

SPARKS

Vol. 19, No. 6

Puget Amateur Radio Society

June 2003

This Month's General Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 19 at 7:00 PM, at the Bellevue Senior Center, located at 4043 - 148th Ave in Bellevue, just north of the 148th exit on I-520. Our speaker will be Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, who is vice director of the Northwest division of the ARRL. He will give a talk on the new things in Ham Radio, and there have been some important ones affecting all that receive this notice. As usual we supply coffee, juice and cookies. See you there. We are out by 9 PM.

The June meeting is Elections Night with the new officers taking over as of July 1, 2003. Let all try to be there as we have many important issues to discuss. Note that PARS doesn't send out a newsletter or have a regular meeting in July or August.

Happy birthday to you!

Jun. 17	Marvin Brewer	AC7AL
Jun. 22	Charles Beckmeier	KC7GMF
Jun. 23	Lisa Marker	K7LAM
Jul. 6	Bill Martin	N7EU
Jul. 8	John Black	W7HIL
Jul. 20	Al Staples	N7VOF
Jul. 28	Eppy Eppenstein	N7CAL
Aug. 1	Mark Whitaker	KD7KUN
Aug. 11	Van Kichline	KD7QIT
Aug. 11	Bob Adams	KJ7BP
Aug. 13	Dick Schwanke	W9HXM

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. 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 Spectrum: 5 MHz Spot Frequencies Available Midnight July 3

From ARNewsline Report 1347 - June 6, 2003:

Looking for something new in ham radio? Well, here's news just in from the FCC and the ARRL. I'm

Roy Neal, K6DUE, with a late breaking story that hams have been waiting a long time to hear. 60 meters. 5 MHz .soon will be available with 5 channels for your pleasure and investigation. A secondary five channel domestic ham radio allocation will become available starting at midnight, Thursday the third of July.

Federal government users are primary in the 5 MHz band. Amateurs get five channels, 2.8 kHz wide, with center frequencies of 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, and 5405 kilohertz.

General and higher class license holders will be permitted to operate upper sideband phone, with a maximum of 50 Watts effective radiated power.

Users are being advised to set their carrier frequency one and a half kilohertz lower than the channel center frequency. The ARRL also suggests restricting audio bandwidth to 200 Hertz on the low side and 2800 Hertz on the high end to keep the total bandwidth within the 2.8 kHz imposed by the FCC.

The report and order granting the new spot frequency allocation at 5 megs was published in the federal register on June third. Look for lots more on the subject in the near future here on the Amateur Radio Newsline.

Norm. (ARRL, FCC)

Radio Regulations: A Primer on WRC 2003

From ARNewsline Report 1348 - June 13, 2003:

The 2003 World Radiocommunications Conference is on. And while there is no way to know how it will impact on ham radio, many observers think it's outcome could mean a bright future for the hobby.

From down-under in Brisbane Australia, Q-News Graham Kemp, VK4BB, takes a peak at two of the ham radio issues the delegates will consider and what action some administrations are taking in anticipation of the outcome:

The last boom time for Ham Radio was in the 1980's as Citizen Band operators plucked up courage overcame their nerves and sat their Novice Grade license. Now some quarter of a century later... 2003 a new breed of operator is in the wings.

What and How you ask? First on July 4th the World Communications Conference, known to we hams as WARC03 will wrap up after a full month of

Next general meeting - Thursday, June 19 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 - This will be up to the new officers, but it could be on Thursday, September 4 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.

negotiations in Geneva Switzerland. Two items of major influence we await, one that the 40 meter band will open to a full 300 kHz for Amateurs. This has the backing of the United Nations, 7.000 to 7.300 MHz is being sought.

The 2nd major item is the removal of Morse code -- CW -- as an examinable item, world wide, for Amateurs.

In England they have grown their Ham population by some 3,000 in about 12 months with their introduction of what they call the Foundation Licence. Australia has already commenced talks with the Australian Communications Authority to implement such a scheme here. This license is a very basic entry point, and can be achieved in a weekend of intensive study/training. In the UK it gives access to all bands -- with one band exception.

Currently the Australian Amateurs are being surveyed on their thoughts of band/power/access, etc. of their entry level. This entry level is but one aspect of a revamped re energized Ham Band Boom! Amateur Licenses are now accepted as credit points to many Queensland tertiary strands and further educational work is being conducted across Australia.

Soooo -- a nutshell Q-NEWS believes well and truly our new BOOM TIME is on your doorstep! For the Amateur Radio Newline, I'm Graham Kemp, VK4BB of Q-NEWS Australia.

You can follow WRC 2003 on the web at < <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/conferences/wrc/wrc-03/index.asp> >. More on WRC 2003 in future Amateur Radio Newline reports. (Q-News)

Ham Radio Statistics: The Hobby Continues to Grow

From ARNewline Report 1348 - June 13, 2003:

Some good numbers to report in the area of ham radio growth here in the United States. According to Fred Maia of the W5YI Report a total of 20,247 brand new hams joined the hobby for the first time in the year ending May 1st. Of these, 18,967 were Technician class licensees making this the fastest growing license class of all.

Fred says that an average of 1,688 new hams passed their exam over the past 12 months versus 1,580 in the preceding year. Statistically, that's a solid 6.8% overall increase making it some long awaited good news for the hobby. (W5YI)

Ham Radio Holidays: Kids Day II on June 21st

From ARNewline Report 1348 - June 13, 2003:

And speaking about ham radio growing, there are two days every year that are among the most important on the ham radio calendar. This is because they open a window to the hobby to the very young. Amateur Radio Newline's Mark Abramovich, NT3V has the details on these very important ham radio holidays:

Of course we are talking about the second of two Kids Day operating events. Two days each year that are aimed at introducing the younger set to the magic world of Amateur Radio.

The first Kids Day of 2003 was held in January. This years second outing is slated for Saturday June 21st from 1800 to 2400 hours UTC.

During Kids Day all hams are encouraged to invite the neighborhood youngsters into their homes and stations to let them chat with others their age over the airwaves. To do this, licensed radio amateurs act as a control operators while the kids call CQ and exchange pleasantries like their name, age, where they live and their favorite color.

The suggested frequencies are 14.270 to 14.300 MHz on 20 meters, 21.380 to 21.400 on 15 and 28.350 to 28.400 MHz on 10. Also, any local repeater where the owner or sponsor has invited Kids Day to be a part of the operation is eligible and approved.

The ARRL which now sponsors Kids Day has a colorful award that becomes a child's personalized brochure about the hobby. Lots more about Kids Day and how you can make it an even bigger success than the last time is on the web at < www.arrl.org >.

For the Amateur Radio Newline, I'm Amark Abramowicz, NT3V in Philadelphia.

Kids Day was created by Larry Tyree, N6TR, and the Boring Amateur Radio Club in Oregon. For his efforts to promote Amateur Radio to children, Tyree was recently named Dayton Hamvention Radio Amateur of the Year. (ARRL, ARNewline, others)

Minutes of the PARS general meeting, 15 May 2003

The members met at the Bellevue Senior Center. The meeting began at 7:14 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance, with 4 members, secretary Doug Bell, treasurer Van Kichline, president Don Hickman, and member Richard Schwanke. Our vice president, Charles Beckmeier, and his wife are taking a trip up the North Cascades highway, over to Wenatchee and back.

Dick brought a 6 minute video that he had downloaded for 3 1/2 hours over a 56k baud modem and transferred to a CD-ROM as a 70 MB file, then to a VHS tape using the facilities where he lives. Narrated by Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, the video is about ham radio, particularly about the involvement of radio amateurs in emergency communications. For \$5 apiece, Dick can make copies of the video tape for members, if they would like. He would make a copy of the VHS video tape rather than making another VHS tape from the CD-ROM, which requires reservation of equipment. He can also easily make a copy of the CD-ROM, which you can play with Windows Media Player on your computer. Or, you can download it yourself from arrl.org. Don will give a couple of tapes to Dick to make copies of the

video. Van thought the CD might be handy for Field Day - we could show it repeatedly to passers-by.

The minutes of the last two meetings were approved as they appeared in Sparks.

Don talked about the unaccounted difference in speed between the 56k baud modems in two of his computers connected to the same phone line. Dick had tried twice to download the video over Juno and got bumped off each time, then tried another service called NoCharge.com and downloaded the whole thing with no problem.

There was discussion about services that provide an email name that you can link to whatever email service you are currently using, so that you don't have to tell everyone your new email name.

ARRL.org and Yahoo.com have such services.

Treasurer's report: We have money, about the same as last month, less the contribution to Amateur Radio Newline.

Dick has been thinking for about a year about getting an ICOM 706. Don recommended getting an ICOM 703, which is about the same, except it is about \$50 cheaper, and has a built-in antenna tuner. Dick doesn't want an antenna tuner built-in, because it doesn't match over a wide enough range. Typically, a built-in tuner will only handle a 3 to 1 SWR. He'd rather use one outside the rig. He has a tuner that will handle a kilowatt and will handle almost anything from an open wire to a shorted wire, from 160 to 10 meters. It has a dual needle meter. It is a manual tuner. There was discussion about keeping notes of the settings for the various bands.

Van has been listening to European short wave, 17 and 15 meters. There was discussion about how propagation changes with the Sun cycles. Don recalled as a kid putting up an inverted L random wire and picking up French Equatorial Africa and Armed Services Radio out of Japan.

Doug talked about how he tapes the nets he follows using a scanner connected to a VCR and listens to them when its convenient. For example, that's how he hears the Amateur Radio Newline from the PSRG net. He hadn't done much radio work other than that recently, but he went to the recent Stanwood hamfest flea market. The Stanwood exit is 212, one exit north of Smoky Point, about 20 miles north of Everett. He realized that he should be putting info. about upcoming hamfests that are nearby into the Sparks, so that's why he had included so much about the upcoming SEA-PAC in the May issue. He'll watch for upcoming hamfests and put them in Sparks.

At the Stanwood hamfest, Doug got an MFJ antenna tuner, a Morse code reader and a home-made Morse code keyboard. He also got a home-made coil winding device. He had previously bought well over 90 pounds of magnet wire in quite a few sizes at Boeing Surplus, so the coil winder should come in handy.

Doug's childhood radio feat was to modify the guts of an old postwar tube table radio by replacing the missing cardboard antenna coil with an antenna and a coil wound that allowed it to receive the 160 meter band, by operating 455 kHz above the IF rather than below. He had used it to listen to the Seattle Marine operator, and half of ship-to-shore conversations. (The other half was the busy signal.)

Don talked about getting ready to put up 110 feet of coax between his transmitter and antenna. He was amazed at the difference in price between the standard RG-58 - it's about 16 cents a foot vs. RG-8 which is low loss and flexible - it's about 80 cents a foot. RG-58 has about 8 dB loss per hundred feet, vs. 1.2 dB for RG-8. Doug mentioned that the smaller stuff is in much wider use in receiving service which has a lot to do with why it's cheaper, since it's mass produced in much higher quantity. Don plans to buy a 150 foot roll of RG-8. He only needs 120 feet, but the 150 foot roll will be cheaper.

Van talked about John hooking up the new ARES Bridle Trails repeater using great big coax with a center conductor as big as your pinkie, at \$18 per foot. The new repeater is set up for 4 bands.

Don hopes to have a new 2-by-2 call sign by the next meeting. He sent in his application for a new call; they said it takes about 6 to 8 weeks to do it. The ARRL website mentions four different websites that list available calls. QSR lists calls which are going to expire in 30 days and calls which are going into forfeiture. Two other sites didn't list much. The last site, out of Sunnyvale Calif., gives a full listing of all the call signs available by region. Region 8 had 130 1-by-2 calls available, but in region 7, or 6 or 5 - forget it! On the application form, you list 25 calls on the application in desired order - they go down the list; when they find the first one available, that's what they give you.

Field Day: Field Day is the 4th weekend in June. Don will be able to be there much longer, and now that he has his Extra, Doug or someone else won't have to be there the whole time. There was an announcement at the Kirkland ARES meeting about us joining them for Field Day, but at the last meeting there were only 8 members instead of the usual 25. If someone in the Kirkland ARES had a truck that could move our trailer, but there wasn't too much reaction from the few attendees. He'll talk with Bob Knight and see if he wants to do something.

Bellevue is going to try to operate Field Day out of their EOC. Doug heard that there's a new operating mode for Field Day this year for those who are operating out of an EOC. Van thought it would be great to get our trailer into the Kirkland city hall parking lot close to the Kirkland EOC. Since it's city property, we would need their OK. We would need a place to park the trailer and put up antennas. Don thought we'd be fine using just the vertical antenna, forget about the beam. Doug recalled that we used the vertical and the long wire for the last contest. It would be nice to have something other than the

vertical so we could do 40 and 80 meters. We could operate right where the trailer normally is, but it's not very visible there, so we don't get many visitors. Dick suggested running off of battery power. Or we could use generator power. The IC-740 has a cable for running directly on 12V, if we can find it. We'd need to get a 3 day permit if we're going to move the trailer.

Chuck and Lorie Graff have been trying to get to Issaquah for several years. He had a serious problem with reactions to medications he was taking, which has been the main cause of the delay.

When Dick and his wife were trying to decide where to live in this area, they had considered Whidbey Island, but there are no good retirement communities there. Once you're at retirement age, the last place you want to live is a ferry ride away from a hospital. They also didn't want to be some unknown time away from where his family is. This is something to really think about. A lot of people move somewhere far from facilities. He's 15 or 20 minutes from Evergreen Hospital or Overlake Hospital. Also, where they live they have a minimum of three skilled nurses on duty 24 hours a day. They have skilled nursing and assisted living as part of the package. However, the place is kind of big - technically his sister and he live under the same roof, but a quarter of a mile apart!

Van's dream scenario for Field Day would be to take the trailer down to Kirkland city hall so people could tour our trailer and the EOC. He'd like to work on getting people on the air. He thinks that's a pretty well traveled area, so we'd get a lot of walk-ins there. Dick says the Redmond Top Key contest sets up at a farm a mile off Avondale Road. They take a trailer, but operate out of tents or canopies. If we couldn't get our trailer moved, we could take our equipment without the trailer. Don thinks the trailer is good to have. We need something special to pull it. Which is better - operate at the Senior Center with the trailer, or at City Hall without the trailer?

If Bob Night of Kirkland ARES is agreeable, and if he can get someone with an adequate vehicle, and if he can get the OK of the city fathers, should we go down there? Which is more important, the enjoyment of our members or a good job of PR? Our members don't turn out for our contests, so that doesn't seem to be a high priority concern. It would be fun. We

should be able to do it. The generators are heavy and make noise. Ask at Kirkland EOC if we can run our generator. It's fun to be in a place where there are a lot of people walking by. The more people we get, the more antennas we can put up, and vice versa.

Dick mentioned there was a QRP contest not so long ago. A subset of the Redmond group was operating out at Beaver Lake using a double Zep for 20 meters and a double Zep for 15 meters with a phasing line in between. Courtesy of a bow and arrow, they had this antenna, up 100 feet. They operated a picnic bench. They could hear a lot of stuff but weren't working much. They were working with a K2.

We might be able to get Terry to come and do some digital modes. The previous week, Terry Detman had a flat tire on the highway and got banged up a bit, but he might have recovered enough to come.

Another option would be to rent a decent sized truck. We'd have to find out if we could get it for a couple hours twice. We could be flexible about when we used it. We could move the trailer to the EOC early and back later. As long as it's legally parked, it shouldn't be a problem. We might be able to leverage the fact that we only need it for a few hours a few days apart to reduce the cost. Members recounted their experiences pulling trailers and talked about tips when pulling trailers. We talked about the specs of the trailer that would be needed when renting a suitable truck. Van will contact Chuck about the specifics of the trailer with respect to renting a truck to pull it.

Don tried to work the Oregon contest, but couldn't hear anything on their listed frequencies.

Newsletter editor's report: Arthur Rolfe's email address hasn't been working. Does anyone have any other information about Art?

Did anyone do anything for World Amateur Radio Day, April 18th? Doug had mentioned it in the April newsletter, then promptly forgot about it.

We adjourned at 8:35 PM. The next meeting should have Jim Fenstermaker as a guest speaker.

Respectfully Submitted -
Doug Bell, KD7KKR
PARS Secretary

PARS 2002 - 03 Club Officers:

President	Don Hickman	KC7MDA	425-821-7025
Vice-	Charles	KC7GMF	425-822-2339
President	Beckmeier		
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 Doug, KD7KKR, 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.