
SPARKS

Vol. 19, No. 5

Puget Amateur Radio Society

May 2003

This Month's General Meeting

You are invited to our meeting to be held at 7 PM on Thursday, May 15th at the Bellevue Senior Center, 4063 148th Ave NE.

This month, our program will consist of short verbal and video presentations.

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

Another U of W Fox Hunt

PARS has done a fox hunt before, but using cars. These are on foot, on the U of W campus.

Sent: April 29, 2003 11:26 PM

CQ CQ CQ!

The UW Ham Club, W7YD, will be having a transmitter hunt Saturday May 31st at 10:00 starting at Red Square. This is the third 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. We typically do 3 or more hunts, depending on the number of participants, which gives everyone a chance at hiding the bunny.

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

-Where: UW's Red Square (middle of campus)
< <http://www.washington.edu/home/maps/?89,66,665,523> >

-When: Saturday May 31st, 2003, 10:00 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.

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

73's

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

Upcoming Hamfest

From the ARRL Northwestern Division Circuit, February 24, 2003, and the ARRL Northwestern Division Circuit, May 2003:

SEA-PAC, the ARRL Northwestern Division Convention will be a couple of weeks later than usual this year, June 13-15. The Banquet speaker and special ARRL guest will be Kay Craigie, WT3P. She's the League second vice president and hails from the Philadelphia area. She'll bring a message of what's good about Amateur Radio and the ARRL and actions we can take to improve.

ARRL Northwestern Division Convention
Oregon Tualatin Valley ARC
Seaside, OR

< <http://www.seapac.org> >

Contact:

Will Sheffield, N7THL 503-642-7314
PO Box 219142
Portland, OR 97225-9142 n7thl@juno.com

ARRL to Sponsor Emergency Communications Course Seminar in Oregon

From the ARRL Web site < www.arrl.org >:

The ARRL will offer a FREE Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course (ARECC) seminar Friday, June 13, in conjunction with SEA PAC - The Northwestern Division Convention - in Seaside, Oregon. THE SEMINAR WILL NOT INCLUDE THE LEVEL I COURSE ITSELF! This program is designed to explain in greater detail the duties of volunteer certification mentors, instructors and examiners of the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses and provide additional information for those considering these volunteer positions. "With Level I emergency communications

<p><i>Next general meeting</i> - Thursday, May 15 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.</p>	<p><i>Next board meeting</i> - Thursday, June 5 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.</p>
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training being offered nationwide under the homeland security grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, we hope to have all ARECC team players reading from the same page to ensure success under the federal grant guidelines," said ARRL Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG. The seminar will be held Friday, June 13, from 1 to 5 PM. Seating may be limited. Those planning to attend should contact Dan Miller, K3UFG; 860-594-0340; fax 860-594-0259 at ARRL Headquarters. Registered CMs, CIs and CEs who attend may be reimbursed for their mileage up to a total of \$35. Seminar attendance does NOT include admission to the convention, which runs June 13-15. For more information on SEA PAC, visit the convention Web site: < www.seapac.org/ >

73 & 88 where appropriate,
 Greg Milnes W7OZ, w7oz@arrl.org
 ARRL Northwestern Division Director

Happy birthday to you!

May 28	Ron Mawer	KB7TYB
Jun 17	Marvin Brewer	AC7AL

Congrats Don!

Congratulations to our President, Don Hickman, for getting his Amateur Extra class license!

Communications Academy

From the ARRL Monthly Western Washington Section News Summary, April 14, 2003:

Over 200 people attended the highly successful 5th annual Communications Academy 2003. Many of the presentations will be available in the near future as downloads at < www.commacademy.org >.

Washington Ham Wins Inaugural Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship

From the ARRL Web site < www.arrl.org >:

Newington, CT, May 7, 2003--Ben Schupack, NW7DX, of Sammamish, Washington, is the first-ever winner of the William R. Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship. The award, administered through the ARRL Foundation, provides a full, four-year undergraduate scholarship to a meritorious young Amateur Radio operator. The new award is the result of a generous endowment from the late William Goldfarb, N2ITP.

"Amateur Radio has played an incredible role in my life and as a ham," Schupack wrote in his award application. "Amateur Radio has opened many doors for me. I have become interested in electronics, foreign languages, antennas, propagation and more."

A senior at Eastlake High School with a 3.96 grade point average, Schupack, 18, plans to attend Whitman College in the fall to major in chemistry on his way to a dentistry career. The Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship covers all typical college expenses,

including tuition, room and board and textbooks for the recipient's four-year undergraduate education.



William R. Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship winner Ben Schupack, NW7DX

An Amateur Extra licensee and an ARRL member, his ham radio accomplishments are impressive. The 40-WPM Morse operator placed first in the world for the 2001 World Wide WPX Contest in the Rookie, Low-Power, Single Operator category; he was also first in that category in 1999 for Canada, operating as NW7DX/VE7. He's also a member of the ARRL A-1 Operator Club and enjoys kit building and home-brewing.

Schupack is currently wrapping up a yearlong project for school, creating a mobile HF station on a recumbent bicycle. Primarily a CW operator, Schupack said he also enjoys SSB and is exploring the newer digital modes.

The Amateur Radio Newsline

Some Sparks articles come from recent issues of the Amateur Radio Newsline (abbreviated ARNewsline). You can sign up to receive the weekly Amateur Radio Newsline at < www.arnewsline.org > or hear it Mondays on the PSRG Net at 7:30 PM on the 146.96 repeater, or at 8 PM on the 146.78 repeater. (In last month's newsletter, I erroneously listed the PSRG repeater frequency as 145.33.)

Sometimes the report includes audio clips that aren't transcribed in the printed version, so it's better to listen to the audio version when you can.

Ham Radio at War: Amateur Radio from Iraq - Redux

From ARNewsline report 1340, April 18 2003:

Don't be too surprised if you soon start hearing a number of stations signing portable YI from Iraq. Chris Partridge, G8AUU, reports to Amateur Radio Newsline from Kuwait City that with the war winding down a number of international news agencies plan on setting up bureaus in Baghdad, Basra, Mousal and other key Iraqi cities.

G8AUU was in a news satellite truck when we spoke with him by telephone on Saturday April 12th. According to Chris, more than a small number of the

technicians and engineers serving at these bureaus will be hams. This includes a satellite engineer from Polish TV, some French hams working for Globecast and a number of others that he knows of. G8AUU believes that its only a matter of time before some of them get ham radio gear and take to the air – portable YI – from Iraq.

The news from Chris Partridge, G8AUU comes only days after The Daily DX and the ARRL Letter reported that Jim Dunkerton, KT4CK, had been active from the Middle East on 15 meters SSB. On April 7th, he was identifying as YI/KT4CK and saying he was in the desert of Southern Iraq. (G8AUU, ARRL, ARNewsline)

Enforcement: Amateur Auxiliary Asked to Assist FCC in 10 Meter Clean-Up

ARNewsline report 1342, May 2nd, 2003:

The FCC has asked the assistance of the ARRL's Amateur Auxiliary as part of a clean-up of illegal users of the 10 meter band. In a memorandum issued on April 28th, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, asks the Auxiliary's help for the next 6 months in identifying any unlicensed operation using the 10 meter Amateur spectrum.

From May through October Auxiliary members will be tasked with monitoring the band to determine whether interlopers are domestic business entities. This includes trucking companies, truckers or other individuals who are not licensed to be in the band or simply not licensed at all.

The FCC is not requesting that Auxiliary members provide direction finding. Hollingsworth does ask that where possible that Auxiliary members provide the names and cities of the operators, and license plate numbers, and state if the interfering signal is coming from a vehicle. The project has been assigned case number 2003-583 and Hollingsworth does ask Auxiliary members to use their best judgment as to whether to include tape recordings of what they monitor. Authority to use the ham radio volunteers in this investigation comes under the terms of long standing agreement between the FCC's Field Operations Bureau and the American Radio Relay League. (FCC)

FCC Begins Inquiry Regarding Broadband Over Power Lines

ARNewsline report 1342, May 2nd, 2003:

The FCC has launched an inquiry into the use of existing power lines to send and receive broadband data by carrier current as some old timers might call it.

According to Bob Gonsett's CGC Communicator, two different Broadband over Power Line or BPL techniques are being considered. "Access BPL" uses 1,000 to 40,000 volt power lines to bring Internet and other broadband data to homes and offices. "In-House BPL" uses existing electric utility wiring to

network computers and printers - as well as smart appliances - within a building.

CGC notes that today's chip sets for this application are capable of generating RF out to at least 80 MHz using advanced modulation techniques and high data rates. The question of radio frequency interference to authorized spectrum users including Amateur Radio will be an important consideration as the FCC looks at these systems.

More at the FCC's website at:

< http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-233537A1.doc > and

< http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-100A1.doc > (CGC Communicator)

From ARNewsline report 1343, May 9th, 2003:

The complete Notice of Inquiry, which was released on April 28th, is available on the FCC Web site. The FCC is accepting electronically filed comments via its Electronic Comment Filing System ECFS Express page.

But what about the actual affect of BPL on ham radio. An ARRL Bulletin explains that "Broadband over Power Line" is really a form of carrier-current communication better known around the world as power line carrier or PLC.

BPL would couple high-frequency RF to parts of the power grid and use existing power lines as the transmission medium to deliver broadband and Internet access. This is the same technology refused for use in Japan because tests showed significant interference to consumer electronic products including Amateur Radio on the high frequency bands. And in the Notice of Inquiry the FCC does acknowledge the significant interference risk from BPL.

ARRL Lab Manager and RFI-guru Ed Hare, W1RFI, also has concerns. A noted expert in the field, Hare cautions that deployment of BPL could affect every amateur in communities where it's employed. This, by causing a significant increase in noise levels. Obviously, this is one issue that a lot of hams will be filing comments on with the FCC. (ARRL)

Emerging Technology: Cognitive Radio - It Lives

From ARNewsline report 1343, May 9th, 2003:

Believe it or not there a movement underway at the FCC to increase spectrum efficiency through the use of a new technology being called cognitive radio.

What is cognitive radio you ask? This is radio gear and antenna systems that could adapt to their operating environments by automatically identifying vacant spectrum, switching to that spectrum and carrying out a specific communications mission.

Cognitive radio will also be the subject of an upcoming workshop at FCC headquarters. More information is at the < http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-233615A1.doc > (CGC)

**Minutes of the PARS general meeting,
17 April 2003**

The members met at the Bellevue Senior Center. The meeting began at 7:10 PM, with 6 members (a quorum), plus our speaker.

Our speaker, Rick Beaty NU7Z, gave an interesting talk about amateur microwave communication, and displayed some of his home brew microwave rigs. Some notes from his talk:

The Pacific Northwest VHF Society is a good group to help you get into ham microwave communication.

Currently, most ham microwave communication uses SSB or CW. There is some FM. There are ham bands at 903, 1296, 2304 MHz and higher! We should use them or we may lose them!

Downeast Microwave, Kuhne Electronics, eBay are good places to find microwave equipment.

Contact Rick Beaty with questions about microwave communication at < nu7z@aol.com >.

Microwave Update 2003 will be in the Pacific Northwest September 24 through 28. The 4-day conference costs \$40. It will be at the Everett Holiday Inn. See < microwaveupdate.org > for more information. Rick recommends you attend this conference if you're at all interested in microwave communication.

The **business meeting** began at about 8:15 PM.

I think we forgot to approve the minutes as they appeared in Sparks. At least, I forgot to note it.

Treasurer's report: We had \$1683.45 at the time of the treasurer's report.

Discussion on ham activities: This will be sketchy, since I didn't use the tape recorder, and I didn't transcribe this while my memory was fresh.

- Dick had downloaded Amateur Radio Today to a VHS tape.

- John had checked into the WARTS net.

- Van and Doug had worked the CQ WPX contest. Van had sent the contest logs in to the powers that be.

- Van said something about Software Radio News. I don't remember what. I also wrote down European.

- Don had been trying to use his HF rig.

QSL Cards: Van and Doug talked about the many step process which will produce QSL cards in reply to the about 46 QSL cards the club has recently received.

Doug talked about the **Amateur Radio Newline** < www.arnewline.org >, a non-profit organization of hams that produces a weekly news report designed to be aired on ham radio. The report is aired in this area on the PSRG repeater (146.96 MHz) on Mondays at 7:30 PM. Charles pointed out that the report is also aired on the 146.78 MHz repeater at 8 PM. The report is also available from the website in both audio and printed form, and the printed version can be received by a free email subscription.

Doug has been using news stories from these reports to fill out the Sparks newsletter. They have recently made a dire appeal for donations, and Doug made a motion that we send them a donation. After discussion, it was moved, seconded, and carried that our club send \$100 to the Amateur Radio Newline.

Someone mentioned that used **Gell Cell** deep cycle batteries, 65 pound, 12 Amp., 12 Volt, 180 minutes at 25 Amps., are available for \$10 from Union Hill. Call Jim Nall at 425-868-5573.

Doug displayed the pair of **6 meter** two channel **HT's** that Charles had donated for the Mike & Key ARC Swap Meet, but they hadn't sold. They each come with crystals for 52.525 MHz. The pair comes with a charger and leather carrying cases. We would like to get \$110 for the set. Charles will hold onto the set until the next swap meet.

Doug also displayed an Archer Cat. No. 49-300 **Ultrasonic Alarm**, originally bought from Radio Shack for \$79.95. This was donated to the club from an estate. We would like to get \$25 for this unit, in its original box. Doug will hold onto this unit until the next swap meet.

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.