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# SPARKS

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Vol. 19, No. 7 & 8

Puget Amateur Radio Society

September / October 2003

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## This Month's General Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 16 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. As usual we supply coffee, juice and cookies. See you there. We are out by 9 PM.

## Apology

I was surprised one afternoon last month when my organizer told me that the next PARS meeting was to be that evening. I had been planning to do the newsletter the next weekend, but had been so busy that I had lost track of a whole weekend! So, I hurried out a hard copy of the minutes to bring to the meeting, but we forgot to vote on it, so I've included both the June and September minutes below. I've also produced a double-length issue to try to make up for the missing issue.

## Happy birthday to you!

Sep 23	Don Hickman	KC7MDA
Oct 2	Clair Martin	KC7ARX
Nov 4	Mel Carlson	W7KDZ
Nov 6	Jim Von Seggern	KC7FEH

## How Would You Prefer to Receive Your Newsletter?

It's been a while since we've asked you whether you wish to continue to receive your copy of Sparks via "snail" mail (hard copy). If you now have an email address, you may prefer to receive a copy of Sparks via email. I send the email copies immediately after sending the hard copies, so you would get your copy of Sparks a bit sooner. The Adobe Acrobat format (.pdf) we use is identical to the hard copy when printed out, or you can read it on screen. If you don't have the Adobe Acrobat Reader, you can install it free from <http://www.adobe.com>.

You can receive an email copy alone, or continue to receive a hard copy as well, although the club saves postage, ink, paper, and wear and tear on the editor if you receive only the email copy. If you'd like to change the way you receive Sparks, just send me an email at [kd7kkr@arrl.net](mailto:kd7kkr@arrl.net). Be sure to include the address where you'd like to receive your copy of Sparks, if it's different from the address from which you sent the email.

## Sparks News Articles

Some Sparks articles come from recent issues of The ARRL Letter, which is available to ARRL members via weekly emails (<http://www.arrl.org/members/> to sign up) and to all via ARRLWeb at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>.

Some Sparks articles come 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](http://www.arnewline.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.

## ARRL Honors Amateur Radio Today Production Team

This is about the 6-minute video that Dick Schwanke brought for us to watch at the meeting last May.

From The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 37, September 19, 2003:

The ARRL has honored the individuals responsible for bringing the Amateur Radio Today CD presentation from concept to reality. The formal recognition came over the September 6-7 weekend during the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention in Long Beach, California.

Receiving ARRL Special Service awards for their contributions to the Amateur Radio public relations effort were director Dave Bell, W6AQ, scriptwriter Alan Kaul, W6RCL, editor Keith Glispie, WA6TFD, and Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, who assisted in producing Amateur Radio Today along with Bell, Kaul and Bill Baker, W1BKR. The video presentation has been widely distributed--including to all 535 members of the US Congress. ARRL Southwestern Division Director Art Goddard, W6XD, presented the plaques to the team members on hand at the convention.

Former CBS news anchor Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, narrated Amateur Radio Today, which runs approximately six minutes. Designed for presentation to nonhams and civic clubs, Amateur Radio Today focuses on Amateur Radio's role in emergency communications, including Amateur Radio's role in the September 11, 2001, response.

**Next general meeting** - Thursday, October 16 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, November 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.

The League also honored Bell--a Hollywood TV producer and past chairman of the ARRL Public Relations Committee--with a Lifetime Achievement Award. At its July meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors cited Bell's "many significant contributions" to the ARRL, his role as chairman of the Public Relations Committee and his work in the production of films and videos promoting Amateur Radio. His film and video repertoire includes The Ham's Wide World, Moving Up to Amateur Radio, This is Ham Radio, The New World of Amateur Radio and Ham Radio Olympics.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said the idea for the Amateur Radio Today video stemmed in part from his desire to "leave behind more than my business card" when talking with members of Congress, their staff members and others who are not licensees but who "stand to influence or affect the future of Amateur Radio in some way." Haynie said he and Bell discussed the project, and Bell agreed to take it on, donating a lot of his own time and effort in completing the project.

Individuals may order a copy of the Amateur Radio Today CD-ROM from the ARRL on-line catalog <<https://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=8861>> or download it for free. Amateur Radio Today also is available in VHS videotape format. A subtitled (open-captioned) version also is available.

### **ARRL "Logbook of the World" is Off Like a Rocket**

From The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 39, October 3, 2003:

"Logbook of the World" (LoTW)--<<http://www.arrl.org/lotw>>--the League's new QSL-cardless awards and contact credit system--has proven to be a huge hit with the amateur community. Since opening September 15, LoTW has acquired more than 2200 registered participants. Another 2400 or so applications are pending, and the QSO database of 4900 uploaded logs had topped 8 million contacts at week's end.

"Certainly the number of Qs that we've gotten is well above what we expected at this point," said ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, who has been sharing duties with Assistant to the CEO David Patton, NN1N, as point man for LoTW. ARRL Web and Software Development Department Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, has been handling software development and updating for LoTW.

LoTW is open to all, and applying for a digital certificate is the first step toward taking advantage of the system. The digital certificate authenticates the user's identity.

ARRL will maintain the ballooning repository of log data from casual operators, DXers, contesters and major DXpeditions. LoTW will be able to provide quick QSO credit for awards programs by identifying

contact matches within submitted log data. There have been 51,000 such matches to date. Registered participants then will be able to apply LoTW-confirmed QSO credits toward ARRL awards, such as DXCC, WAS and VUCC.

Work continues on the last major LoTW component--the Web pages to apply LoTW confirmations toward ARRL-sponsored awards. Mills expects that LoTW also will one day provide contact credits for non-ARRL programs. "Major award sponsors have expressed interest in using LoTW records, and details are pending," he said.

The key to the ultimate success of LoTW is for users to upload as much log data as possible. The more contacts in the database, the better the chances of a QSO match.

LoTW eventually will be able to search users' DXCC records and find new credits automatically. The program also will provide full viewing of users' DXCC records, automatically alert users to new awards achieved and offer comprehensive support for many other awards.

Mills cautioned new users that LoTW permits just one digital certificate request per call sign. He advised that once users apply for a certificate, they should not attempt to alter it or create another request. Any errors, he points out, can be corrected later. For US users, the first certificate has to be for a current call sign that's in the FCC database. After you get the certificate, you can request additional certificates for formerly held call signs.

While the digital certificate is free, LoTW will charge on a per-credit basis to apply credits toward awards. "Logbook of the World is an alternative to collecting QSL cards by mail," Mills said. Fees <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/fees>> range from 25 cents for a single credit to 15 cents per credit in lots of 500. Users may purchase credits in advance, but LoTW fees do not also cover award fees.

"It turns out that this is a much cheaper way to collect credits for DXCC," Mills asserted. "Overall, we are very happy with the progress and user acceptance."

This week, EchoLink <<http://www.echolink.org>> announced that it would accept ARRL's LoTW's digital certificates to authenticate new users as an alternative to providing a copy of their amateur license.

News and announcements will be posted to the Logbook of the World Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>>.

## **Restructuring: CQ Readers Favor HF Privileges for Techs But Are Split on Code Tests**

From ARNewsline™ Report 1363 - September 26, 2003:

A survey of CQ magazine readers shows respondents are strongly in favor of granting at least some high-frequency operating privileges to already-licensed hams who have not taken a Morse code test, but are evenly split over the question of continued Morse code exams for amateur licenses. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramovitz, NT3V, took a look at the survey results and has more:

According to CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, nearly two-thirds of the CQ readers who responded to the survey favor giving limited High Frequency privileges to currently-licensed Technician Class hams who have not taken a code test. Another 36% of those responding said there should be no changes in operating privileges.

Among those who favor changes, 43% support merging the current Novice and Technician licenses and combining the privileges of both, while another 26% favor expanded privileges for both classes, including High Frequency subbands offering voice, CW and data at limited power levels. In addition, 14% supported giving Novice High Frequency privileges to Technicians, but not giving full VHF privileges to Novices. The remaining 17% were split between giving current Technicians only current Novice voice privileges and only current Novice code privileges.

Moseson says that readers were split, 50-50, on the question of whether the FCC should change its current code test requirements. Of those who favored change, 50% called for the elimination of code tests for both General and Extra Class licenses, while 42% favored eliminating the General Class code exam but keeping it for the Extra Class license. The remaining 8% supported replacing the current code test with a code recognition test similar to the exam used for the Foundation class license in the United Kingdom.

And here's a big surprise. While only half the CQ readers want the FCC to change the current code test requirements, three quarters of those who sent in the survey said they agreed with the decision at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference to leave the question of code tests up to each country to decide.

Finally, the ARRL and International Amateur Radio Union got a strong vote of support for the time and money they invested in securing the compromise agreement on 40 meters. One that will eventually double the size of the band for amateurs in Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania, while removing broadcasters from the 7.100 to 7.200 MHz segment by 2009. 78% of CQ readers responding to this question said the effort was a worthwhile investment of member dues and staff time. On the other side only 9% said the benefit was not worth the cost. 13% had no opinion on the issue.

According to Moseson, a significant aspect of these survey results is that 84% of the readers responding already have High Frequency operating privileges, 75% report being active on HF, and 58% hold Extra Class licenses.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

The survey was included in the September, 2003 issue of the magazine. CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, said over 400 CQ readers responded to it. Moseson admits that it was in no way a scientific poll but he says that it does provide a "snapshot" of reader views on various topics. (ARNewsline™)

## **Rescue Radio: Text Message Rescue**

From ARNewsline™ Report 1363 - September 26, 2003:

If you think that Morse code is still needed for a successful rescue at sea, guess again. Three men who were rescued from the hull of a capsized boat on Saturday, September 13th definitely know this. You see, they were saved after one of the sailors sent an electronic text message to his father using a two-way pager.

Caught in what the British Coast Guard later described as rough seas and gusts up to 45 knots, the men used a combination of a mobile phone and VHF radio to call for help. The Coast Guard first received an emergency assistance request at 4:50 PM UTC but that call was dropped due to poor signal strength.

Then came a signal from an emergency locating beacon triggered by the men. It showed the vessel to be southwest of St. Catherine's point on the Isle of Wight. But it wasn't until the Coast Guard received a call from one man's father - calling from his home, near Southampton - that the position was confirmed. His son had sent him a text message that he passed on to the Coast Guard. A helicopter was dispatched and the men were plucked to safety.

Commenting on the rescue, and the way text messaging can often make it through when coverage is patchy was Watch Manager Colin Griffiths. He said that the incident adds to the number of times the Coast Guard has been alerted to a marine incident by just such a text message. (silicon.com via KB4KCH)

## **FCC Invites Comments on Additional Morse Code-Related Petitions**

From The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 40, October 10, 2003:

The FCC has sounded the bell to begin Round 2 of the Morse code debate by inviting public comment on another group of seven Morse-related petitions for rulemaking. The FCC put the petitions on public notice October 8, and comments are due by November 7. Members of the amateur community may make their opinions known on any or all of these filings using the FCC's Electronic Comment

Filing System (ECFS)

<<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. The petitions are RM-10805 through RM-10811. To summarize:

\* Charles L. Young Jr., AG4YO, asks the FCC to delete the 5 WPM Morse code test (Element 1) for Technician-plus-Element 1 privileges (formerly "Tech Plus"). Designated RM-10805, his petition would retain Element 1 as an examination requirement for General and Amateur Extra applicants and give Technicians limited HF SSB privileges.

\* Describing CW as "the purest, most accurate, efficient, reliable and economical form of radio communications ever devised," Frank Napurano, K2OKA, requests that the FCC retain the 5 WPM Morse requirement "in the interest of public safety, the preservation of a radio art and as a tribute of support for a prized and respected avocation." The FCC designated his filing as RM-10806.

\* A petition by Robert G. Rightsell, AE4FA and Harry A.M. Kholer, N0PU, designated RM-10807, would continue Morse testing but give applicants up to 24 points of exam credit according to their success on Element 1. The final exam score would be the sum of earned Element 1 points and the written test score for a possible total of 100 points. Their petition also calls on the FCC to consolidate the Novice and Technician and the Advanced and Amateur Extra licenses, boost the number and range of written test questions and give new Technicians CW and data privileges.

\* Joseph Speroni, AH0A, seeks to have the FCC delete Element 1 for applicants who want to operate phone on HF but retain Element 1 at 5 WPM for applicants who want to operate CW. Designated RM-10808, his petition would restructure the Amateur Radio testing regime to require specific knowledge of "RTTY, data, image, spread spectrum, pulse/test, RACES/ARES and space communications only for those wishing to operate these modes." Under Speroni's plan, applicants would be under no obligation to pass mode-specific examination elements for mode privileges they don't wish to operate.

\* The Puerto Rico Amateur Radio League (PRARL) asks the FCC to delete Element 1 for Technician and General classes but to increase the rigor of the written elements for those two license classes. The PRARL would keep the 5 WPM Morse exam for Extra applicants. The PRARL also would eliminate same-session retesting and require 30 days between retakes. The petition is designated RM-10809.

\* James Roux, W4YA, proposes in his petition, designated RM-10810, that the FCC cut the number of license classes to two--General and Amateur Extra--and the number of written examination elements to one--at the General level. Roux's petition would eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code exam for General

but require Extra applicants to pass a 15 WPM test. Roux also would give Generals all currently available amateur privileges except the Extra-class CW subbands.

\* A petition filed on behalf of FISTS CW Club <<http://www.fists.org>> would delete the requirement to pass Element 1 to obtain Technician plus Element 1 (i.e., "Tech Plus") HF privileges. Designated RM-10811, it would merge Tech and Tech Plus into a single class, emphasize technical content, including digital modes, on written examinations and extend digital mode privileges within Novice/Tech Plus subbands. It would not provide additional HF phone privileges for Technicians, however. The FISTS petition would retain a 5 WPM Morse exam for General applicants and raise the Morse exam to 12 WPM for Amateur Extra applicants while increasing the technical level on written examinations for both classes.

The FISTS CW Club petition had attracted more than 230 comments by week's end. In all, the FCC had recorded a total of approximately 500 comments on the seven petitions as of October 10.

Interested parties may file comments on any or all of these petitions using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS)

<<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>, which also permits users to view all comments on file.

To file a comment, click on "Submit a Filing" under "ECFS Main Links." In the "Proceeding" field, type the full RM number and complete the required fields. "RM" must be in capital letters, and you must include the hyphen between "RM" and the five-digit number. You may type your remarks into a form or attach a file. ECFS also accepts comments in active proceedings via e-mail, per instructions on the ECFS page.

To view filed comments, click on "Search for Filed Comments" under "ECFS Main Links" and type in the complete RM number, including the hyphen, in the "Proceeding" field. "RM" must be in capital letters.

### **73 Magazine Says "73 and QRT"**

From The ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 40, October 10, 2003:

After completing 43 years of publication, 73 Amateur Radio Today magazine is calling it quits. Plans to publish a joint October/November issue fell through this week, and the September 2003 issue was the magazine's last. According to self-proclaimed "El Supremo and Founder" Wayne S. Green II, W2NSD, it was a simple matter of economics.

"After failing a last minute effort to collect on some larger accounts receivable we decided yesterday to throw in the towel--that the September issue will have to be the last," Green told ARRL October 9.

"SK after 43 years of publishing."

The first issue of 73 was published in October 1960 from what Green--a former editor of CQ--once described as "a small, dingy apartment" in Brooklyn, New York. Since the summer of 1962, 73 has been based in Peterborough, New Hampshire--Green's home state. The magazine was a pioneer promoter of SSB, FM, solid-state, easy construction projects and the marriage of personal computing and Amateur Radio. His interest in microcomputing led Green in 1975 to found Byte, a magazine devoted to the then-nascent and largely do-it-yourself computer hobby.

At the peak of its popularity in the 1970s and 1980s, individual issues of 73 totaled more than 300 pages of ads, articles and commentary. Heading each issue was Green's inimitable "Never Say Die"--some would say never-ending--editorial, in which he rarely missed an opportunity to tweak the ARRL and his magazine competitors for their perceived shortcomings.

QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, says 73 published his first article in the 1970s. "I was saddened to hear that 73 has ceased publishing," Ford said. "Wayne's excitement about the growing amateur FM repeater phenomenon at the time was infectious."

Green's 73 editorials and regular round of personal appearances originally concentrated on Amateur Radio and his ideas to improve, advance and grow it. In recent years, however, they've veered into conspiracy theories, cures for cancer, AIDS and other ailments and Green's proliferation of book titles on those topics.

Green says he'll continue his essays on his Web site <<http://www.waynecgreen.com>> "for those subscribers who mainly bought the magazine for them." He told ARRL that no definite arrangements have been made yet about how to handle outstanding 73 subscriptions.

CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, said he takes no joy from the passing of 73. "The loss of any publication serving Amateur Radio leaves all of us a bit poorer," he said. "Thank you, Wayne, for 43 entertaining, informative, sometimes infuriating, and always interesting years of 73. We'll genuinely miss it."

### **Radio Law: A BPL Document for Ham Radio**

From ARNewsline™ Report 1363 - September 26, 2003:

Turning to the latest in ham radios war against the introduction of Broadband Over Powerlines or BPL, the Wireless Institute of Australia has prepared a document detailing the pros and cons. Phil White, VK2DKN, is its author:

White: "The purpose of the document was not only to advise the WIA of the exact position of BPL in Australia, but also to educate the general Amateur

fraternity on the situation with BPL that was likely to affect them."

White said that he tried to present a balanced view of the BPL situation, covering both sides:

White: "I tried to present a fairly balanced view in the document so Amateurs can see both sides of the argument. And there are some very strong arguments for and against the adoption Broadband Over Powerlines."

How best to fight the introduction of this technology? White says hams need to forge alliances with others who will be affected:

White: "My opinion is that Amateurs need to form an association with other HF users, and those users may include people like defense, four-wheel-drive groups, CB'ers -- any people who are affected by the introduction of BPL technology."

According to White, alliances like this will put Amateur Radio in a much stronger position to gain access to any standards committees working on the introduction of BPL. (Q-News)

### **FCC Commissioner Says Yes to BPL and ARRL Objects**

From ARNewsline™ Report 1364 - October 3, 2003:

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy has taken the position that Broadband over Power Line is important to the future of cyberspace communications. Speaking before a United Powerline Council conference on September 22nd, Abernathy said that the introduction of BPL will contribute to what she terms as a broadband nirvana.

Addressing the council, Abernathy not only expressed enthusiasm for Broadband over Powerline technology. She went so far as to recommend the elimination or substantial modification of existing rules governing its deployment.

The ARRL Letter says that the League was quick to respond. In a tersely worded September 25th fax to Abernathy, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, asserted that the commissioner overlooked some significant issues in her Nirvana analogy. In fact, Sumner called BPL a nightmare noting that technical showings submitted by the ARRL and others in response to the Commission's Notice of clearly establish that BPL is a significant source of radio spectrum pollution. Sumner went on to say that it cannot be implemented without causing harmful interference to already established over-the-air radio services. (ARRL, published news reports)

## A New Record for WI-FI

From ARNewsline™ Report 1364 - October 3 2003:

A group of researchers in Poland have set a new wireless LAN or Wi-Fi record. Q-News Felix Scerri, VK4FUQ, has the details:

Interline Wireless Technology, a Polish company has reportedly set a world record in stretching the range of a Wi-Fi network for an amazing 110 km at 2.4 GHz. They achieved this using an antenna developed by them and an INTEL Wireless Access Point.

The Interline report on their web site <<http://www.interline.pl>> - in Polish - seems to show and say that, on their mountain-top site, in what we would consider "Amateur Radio" field-day conditions, they generated 500 mW into a 27 dB 1.1 m off-axis parabolic section dish. It seems to say that the reverse direction from the base station was 6 Watts into a 2.4 m dish.

And it was all done, ham radio style. (Q-News)

### Minutes of the PARS general meeting, 19 June 2003

The members met at the Bellevue Senior Center. The meeting began at 7:19 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance, with 6 members including the club officers: treasurer Van Kichline, secretary Doug Bell, vice president Charles Beckmeier, and president Don Hickman, and four visitors.

Our speaker was Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, Regional Director of ARRL. He spoke about the Emergency Communications Class.

He mentioned the Connecticut Distance Learning Program, information about which is available on the ARRL website. This is a course which you sign up for, pay \$45, take the course via email, take the test on-line, then you are reimbursed on completion of the course. You must complete it in two months to be reimbursed.

After the program and a 10 minute break, Don began the business meeting at 8:21 PM and had us go around the room for introductions: Van Kichline, KD7QIT; Mark Whitaker, KD7KUN; Charles Beckmeier, KC7GMF; Dick Schwanke, W9HXM; Frank Quells, K77U{D|E|P}R; Mildred?, K9VIY; Harry Warner, N6VFS; Doug Bell, KD7KKR; and Don Hickman, WF7Z.

Don just got his new vanity call. He was surprised to have scored a 2-by-1 call.

Don thanked guests Frank Quells and his father for coming, who found us via someone at the Redmond Senior Center. He invited them to come and operate at our Field Day installation.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the minutes were probably just fine, though few if any other than Don had read them, since they were sent late.

Don called for nominations for officers for the coming year.

Don declined to continue as president.

Charles declined to be president.

Doug wishes to continue as secretary. Moved, seconded, and carried to elect Doug as secretary.

Van wishes to continue as treasurer. Move, seconded, and carried to elect Van as secretary.

Don wishes to be vice president. Move, seconded, and carried to elect Don as vice president.

Dick declined to be president.

Harry declined to return to active membership and be president.

Don said we'd need to go over our roster and find someone to be president.

**Treasurer's report:** we have lots of money - \$1353 currently available for use.

### Interesting contacts, band openings:

Frank and his dad had been trying to get his K2 working.

Mark heard that 6 m was hot the previous week. Harry mentioned Argentina and Japan are always there on 10 m.

Don just got a Kenwood 570 with a Gap Titan antenna. Some PARS members helped him set it up. When he was trying to choose a radio, quite a few people said "don't bother with 6 m." Now 6 m is hot, but he can't work it, since he chose a radio that doesn't cover 6 m. He also mentioned being flabbergasted to work someone in New Zealand.

**Field Day:** Van, our Field Day chairman, mentioned we had been discussing teaming up with Kirkland ARES for Field Day. They decided not to open up the EOC, so we decided to just operate from our location at the Senior Center.

There was a discussion of the effectiveness of beam antennas versus vertical antennas.

Don mentioned that now that he has his Extra, he can split the duties with other Extras to keep the station open for Field Day. For transmitters, we have the one in the trailer, Van will bring his, and Don will bring his. For antennas, we have the long wire, the R5, a couple of dipoles, one for 40, one for 80, and some beams. Van has a canopy he can bring to set up outside.

There was a discussion about the possible effectiveness of signs in bringing people to see our installation.

Mark Whitaker mentioned asking Dave Condon and his 6th - 8th grade school kids to come and operate.

The contest will be from 11 AM Saturday to 11 AM Sunday. It was decided to set up starting at 6:30 PM Friday night. Don promised to bring snacks by 11 AM Saturday.

Doug mentioned that since Kirk wouldn't be coming, we need to think about what equipment to bring. Doug has a Wrist Rocket. Van has a reel. Don has a rope. Van has a tackle box.

There may be logging software on the computer in the trailer which may be configured to cover Field Day.

**Paper Chasers Log:** The ARRL is working on an on-line service to provide the functionality of QSL cards.

Don was surprised to find his New Zealand contact on qrz.com, but now realizes it covers world-wide. Harry mentioned another such service: Buckmaster - <[buck.com/call](http://buck.com/call)>. He also mentioned a local guy: <[WM7D.net](http://WM7D.net)>, who has really good maps, and a complete list.

Don asks our secretary and treasurer to put together an updated member roster.

Doug mentioned that he had just noticed that Kirk had sent out a questionnaire with the newsletter last January. He thought that he should do something like that next September.

Van thanked Don for being president for the past year, and for the good programs. There was general agreement. Don mentioned that most of the programs have come from either the Western Washington DX Tabloid or the Mike & Key ARC Newsletter. Don thanked all those who helped him. Don proposed changing the board meeting night so that Dick Schwanke could attend.

Mark Whitaker announced that King County has become its own district within the ARES organization, and Kirk Bellar has been appointed the District Emergency Coordinator for that. As a result, they will be starting an ARES group for Bellevue as well; it's not going to be part of the EARS group, but it will be an ARES group. Mark will be the Emergency Coordinator for that group.

Don mentioned that Kirk who is a past president of our group will be visiting any ARES group in King County who is on the air for Field Day and will also visit our installation. Mark mentioned the only ARES groups who plan to operate are Shoreline and Bellevue.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully Submitted -  
Doug Bell, KD7KKR  
PARS Secretary

## Minutes of the PARS general meeting, 18 September 2003

The members met at the Bellevue Senior Center. The meeting began at 7:10 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance, with 6 members including club officers for the previous year: secretary Doug Bell, vice president Charles Beckmeier, and president Don Hickman. Don reported that treasurer Van Kichline had shown up for a short time before the meeting began, but had to return to work.

Don announced that at the previous meeting Doug had been reelected secretary, Van had been reelected treasurer, and Don had been elected vice president. Don then announced that after much phone calling and some arm twisting, Charles had consented to be nominated for president. Charles was so nominated, and was elected unanimously.

Don had received had a letter from Kirk Bellar listing four websites which have outdated PARS information that need to be updated. Kirk also indicated that he should no longer be a trustee of PARS because he will no longer be attending the PARS meetings because of change of job and home locations. This will also affect the 443.2 repeater coordination with Western Washington Amateur Repeater Association, since they have him down as the coordination holder. He has gotten more involved with ARES/RACES, having accepted an appointment as of August 1 as District Emergency Coordinator and RACES radio officer for King County. That will keep him plenty busy for a while.

Don volunteered to be our new repeater trustee.

Kirk also mentioned that he had bought a batch of photo QSL cards from QSL Shop in Berlin, Germany and was pleased with the results. Their website is <[www.qslshop.com](http://www.qslshop.com)>

Don asked the attendees to sound off: Bob, KJ7BP; Dick, W9HXM; and Arthur, N7YKI.

Charles announced that the treasurer's report was status quo from last month. Van, our treasurer, was not able to attend the meeting due to a business commitment.

Charles described his trip to Nevada. He now has a new call: W7CEB, which matches his initials, and has ordered license plates to match.

Bob passed around five more QSL cards that he had received due to his call having been used by PARS during one of the contests. We had done this because of the relative rarity of the prefix of his call, KJ7, compared to the PARS call, K7.

Don has been able to hear Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Eastern & Southeast US, California, and the Midwest, but hasn't been able to hear England or

other countries. He's been using a Gap Titan vertical, the base mounted about 6 feet off the ground. But, he mentioned that any station he can hear he's been able to work.

Dick talked about the radiation pattern for several different types of antennas. He mentioned that he has the parts to make a very sensitive "signal sniffer" for testing an antenna's pattern. He is currently borrowing the club's MFJ antenna analyzer. There is a signal strength meter in the trailer, but it's not very sensitive.

Bob announced that one of our club members, Wilbur Staples, had passed away a couple of days before the meeting. He had rapidly declined after having been recently diagnosed with lung cancer.

Bob and Don talked about the HF net they've been checking into.

Dick's sister also passed away recently.

Arthur has been on 2 m and 70 cm, mostly with the EARS activities. But, he has a 100 Watt ICOM HF rig that he hasn't tried yet, mostly because he hasn't yet decided what to do for an antenna. He has a tree that would be good to put up a wire antenna, but he's been looking at multiband verticals. Years ago, he had used a home-made 3-tube receiver and 2-tube 10 Watt transmitter, but he had a favorable point in the sun spot cycle and a lot of time, so such a rig was OK. Now he's busy with so many other things that he doesn't have as much time for ham radio, so he's hoping a fancier transceiver will make up the difference.

Doug hasn't been doing any operating other than listening to some VHF nets, but he went to the estate sale that PARS had received an email announcement about, having forgotten between the time he had read the announcement and the sale that Chuck and Lorie Graff were to be officiating.

Don mentioned that Microsoft is no longer supporting Windows 98, so people should upgrade. Doug is still using Windows 95, and has been quite pleased that all the recent problems have shown up in Windows 98 and later, so he hasn't had to bother

**PARS 2003 - 04 Club Officers:**

President	Charles Beckmeier	W7CEB	425-822-2339
Vice-President	Don Hickman	WF7Z	425-821-7025
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.

with security updates.

**Old Business:** Doug mentioned that we still need to do something with the collection of QSL cards that we've received, including the batch Bob just gave us. Van and Doug were going to make a picture QSL card on their computers, but Van hasn't gotten around to taking a picture of the trailer. Charles asked about the location of the PARS photo album, since there may be a good picture in there.

Arthur asked about whether an inventory of the trailer had been performed recently. Don described the job he and Charles had done in this vane about six months ago.

Charles mentioned the Puget ARS mailing list. Doug is pretty sure it's still active. Arthur wrote down his new email name for Doug. He mentioned having had a lot of trouble with junos.com.

There was a discussion about an upcoming on-line ARRL facility to perform the function of QSL cards.

Charles reminded Doug that we need an updated member roster.

**New Business:** Charles announced that there is a ham in Snohomish who is looking for volunteers to take down a tower, to climb a couple of sections of tower to get to the top section. If anyone knows of someone who would like to volunteer, please get a hold of Charles.

Charles asked for ideas for speakers for upcoming meetings. Please call him at 425-822-2339 or email him at <[cebeck@gte.net](mailto:cebeck@gte.net)>.

The meeting broke at 8:08 PM for goodies, then watched a video demonstration of the radiation pattern of lots of types of antennas using microwave frequency models of the antennas.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted -  
Doug Bell, KD7KKR

PARS Secretary

**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](http://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 <[kd7kk@arrl.net](mailto:kd7kk@arrl.net)>. **Send all other club-related correspondence** to PARS, PO Box 32, Kirkland, WA 98083-0032.