not sure he should keep it all. [There are a few items of sufficient value that they shouldn't just be given to

Doug. - Ed.] If anyone is interested in going through the stuff, we could set up a time to do that. For example, there's the pair of 6 m HT's with charger that Charles donated.

Or, maybe we need to make an effort to find homes for some of these pieces. For example, there's a cool little oscilloscope that Doug spent a half-hour trying to convince someone at the hamfest to buy, but he was new to electronics and his mentor had told him he needed a 20 MHz oscilloscope. This is a 5 MHz oscilloscope, but certainly fun for someone to get started with. When Doug was about 10 years old, he started out with an oscilloscope similar to this one, and he's sure it shaped his future.

Doug offered to give the computer equipment to his brother, which would considerably reduce the volume of stuff. Van offered to store some stuff in his attic, although access is via a ladder. Doug will put a tarp over what he has.

More on QSL Cards: There was discussion about how QSL cards could be made for the club, if someone could do it on their computer, how they had been made in the past. Van remembered that Kirk had made some special ones on his computer, for example, for the Salmon Run. Someone thought we had a batch of them. Doug should look through the stuff he received when he became secretary. Van still needs to contact our QSL bureau - he knows we're out of envelopes and short on stamps there so he needs to send more to them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM with this last bit of news from our speaker, Ron: "Did you know they're closing out all K-Marts and Walgreens in Iraq? They're going to replace them with Targets!"

Respectfully Submitted –
Doug Bell, KD7KKR
PARS Secretary

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

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 < www.qsl.net/k7par > This is always a work in progress, so check back often.
Visit our Repeater at 443.200 MHz, positive offset, PL tone 103.5 Hz.
Send articles , 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 .
Send all other club-related correspondence to PARS, PO Box 32, Kirkland, WA 98083-0032.