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# SPARKS

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Vol. 20, No. 3

Puget Amateur Radio Society

March 2004

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## This Month's General Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 18 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.

Charles cannot be at the meeting this Thursday, and hasn't been able to find a speaker. "Having to take care of personal business. Sorry about this inconvenience. I hope Don can chair the meeting."

Van: Let's make the meeting a brain-storming session about what to do for future programs, what we'd like to wish for in a new repeater, what contests or certificates we'd like to pursue as a club, what kinds of door prizes would be nice, what kinds of projects we'd like to cooperate on, etc., etc., etc. We do this at board meetings, but some additional input wouldn't hurt a bit.

As usual we supply coffee, juice and cookies. We hope to see you there.

## Happy birthday to you!

Feb 17	John Heflin	KD7E
Mar 26	Doug Bell	KD7KKR
Apr 1	Tim Monk	KD7DEY
Apr 4	Chuck Graff	N7CHV

## 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 Newslines(tm) (abbreviated ARNewslines). You can sign up to receive the weekly Amateur Radio Newslines at [www.arnewslines.org](http://www.arnewslines.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.

## The PARS Repeater Has Lost its Home!

We've been informed that the host of our PARS repeater needs the space on their tower for antennas, and has shut down our repeater and removed the antenna. What's more, they think they own the repeater, though we have a memory of it having been donated to the club. They agree we own the new controller, however, so we

shouldn't have any trouble recovering that. We're still rummaging through our PARS records trying to find the donation letter so that we'll end up with more than just our controller.

## New Quarterly Ham Newsletter

I recently received an email notice of the premiere issue of **KF6VSG's HamPost Newsletter**, which is distributed via the World Wide Web.

Topics in the issue:

- Setting up a PSK31 station
- Optimizing your PSK31 signal
- Radio basics - Resonance
- Understanding path loss and signal to noise ratio

Free Software:

- Resonance Calculator
- Propagation Calculator

"HamPost is a new and exciting quarterly email newsletter written for hams by hams. The newsletter is in Adobe Acrobat format. The file is compressed (zipped) to reduce the download size."

If you'd like to subscribe, the website is:

[www.softsci.com/hamradio/](http://www.softsci.com/hamradio/)

## Using the ARRL 7th Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau?

Are you an amateur radio operator who is not a current user of the ARRL 7th Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau, operated under the auspices of the Willamette Valley DX Club?

The 7th Call Area QSL bureau is open to all amateurs with a "7" call (e.g., W7, K7 AK7, etc., but excluding Alaska or Hawaii calls), regardless of operator class. You do not have to be an ARRL member.

We currently have thousands of cards for hundreds of 7th call area amateurs in our deadfiles because no SASE's (self-addressed stamped envelopes) are on file or there is no established credit with the bureau. Reasonable contact attempts are made using email addresses from QRZ and Buckmaster (and in some cases through postcards), but many of these email addresses are not current and bounce.

If you are not a current bureau user, but have had contacts with amateurs outside the US, you may have cards in our deadfiles. Due to the high costs of mailing, most foreign amateurs accumulate and forward their cards in bulk to the ARRL HQ for redistribution or direct to the various US QSL bureaus.

**Next general meeting** - Thursday, March 18 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, April 1 at 7:00 PM at the Cowboy Steakhouse, located on the east side of the Totem Lake Mall in back of the Bank of America Bldg. Take the 124th St. exit off of I-405 and go east to the first street with a left turn lane. Turn left, cross the railroad tracks, continue to the next light, turn right at the bank, go one block and take a right. All PARS members are welcome.

To claim foreign QSL cards (including from Canada) see the instructions and forms at [www.qsl.net/wvdx](http://www.qsl.net/wvdx). No Internet capability? Follow the basic rule - keep at least two 6x9 or 5x7 SASE's on file with:

ARRL 7th Area QSL Bureau  
PO Box 555  
Portland, OR 97207-0555

Have Internet capability and want to know the status of your account or if you have cards in the deadfile? A list of the current bureau sorters, by alphabet letter, is at [www.wvdx.org](http://www.wvdx.org) under the "W7 QSL Bureau" button. Most volunteers have email addresses and can give you the status of your account.

Please note - ARRL rules allow for the disposal of deadfile cards 90 days after reasonable efforts have been made to contact the affected amateur. Each sorter only has limited space for storing deadfile cards.

We don't want to dispose of any cards that might be yours, so please, always keep at least one SASE on file with the bureau.

Thanks,

Ken, K7IFG, Manager  
ARRL 7th Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau

### **The BPL Fight: ARRL Reacts to FCC NPRM**

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1384 - February 20, 2004: The ARRL and many others in ham radio are not happy with last weeks FCC decision to proceed with further implementation of Broadband Over Powerline, and they are making their position known. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has been following developments and has more in this report:

To say American Radio Relay League President Jim Haynie W5JBP was disappointed with the FCC's decision to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Broadband Over Powerlines might be an understatement.

Haynie sat in on the FCC's Feb. 12 meeting in Washington, D.C. and admits he was dumbfounded when many of the commissioners expressed excitement about the possibilities of BPL, ignoring interference concerns expressed by their technical staff.

"To have Commissioner (Kathleen) Abernathy come out in her initial speech that blew us away and her unbounded enthusiasm and then turn around at the hearing I attended and listen to Commissioner (Jonathan) Adelstein allude to unsubstantiated reports of interference and I was livid," Haynie says.

Haynie says the commissioners look more like cheerleaders for, than regulators of, the communications industry.

"It just seems to me though that the commission has gone from a regulatory agency to a Chamber of Commerce," Haynie says. "Their eagerness to implement this prior to the NTIA study rollout, which they actually have a letter from a congressman asking them to wait, seemed to me it was put on the fast track

and try to beat the NTIA results."

Haynie says lots of what he heard about what's supposed to be in the NPRM does not bode well for amateur radio. But he says there are some burdens on the electric utilities.

"They put a lot of constraints on the BPL industry," Haynie explains. "They have to react in real time, they have to be frequency agile. They have to have public web sites, they've got to have somebody on duty 24-7 to mitigate complaints of interference."

Ah, yes, interference. BPL proponents claim hams don't know what they're talking about.

"I've heard reports of some of the BPL industry spokesman who flat deny that there's a problem," Haynie says. "There never has been a problem, there can't be a problem. "In several interviews I've done with the regular press it was: 'Okay, go down a buy you a short-wave receiver at Radio Shack. Go down there and listen to it for yourself. I don't have to give you all these engineering data, you can hear it for yourself.'

"The utilities, they are being hand-held very carefully by the BPL industry and being told: 'There's not a problem, there's not a problem.' "

Haynie says profit for the equipment manufacturers and the utilities is clearly the motive for BPL.

"Any CEO worth his salt who's running a power company is going to try to figure out more ways to get investment return for his investors," Haynie says. "He's got a grid there and if these salesmen come in and tell him: 'Well look, you know, we can bring you in an extra million dollars a day or million dollars a week for your power grid and it's not going to cost you anything other than just put these little devices on every quarter mile.' Why not?"

But Haynie says a recent Carnegie Mellon University study of the BPL business model identifies pitfalls.

"It would take 17 years for the recovery of the initial investment," Haynie says. "And that puzzled me until I read the article and it said because broadband is dropping, DSL dial-up is getting cheaper every month.

"Deals are coming out, Verizon's fixin' to come out with some more stuff. The old thing \$30 a month is going to be high. And that's what BPL wants right now, \$30 for a residential, \$50 for a business."

Haynie accuses proponents of deception proponents in "selling" the concept. He says the claim it will finally connect rural areas of the country to high-speed internet access is, well, hogwash!

"We know that what the BPL industry wants to do is pick the low-hanging fruit, the high-density population areas," Haynie says. "But that's the selling point they're using on the (Capitol) Hill. And that's the selling point they use with the commission. I heard Chairman (Michael) Powell say that himself along with several of the other commissioners.

"They have been sold this bill of goods. And if

anybody would stop and think about it, if it was such a good deal to serve five customers in a four-square-mile area, the DSL and the cable people would be doing it now."

Haynie says he's seen and heard criticism of ARRL, much of it declaring the League hasn't done enough to address the BPL threat.

"Let me assure you, we have done a lot, and we have talked to a lot of our potential allies," Haynie says. "We've had one, in-face meeting in Washington. We do constant e-mails back and forth.

"But I am not going to, and the League is not going to, reveal all the things we're working on because that would be ridiculous to show the hand to the industry. Let them figure out what we're up to."

What can you do and where do Haynie and the League see this going? Tune in next week for part two of our interview with Jim Haynie W5JBP.

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

Can radio services including ham radio survive with the level of interference that many experts say BPL will create? We will look into this in future reports. (ARNewsline (tm))

### **Road Radio Safety: Study Finds Lots of In-Car Distractions**

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1384 - February 20, 2004: Drivers are distracted 16.1 percent of the time their vehicles were moving and cellphones nor two-way radio is not the main culprit. This, according to a study conducted by the auto club and researchers at the University of North Carolina.

The investigation tracked 70 drivers from North Carolina and Pennsylvania. It found that Cellular telephones were not the major distraction. In fact only 30 percent of the subjects used a cell phone while their vehicle was moving compared with 97 percent who leaned over to reach for something and 91 percent who fiddled with the controls on their car's entertainment system.

The study found all drivers fiddle with their radios or engage in other distracting behavior. This, even when they're being watched as part of a study on distracted drivers. (Science OnLine)

### **Ham Radio in Space: AMSAT Says it Needs \$110,000 to Launch Echo**

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1384 - February 20, 2004: AMSAT says that it urgently needs to raise \$110,000 to help defray the launch of the Echo ham radio satellite. The bird is scheduled to ride into orbit thus coming June 29th, and the money has to be raided well before that date.

AMSAT like Amateur Radio Newsline is a federally recognized tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization, and your donation should be tax deductible in the United States. Information on how to support the Echo launch and

other ham radio in space projects is on the web at [www.amsat.org](http://www.amsat.org) (AMSAT-NA)

### **The BPL Fight: What Hams Can Do**

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1385 - February 27, 2004: The story that refuses to go away has yet some new twists. Of course we are referring to the imminent introduction of Broadband Over Powerline Internet access, and the massive interference that ham radio operators believe it will create. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, is here with the latest:

Now that the FCC has released the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Broadband Over Powerlines issue, it's time for amateurs to look it over, digest it and begin composing a well-reasoned letter or e-mail.

So says Jim Haynie W5JBP the American Radio League's president. Here are some things in the filing you might consider.

"Noise levels, potential interference both ingress and egress. Those are things that need to be addressed," Haynie says. "Public relations: What's going to happen when you get on the air on 20 meters and you knock 10 of your neighbors off line all of sudden? They call the local power company, it's a public relations nightmare."

Haynie says once you decide to write that letter, keep in mind it has to be supported with facts.

"I don't see much water being drawn if somebody writes a letter and says, 'Well, this is good for this and it's good for that and it's going to interfere with my ham radio hobby and stuff.' I never, ever use the word hobby to anybody in the Washington. It's the Amateur Radio Service," Haynie says.

"And what you've got to do is use a little bit more fact, a little bit more of concrete-type evidence that you can conclude on your own. And that's pretty simple to do. It's got to be well-reasoned arguments. It can't be emotional argument."

And, once you've finished the letter or e-mail, Haynie says make a copy or print a copy of what you've prepared.

"Put it in an envelope with your QSL card and send it into your local representative at his district office, not in Washington but his district office," Haynie advises. "I'm just amazed how much power that letter has to your local congressman and your local senator when you mail it to one of his local district offices."

Haynie continues to express disappointment the FCC failed to wait for a report from the National Telecommunications Information Agency. The agency oversees radio spectrum use by government agencies and services, including the military. He says its technicians have been busy at BPL trial sites across the country.

"We know that they've done over 18,000 measurements over the last four months in the various (BPL) test areas," Haynie says. "We have gotten actually photographs of their trucks, we've seen them working hard at it. And that's what surprised me that the

commission rolled this out before the information was made available.

"We were told by NTIA that it would be available the first part of this year. Now in government-speak, I don't know what that means. I know we got, the League's got petitions sitting up in the commission now since I took office as president in 2000. It is 2004 and they're still sitting on somebody's desk.

"So, FCC and NTIA, I'm sure, have their own timetables and they're not going to worry about what the ARRL or what some ham radio operators think about it. They're going to do their own work in the own way in their own time."

Haynie hopes the NTIA finishes its work soon and gets its report to the FCC pronto. He says it's clear BPL is targeted for special FCC attention.

"I think they'll put this on the fastest of fast tracks and get something going," Haynie says. "Typically, the window, the comment window will be 45-60 days. I'd be really surprised if they gave it 90 days.

"And, once that's done they start the wheels in motion and they'll (FCC) be under tremendous pressure from industry to get this thing out the door."

Haynie says the amateur radio service has allies in this fight and he's confident they will submit comments or speak to their congressmen or senators. Haynie says he's both cautious and optimistic about the outcome.

"I'm very concerned because I've seen the speed at which this thing has happened," Haynie says. "And I've seen the comments that the commission has made and I've seen the denials that the industry has made.

"And it just doesn't make sense. There's something more behind this. And I know people are going to say it's the almighty dollar. And that's true, it probably is. You're looking at millions and millions and millions of dollars of investment here.

"But there's something that just doesn't smell right, I guess, is what I'm trying to say. So, until I get a better handle and the League - our staff people get a better handle on where this is going and trust me we're on top of it every day - I'm just going to be to on the little plus side of a little cautious."

And finally, Haynie says to those who think the ARRL and other hams are overreacting like Chicken Little who cried out: The sky is falling! The sky is falling! He has these sobering thoughts.

"Just because we want, doesn't mean that we get our way. And I'm concerned about that," Haynie says. "And I'm concerned about another possibility that's probably the horror of all horrors.

"And that is if the (BPL) rollout is so big and you get tens of hundreds of thousands of people on, suddenly amateur radio relegates down to the same level as Part 15. That would be the most horrible thing that could happen to amateur radio."

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark

Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

To read or download the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking from the FCC on Broadband over Powerlines, you can find it on the FCC's website: [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov). And, to learn more about the ARRL's position, go to [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org). (ARNewsline(tm))

### **The ARRL is Looking for Comments on VHF+ Contesting**

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1385 - February 27, 2004: The ARRL is looking for input from VHF and UHF contesters to help improve the radiosporting events they take part in. According to a posting to the VHF Reflector by New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, for the last year or so the League has been studying ways to increase interest and participation in VHF and above contests and awards. Now its ready to go further and it is inviting the ham community to take part. We have more in this report:

Tom Frenaye, K1KI, heads up the ARRL's VHF-UHF Contest and Awards Subcommittee. He says that changes to the contest rules and awards programs should be designed to do three things. First, to encourage more people to work more other people. Second, to bolster the number of QSO's made over longer distances. And lastly, to encourage more people to just join in and participate.

Because of this, there are now some recommendations coming from those in the ARRL who have studied the situation. These include making changes in the QSO points and rover rules. Also under consideration is limiting the June VHF QSO Party to the bands from 50 to 1296 MHz only, expanding the Microwave contest based on 10 GHz Cumulative and dropping the current UHF contest. Added would be new contest categories in January, June and September.

Frenaye notes that these major recommendations, and a number of minor ones, are still just that - recommendations. He says that the ARRL feels it is now very important to have further input from the VHF and above contest community before proceeding. He asks all contesters interested in these bands to take an in-depth look at the proposed changes and then to respond. He hopes that a lot of you will.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP, reporting.

You can e-mail your ideas and comments on or before March 7th to [vhf-contest-proposal@arrl.org](mailto:vhf-contest-proposal@arrl.org). (K1KI via VHF Reflector)

### **CW Savvy: A Morse Code Symbol for the "At Sign"**

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1385 - February 27, 2004: Computer fanatics who also like operating CW listen up. Radio Currents Online for February 16th says that the International Morse Code is being updated to include a new character for the "at sign". In December, the International Telecommunications Union voted to create the character which will be known as a commat. The commat is made up of dot-dash for the letter A and

dash-dot-dash-dot which we all know is the letter C. The two characters are combined with no space between them giving Morse code web surfers an easy way to send an e-mail address or the location of a webpage. (CGC)

### **Radio Law: The FCC Says it is Time for Low Power Broadcast Radio**

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1386 - March 5, 2004: The FCC says that Congress should lift the restrictions it has placed on the introduction of low power FM broadcast stations. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, is here with the rest of the story:

In a February 20th statement, the FCC said that its inquiry shows that low power FM stations serving highly specific audiences in small areas do not interfere with the operations of large broadcasters. Also, that they will not keep audiences from hearing the higher power commercial stations as the industry claims.

When the FCC first suggested creating the low power or community radio option, commercial broadcasters and public radio stations complained. They argued that low power stations would interfere with reception of their signals. Congress responded by setting what amounted to an R-F no-man's land between the low power stations and existing broadcasters. This severely limited the number of tiny stations that the Commission could license.

Lawmakers also told the FCC to study the potential for interference. The agency spent several years doing just that. It has now concluded that stations running between 10 and 100 watts pose little risk to commercial stations whose power levels can be upward of 100,000 watts effective radiated.

Currently, there are about 300 low powered F-M stations on the air. Most are licensed to churches, school districts, youth organizations, highway departments, environmentalists and the like. By comparison, the nation's largest commercial broadcast radio chain, Clear Channel Communications owns 1,200 stations so far.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

A spokesman for the National Association of Broadcasters termed the FCC report as flawed. (FCC)

### **Worldbeat - Belgium: Hacker Gal Arrested**

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1386 - March 5, 2004: A Belgian computer hacker who has made an international name for herself as a woman in a male-dominated activity is facing criminal charges. Belgian police have arrested the 19-year-old technology student, confiscated her five computers and shut down her Web site.

A Belgian newspaper says that the woman, identified only by her nickname, Gigabyte was charged with computer data sabotage. Police tell the paper she was preparing to publish new viruses on her Website when she was taken into custody. If convicted, Gigabyte

faces up to three years in prison and \$127,000 in fines. (Computing)

### **The Origin of Electronic Spam**

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1386 - March 5, 2004: And finally this week, a brief lesson on something we dread every time we check our e-mail. You know what it is. Unwanted junk e-mail that people have come to call Spam. Ever wonder why? Here's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, with some details that probably very few people know:

We all know that Spam is the trade name of a canned meat product. At least I suspect that most of you do. But have you ever wondered where the phrase "spam" in relation to unsolicited junk e-mail came from. Well, blame it on the computer nerds who were fans of one of the worlds greatest comedy ensembles.

It seems that the term began being applied to junk electronic mail in the early 1990's by computer geeks. It was based on a 1970 Monty Python skit in which an exasperated restaurant customer is urged to order the meat until she screams: "Stop it already. I don't want any Spam!"

And that was it. And now you do know the rest of the story.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the City of Angels.

To which I'll add the rhetorical question: How many of us open our e-mail boxes each day and want yell the same thing? (Tnx to Q-News, CGC, others who sent this item along.)

### **Radio Law: Automatic Responsibility For All Hams**

From ARNewsline(tm) Report 1387 - March 12, 2004: The FCC says no Amateur Radio stations are exempt from the requirement to avoid unnecessarily interference with ongoing communications. This includes automated operations. Amateur Radio Newsline's Rick Johnson, KA9VZD, is in Antioch Illinois with rest of the story:

According to the ARRL Letter, FCC rules enforcer Riley Hollingsworth says that it is important for all stations, including automated ones, to realize that they are responsible for any interference caused when they come on top of existing communications. Hollingsworth told the ARRL Letter that an amateur had written to him alleging that what appeared to be automated PACTOR stations that were routinely starting to transmit atop PSK31 QSO's on 40 and 30 meters.

In response, Hollingsworth noted that there are no exemptions for automated stations. Rather that the Amateur Service rules address interference with other communications. The rules say that no amateur operator shall willfully or maliciously interfere with or cause interference to any other radio communication or signal.

The amateur who filed the complaint reportedly also contacted one of the PACTOR stations in an effort to develop a dialogue to solve the problem. Hollingsworth expressed the hope that all involved in the PACTOR versus PSK 31 problem can work things out. He also

points out that stations responding to automated interrogations are equally responsible for not causing interference to existing communications.

For the Amateur Radio Newline, I'm Rick Johnson, KA9VZD, near Chicago.

Hollingsworth also issued advisory letters to three hams who operate automated stations to remind them of the rules. (FCC, ARRL Letter)

### **Internet Scams: ARRL and RAC E-Mail Being Spoofed**

From ARNewline(tm) Report 1387 - March 12, 2004: The ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada are warning their members and others about bogus or spoofed messages carrying ARRL.net or rac.ca suffixes. Both organizations say that they have been notified by people who have received e-mail messages alleging to be from the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service or directly from Radio Amateurs of Canada.

The senders of the e-mail encourage you to open the file or an attachment to the e-mail. Don't do it. These messages are false and are the result of one of the variants on a number of viruses now permeating the Internet. The attached file contains variations of worm viruses, MyDoom, Bagle and Netsky. Opening the file could result in your computer being infected. The bottom line: Delete the message and forget you ever got it. Your computer will be a lot safer that way. (ARRL, RAC)

### **Minutes of the PARS General Meeting, 19 February 2004**

The members met at the Bellevue Senior Center, with 6 members. The meeting began at 7:02 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Attending were Don Hickman WF7Z, Edna Rideout KA7HNN, Dick Schwanke W9HXM, Van Kichline KD7QIT, Doug Bell KD7KKR, Charles Beckmeier W7CEB.

Van gave an interesting demonstration of APRS using his HT and other portable gadgets. The APRS frequency on 2 meters is 144.39 MHz. He also demonstrated how someone can locate you via the World Wide Web using [www.findu.com](http://www.findu.com).

Don won the door prize, an atomic wall clock.

The business meeting began about 8 PM.

#### 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.

**Minutes:** We forgot to approve the minutes.

**Old Business:** The Ham of the Year award was officially presented to Van Kichline.

**Mike & Key ARC Swap Meet:** Doug needs to look for the reply from Mike & Key.

Van has a vintage AT&T Unix PC with a full set of Unix manuals to donate to the swap meet.

The work party for cleaning up this year's donations will be Sun. Feb 29, 1 PM at Doug's house.

Charles, Van and Doug will be going down Friday to set up our table at the swap meet. Doug is hoping to drive, but might need a ride. Meet at Doug's house at 10 AM on Friday to load Charles' trailer.

The next Board meeting will be at Charles' house, rather than at the steak house as listed in Sparks.

**Trailer report:** Van, Doug and Charles temporarily repaired the trailer by covering the roof with a tarp. Dick reported that the trailer has been dry the last couple of times he's been there.

**New business:** PARS member Al Staples passed away last month. His brother, Wilbur Staples, also a PARS member, passed away several months before that. Charles entertained a motion that the club donate an amount to ARRL in memory of the Staples brothers.

It was decided to wait until next month's meeting which will be after the Mike & Key ARC swap meet so we will have a better idea of how much we can donate.

Van mentioned the Mary Lew Brown fund. She was an ARRL official, and gave a presentation at a PARS meeting some years ago. She died recently, and the fund was started in her memory. Van will research more about this fund. Don mentioned Van should call Mary Lewis, Harry's wife.

**For the good of the order:** Van mentioned we've been using the PARS repeater a bit more lately. Van had downloaded the manual, which is immense, but hadn't had a chance to read it.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 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.