

# SPARKS

Vol. 20, No. 2

Puget Amateur Radio Society

February 2004

## This Month's General Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19 from 7 to 9 PM, at the Bellevue Senior Center, located at 4043 - 148th Ave. in Bellevue, just north of the 148th exit on I-520.

- ◇ Van Kichline will give a demonstration of APRS using his new HT.
- ◇ As usual we supply coffee, juice and cookies.
- ◇ There will be a Door Prize: the book, *The ARRL/RSGB International Antenna Collection*, Edited by Dr. George Brown, M5ACN, published by ARRL. We completely forgot to give the door prize last month, so we'll have to decide how to make that up.
- ◇ It is dues time. We have been very fortunate and have held the dues structure, as before, to \$15.00 annually per member or \$22.50 per family. Dues were due last month, so if you forgot, please be prepared to pay at the meeting.
- ◇ The Mike & Key Flea Market is rapidly approaching, and the club is asking for donations.
- ◇ Remembering that the club is a 501c3 organization, any donation made can be used as a tax write-off for this year (04).

We hope to see you there.

## Al Staples N7VOF, SK

01/26/2004 04:45 PM - Just talked to Al's daughter Susie and she told me that Al passed away peacefully on Sunday morning. They're not having a formal service for Al, just a get together for family and friends this coming Saturday afternoon. I'm going to stop by right after I get off work. You know I use to talk to Al almost every day on IM. I loved bugging him. :- ) I'll miss the OM. - Hef KD7E

He was one of the real stalwarts of PARS and EARS. - Kirk N7UK

We later received the address for an informal wake, but unfortunately not in time to send it to all the PARS members. PARS will discuss at the next meeting making a donation to the ARRL in memory of Al.

## Happy birthday to you!

Jan 24	Art Rolfe	N7YKI
Feb 17	John Heflin	KD7E

## Call for Speakers

Charles needs ideas for speakers for upcoming meetings. Please call him at 425-822-2339 or email him at

[cebeck@gte.net](mailto:cebeck@gte.net).

## Sparks News Articles

Many *Sparks* articles come from recent issues of the Amateur Radio Newline(tm) (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.

## Ham Radio Politics: A New Direction

From ARNewline(tm) Report 1380 - Jan 23, 2004:

The biggest organization of Amateur Radio operators in the world finally takes a position on the code versus no-code issue. The ARRL is asking the FCC in a petition for rulemaking to create a no code entry level HF license for anyone who can successfully pass a written exam of a mere 25 questions. If the FCC accepts the ARRL idea, it would keep the more stringent requirements for the Amateur Extra Class license, including their ability to send and receive Morse code. Amateur Radio Newline's David Black, KB4KCH, takes a look at the details of what the ARRL is asking the FCC to do:

Code free access to ham radio's high frequency bands ... it's part of what could change amateur radio's complexion forever. And it could become reality. The ARRL says it will ask the FCC to make sweeping changes to the United States amateur radio service. Perhaps the biggest change of all: Creating a new entry level ham radio license that grants access to high frequencies without requiring any Morse code proficiency.

But that's not all. The League also proposes consolidating all amateur radio licenses into three classes: Novice, as it's being called for now, General and the highest level, Extra. And only the Extra class license would require Morse code proficiency - of 5 words per minute. The new Novice license would require a 25-question written test and would offer limited HF, Morse code, data and phone and image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters. Novices would also have VHF and UHF privileges, including access to 6 meters and 2 meters. Their power levels would be restricted to 100 watts on 80, 40 and 15 meters, and to 50 watts on 10 meters and higher.

The middle amateur radio license would continue to be the General, but it would include all current Technician,

**Next general meeting** - Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 PM at the Bellevue Senior Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE in Bellevue. Also 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, March 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.

Tech Plus and present General license holders. This license would not require a Morse code test. Under this proposal, if you are a current Technician or Technician Plus, you would automatically obtain General class privileges with no additional testing. The current General examination would remain unchanged for new applicants.

The third license class, the Extra, would involve the fewest changes. Under the League proposal, hams with Advanced class licenses would essentially automatically become Extra class because of similarities in the technical proficiency required for both levels. New applicants for the Extra class license would have to pass a 5 word-per-minute code test - the written test would stay as is. If you're currently a Novice, Tech Plus or General license holder, you would receive a lifetime 5 word-per-minute credit.

The proposed changes got the blessing of ARRL's Board of Directors January 16th. The proposals are the creation of a League Executive Committee acting at the Board's direction. The new structure suggestions come as a result to changes in international radio regulations that are part of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. At the same time, the FCC has been wanting to streamline the amateur radio licensing structure which it began more than five years ago.

From Birmingham, Alabama, I'm David Black, KB4KCH for the Amateur Radio Newline.

More is in cyberspace at the League's website. You will find it at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org). (ARRL, ARNewline(tm))

### **Announcing the Roy Neal, K6DUE, Amateur Radio Mentoring Project**

From ARNewline(tm) Report 1380 - Jan 23, 2004:  
Amateur Radio Newline is paying tribute its late vice president, Roy Neal, K6DUE, by naming an ongoing mentoring program in his honor. Roy became a silent key last August after surgery. He was 82.

The Roy Neal, K6DUE, Amateur Radio Mentoring Project is designed to pair new hams - often called "newbies" - with veteran amateurs. This, in the hope that some of the established hams' operator skills can be passed down to new generations.

Pasternak: "There is a long tradition of mentoring, often called "Elmering," in Amateur Radio. No one knows the origin of the term, but the first teacher might well have been named "Elmer." My mentor was a guy named Charlie Zussman. Back in the 1950's he was WA2AKX. Today he's WE2R. And his helping me become a ham has lead to a friendship that has lasted a lifetime. What he taught me was that tradition is an important part of the hobby.

That's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, who has produced these newscasts since 1977. He and the Newline Board of Directors came up with the idea for this project. Bill says that ham radio has become a tremendously complex arena and new hams often don't know where to turn for help:

Pasternak: "We have licensed hams who are truly

experts in numerous fields ranging from bouncing radio signals off the moon, to writing complicated software which enables new forms of two-way communication. We want to take advantage of that knowledge base to help newcomers."

While Amateur Radio includes world-class experts in a number of specialties, there are literally thousands of hams who have operating skills also worthy of passing on. For example, contesting is very popular, yet it is a tough nut to crack for a beginner.

Pasternak: "Contesting is intimidating. I know. I'm just getting started. Good contest operators often are able to contact four stations per minute for hours at a time. The great ones do even better than that. How they are able to do that is a skill that should be passed on to newcomers."

Two large pools of Amateurs are needed to make this mentoring project work. First, there must be a group of volunteers who have a skill and are willing to share their time. The second group is made up of the large number of beginners who want to learn.

One of the nations top mentors, kit building expert Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB, has agreed to help set up databases and to begin the process of matching mentors with beginners. All we need to know is if you need assistance or if you are able to mentor others. We also need your name, call letters, address with zipcode, phone number, email and when its best to call.

The special email address to register is [mentor@arnewline.org](mailto:mentor@arnewline.org).

Mentors might be matched by zipcode - and be in the same town, or they might be half-way around the world from each other and communicate by email. Either way I think we can make it work.

Pasternak: "The project's namesake, Roy Neal, K6DUE, was himself a mentor and not only in ham radio. I know this first hand because he is the one who taught me to become a better writer and producer.

More important: Those of us who knew Roy, also know that helping others was a very important part of his life. As such, we feel that the least that we here at Amateur Radio Newline can do is keep his memory alive with this project."

More information is on our website at [www.arnewline.org](http://www.arnewline.org). And Roy, old buddy, this one is for you! (ARNewline(tm), W6RCL)

### **The BPL Fight: North Carolina Hams Meet With Power Providers**

From ARNewline(tm) Report 1380 - Jan 23, 2004:  
Slow but steady progress in dealing with the imminent release of Broadband over Powerlines in North Carolina. Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, is here with more:

Progress Energy fulfilled their promise to North Carolina Amateur Radio operators and invited several Raleigh area hams to observe their new Phase II BPL trial in a rural subdivision south of the city on January 15th.

BPL - Broadband over Power Lines - is a system for delivering high speed Internet through neighborhoods and into homes and businesses via the power lines. The technology places radio frequency signals on the power lines in parts of the spectrum between 2 and 80 MHz. Those signals radiate to some extent, and can cause interference to a receiver in the vicinity of the power lines. Naturally this has become cause for great concern among hams worldwide.

In Raleigh, three ham radio operators met with engineers for both Progress Energy and Amperion, the equipment manufacturer. Two of the Progress Energy engineers were also hams.

The BPL trial consisted of a half-mile of overhead feeder along a highway, and a few dozen homes passed by buried power lines. A "repeater" amplified the signal about every other block.

We were particularly interested in the spectrum used. We learned that each run of BPL, from repeater to repeater, uses two blocks of spectrum, 2.5 and 3.5 MHz wide. At each repeater, a different block of spectrum is required.

The overhead feeder segment in this trial used spectrum blocks around 25 and 29 MHz. We listened with mobile equipment driving on the road adjacent to the power line, and received S-9 signals in the immediate vicinity of the line that sounded like this when tuning across the 10 meter band: (An audio clip of BPL signal was played in the audio version of this broadcast.)

The signal fell off quickly when driving away from the line, but a ham at a home station almost a mile away heard the 10-meter BPL signal about S-6 using an 80-meter dipole antenna.

Amperion says a Network Operation Center can move any repeater to another block of spectrum, or notch part of a block by remote control, to eliminate interference, but they were unable to demonstrate that for our test.

Even with that flexibility, fitting 3.5 MHz wide blocks of energy in between ham bands would be a delicate jigsaw puzzle. That much "empty" spectrum exists only between the 30, 20 and 17-meter bands, and it's empty only from the perspective of Amateur Radio.

Skip could completely upset the equation. BPL signals, which are similar to very low power QRP Amateur signals, could reflect off the ionosphere and appear hundreds or thousands of miles away. The energy of one isolated trial area might not have much impact, but a mature nationwide system with hundreds or even thousands of installations using the same spectrum blocks could be a very different story.

Yet to come in BPL is a comprehensive report from the NTIA; an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for changes in Part 15, based on last year's Notice of Inquiry; and a decision by your local utility about getting involved in BPL.

Reporting for Newline, this is Gary Pearce KN4AQ in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The hams at the test included Wake County ARES EC Tom Brown, N4TAB, Technical Specialist Frank Lynch, W4FAL, and reporter Gary Pearce, KN4AQ. (ARNewsline(tm))

### **Restructuring: Hams React to the ARRL No-Code Proposal**

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1381 - Jan 30, 2004:

Hams are starting to react to the recent ARRL proposal to restructure the United States Amateur Radio service, and not surprising the comments are as diverse as the community itself. Amateur Radio Newline's David Black, KB4KCH, is at our South-East Bureau with this part of the story:

If you listen to the ham bands and check out the comments on the [qrz.com](http://qrz.com) website, it appears that most amateur radio operators have a somewhat sedate response to the ARRL's restructuring proposal. While some activists make their opposition quite vocal, the majority of comments so far seem to accept the League's initiative, though some do express reservations.

"I can live with this" is how some comments go. Others more strongly support the League by saying, "right on, ARRL." The biggest concern most express centers around the ability to monitor the airwaves for rules compliance if explosive growth results. As one operator on 15 meters says, "If we get a million new hams, will the FCC give us 500 more Riley Hollingsworth's to keep them in line?" Hollingsworth handles amateur radio enforcement matters for the Commission.

Some operators say the League's proposal will wind up dumbing down amateur radio. Some even claim to have resigned their ARRL membership, though so far, no proof of that has surfaced. Vehement opponents of restructuring may in fact terminate their League memberships, but the number is not expected to be significant.

Restructuring is not a done deal. Announcement of the League's proposal is only the start. The League will formally request that the FCC make a rules change. Once the Commission receives that request, it will be up to the FCC to decide whether or not it will consider the League proposal put it out for public comment. Chances are that it will. Once the proposal is assigned a rule making designation, you will have a chance to make your opinion known.

Comments are likely to come from the general public, the business community and any special interest groups as well as those who hold an FCC assigned call sign.

Stay tuned - the story's just beginning.

From the South-East Bureau in Birmingham Alabama, I'm David Black, KB4KCH, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newline.

Unless the FCC decides to place the ARRL request on a separate fast-track, you can expect the agency's first action to be putting it out for initial comment sometime in the next several weeks. (ARNewsline (tm))

## The ARRL on the ARRL Restructuring Proposal

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1381 - Jan 30, 2004:

The ARRL is now explaining why it has decided to ask the FCC to restructure the United States Amateur Radio Service, and the words are coming straight from the top. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, caught up with ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, by phone and got some insight into why the ARRL Board acted as it did:

With the American Radio Relay League's imminent filing with the FCC of its proposal for a new, no-code HF entry level license, the debate is certain to heat up.

ARRL President Jim Haynie W5JBP acknowledges the league's proposal will generate some controversy. But he says months of research, surveys and lots of internal debate went into crafting the revival of a Novice-class license.

Yes, Haynie confides, the ARRL's directors and Haynie himself were pressing the flesh - so to speak - for months gathering input from the amateur community. Directors also were conducting informal surveys among ARRL members. And, he says, a professional research company was hired by the league to survey hams about the state of the hobby.

Haynie says the research company's findings were pretty sobering and bolstered the ARRL board's drive for license reform.

"For example, 53 percent, if my memory serves me correct, today of all amateurs now are 55 years or older," Haynie says. "And this is growing at an exponential rate, it's not linear. And this is a very disturbing thought."

He says the results also revealed something the ARRL suspected for some time.

"There's people getting licenses and they're getting involved in what we call, or what I call '2 meter ghettos' and they have no place else to go so they lose interest after about a year or six months or whatever," Haynie explains. "So you've got 200,000 or 300,000 Technician licenses out there who say 'I've tried' and they did and they didn't like it."

Haynie says it became clear one way to recapture the magic of the hobby lay in the experiences many long-time hams had when they first entered amateur radio.

"We went back and thought about, okay, how did it used to work and what was successful about it? And the old Novice class license was extremely successful, I think. And, we said, 'Well, okay then we have to go back to some form of that.' "

Last year's World Radiocommunications Conference laid the ground work for countries to decide for themselves what to do about CW and licensing. But Haynie says the WRC '03 decision played a small role in the ARRL's deliberations.

"Morse Code is certainly tradition, I don't deny that," Haynie says. "And I think it's a neat ability. It's a skill. It has nothing to do with intelligence."

Haynie says he and other directors have heard some argue: 'Hey, I had to pass a code test, why shouldn't everyone else.' Haynie says that's like saying I'd like to play golf like Tiger Woods and coming to the realization that's probably not going to happen because you simply don't possess the skills - even with lots of practice. The same logic, he says, applies to CW. For many hams, he says, it's simply not their bag.

Haynie says the ARRL's proposal preserves CW for one license class, yet opens the doors to the world of HF for those who couldn't learn and master Morse Code to pass even a 5-words-per-minute test.

"People, they realize, they've come to grips: We are getting older. And we're not getting the people into Amateur Radio," Haynie says.

"And the amateur community realizes that we've gotta do something. And, I don't say that the league's proposal is perfect. Neither does any of the directors or officers of the league say that. But it was the best that we could come up with that still preserved the Morse Code tradition for the Extra class exam, and yet, gave you the taste of the old Novice that I used to have 30-something years ago."

Haynie says he's confident, based on his experience with the FCC, that the agency will look favorably on the ARRL license proposal.

"I have a gut feeling that they will take a majority of it, at least I think they will. They'll probably fine tune it, they'll tweak it some because that's typical of the federal government," Haynie says.

"But on the other hand, I know, I know that they want to simplify the Amateur Radio Service. They want three classes of licenses. They want to reduce their workload and continue to do what they like to do and amateur radio take care of itself."

And how long does Haynie think it will take the FCC to act and make any changes to the Amateur Radio license structure? He says don't expect a decision anytime soon.

"I don't see anything happening on any of the petitions, including the league's, probably 'til late 2005," Haynie concludes.

Haynie says his email and phone have been busy since the board's vote two weeks ago. He says he's comfortable with the license proposal and is prepared to support and defend it.

Haynie says he had the chance to do so earlier this week before his hometown radio club in Garland, Texas. He says after explaining the league's rationale to the group, those willing to listen asked lots of questions. Haynie says he felt by the time it was over, many appreciated the league's work on behalf of the hobby.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz NT3V in Philadelphia. (ARNewsline(tm))

## **Radio Law: Congress May Raise Indecency and Obscenity Fines**

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1381 - Jan 30, 2004:

Using obscene and indecent language on the airwaves may soon get very expensive. This as congress considers raising the stakes for those who insist on talking dirty on the radio. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has the details:

United States Representative Fred Upton of Michigan introduced congressional legislation to up the maximum fine for an indecent broadcast from \$27,500 to \$275,000. Under the Upton sponsored measure the maximum fine for a continuing violation would be raised from \$300,000 to \$3 million.

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

Commissioner Powell believes that once broadcasters start to feel the pinch where in their wallets they will start to think twice about transmitting indecency on the airwaves. (Published news reports)

### **Our Golden Past: Carl & Jerry "Live" Again**

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1381 - Jan 30, 2004:

Its time for a trip back to the 1950's. To a kinder and gentler Amateur Radio. Our tour guide for this journey is Bruce Tennant, K6PZW:

Remember the names Carl and Jerry? Well if you were playing with ham radio in the 1950's and 1960's you are well aware that these are the first names of the two fictitious teenage electronic whizzes. Characters created by the late John T. Frye, W9EGV, for his long-running magazine series of the same name.

The Carl and Jerry stories appeared in Popular Electronics from October 1954 through December 1964. They told of the adventures of two perennial teenage boys who shared a special bond because of their shared love of music, electronics and radio. Now, many of these stories are again available to read to enjoy thanks to a new spot on the world-wide-web. Better yet, they are the kind of stuff you may want to read to your grandkids, especially if they have the same wonderment as you when you were their age.

Where are they and how do you these Pop Com classics? That's easy. Just follow to link you will find in this weeks print edition of this Amateur Radio Newsline report. And good news for our sight impaired listeners. Word is that the print works well with most devices to help the blind to read as well.

Traveling back in time for the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, enjoying the past.

So far there are only 21 of the stories in the servers on the web, but enough to keep you glued to your computer screen for several hours. They are there to read at <http://home.gwi.net/~jdeb主/pe/cj/cnjindex.htm>. (ARNewsline(tm))

### **Seminars: Comm Academy in Washington in March**

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1382 - Feb 6, 2004:

The sixth annual Communications Academy set for

March 20th and 21st at the Shoreline Conference Center, in Shoreline, Washington just north of Seattle. This year's theme is *Interoperability and the Expanding Role of Amateur Radio Communications*. The keynote speaker is retired Police Chief Gerald W. Boyd, KW7J. Boyd is the author of five books including three on amateur radio emergency communications. You can find out more in cyberspace at [www.commacademy.org](http://www.commacademy.org). (Press release)

### **The BPL Fight: PA Hams Organize Against Allentown Rollout**

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1383 - Feb 13, 2004:

BPL is coming to an area near Allentown Pennsylvania and that regions ham radio community is doing all it can to stop it. Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has the details:

The ham behind the effort is Eric Olena, WB3FPL, the ARRL Section Manager for Eastern Pennsylvania. The company behind the campaign to expand Broadband Over Power Lines is PPL Telcom, a subsidiary of PPL - the Allentown-based electric utility company which serves northeastern and central Pennsylvania.

PPL has been testing BPL - high-speed internet over powerlines - in Emmaus and Whitehall Township in Lehigh County for the past two years.

Recently, the Hanover Township supervisors in Northampton County, outside of Bethlehem, approved PPL's plan to offer BPL to some 2,000 residents.

But not before Mark Miller, AK3M, ARRL EPA District Emergency Coordinator in the Bethlehem area, got on the public record. Miller and Blair Bates, K3YD, learned about PPL's plans in a local newspaper article just one week before the supervisors were scheduled to vote.

Bates says they went to the supervisors meeting and nearly got bypassed.

"I had to kind of kind of jump up and request courtesy of the floor or they would have simply steamrolled the approval through without any discussion," Bates recalls.

After making their pitch about BPL interference, Bates says the supervisors politely turned to the PPL representative also at the meeting.

"He essentially discounted everything that Mark and I had said," Bates recalls. "He said that there would be no impact and this was just the most wonderful thing that PP&L could do for the community."

Bates says the pair was stunned they were ignored and began mobilizing efforts to let people know what happened. Enter Olena, WB3FPL.

Olena sent out email alerts and has been contacting clubs and individual hams throughout the region urging them to send emails and letters of protest to state regulatory agencies. He also is encouraging opening a dialogue with their own local representatives.

"Make some effort and contact some local officials and see that they get some input as to the negative side of

BPL rather than being faced with a company that only gives them one side of the story," Olena says.

The reason: It may not be in your back yard now, but it could be there a lot sooner than you think.

"With all the other business that local officials have to concern themselves with, they are presented with a program and there aren't a whole lot of voices speaking up and telling the reverse side of that story," Olena says. "And, consequently, I feel it's up to the hams who have a lot of information on that score to present them with some of the negative side so that they don't jump too far in advance of making a proper decision."

Bates says one ham in PPL's Hanover Township project has across-the-board interference on 10 meters. While Bates says it's good to let local and state officials know what's up, he thinks the agency which has the teeth to address it is the Federal Communications Commission.

"The real letter of complaint should be going to the FCC," Bates says. "I mean here we have a case of an unlicensed service which is interfering to the point of jamming a licensed radio service."

Olena says it goes beyond the ham bands. Olena is a retired state trooper and a retired assistant communications director for Berks County, PA.

"I'm hoping to get into contact with the PEMA officials and issue a letter telling our side of the BPL issue and also contacting our representatives from the Association of Public Safety Communications officers - which is basically the 911 directors - and see that they know the negative side of BPL and their frequencies also might be in danger depending on what they use," Olena says.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz NT3V, in Philadelphia. (ARNewsline (tm))

### Minutes of the PARS General Meeting, 15 January 2004

The members met at the Bellevue Senior Center, with 6 members. The meeting began at 7:13 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former PARS member Kirk Bellar, now the ARES/RACES King County District Emergency Coordinator and RACES Regional Coordinator, gave an interesting talk about ARES and RACES.

#### 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.

The business meeting began at 8:38 PM. We welcomed a new member: Edna Rideout, KA7HNN. Also attending were Dick Schwanke W9HXM, Van Kichline KD7QIT, Doug Bell KD7KKR, Kirk Bellar N7UK, Don Hickman WF7Z, Charles Beckmeier W7CEB.

**Minutes:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as published in Sparks.

**Treasurer's report:** Van had good news to those who wondered why their checks for PARS membership hadn't cleared. He discovered that he had forgotten to deposit the membership checks he received last year, so he volunteered to pay for those memberships himself. He will be shredding the checks.

**Mike & Key Swap Meet:** Doug explained that we needed to send in the form to reserve selling tables, and we needed to decide whether we need two tables this year.

It was decided to get two tables, which includes two sellers, and an additional helper. Doug, Charles, and Van plan to go down on Friday. Don will come Saturday, and pay his own way. Van will write the check and send in the form.

Kirk mentioned that his company often gets rid of lots of stuff that Kirk would be happy to donate to the club: computers, UPSes, some equipment containing RF components, and 12V lead-acid and NiMH batteries. His company is in Issaquah. Don volunteered to travel to Issaquah if necessary to pick up stuff for the club. Kirk volunteered to drop stuff off at our trailer.

**Trailer report:** We have leaks in the trailer - one near the door, and one near the microfiche reader. It was decided to put a tarp over the trailer until we figure out how to fix it. Van has a ladder that fits in his car.

Van proposed that we should make a list of things that need to be done on the trailer. Don mentioned a problem on the southeast corner, a problem with the battery box, and a couple of other things.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 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. Contact 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 email to Doug at [kd7kkr@arrl.net](mailto:kd7kkr@arrl.net).

Send all other club-related correspondence to PARS, PO Box 32, Kirkland, WA 98083-0032.