

# Puget Amateur Radio Society

## *SPARKS*

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**Vice-President: Bob Adams KJ7BP 454-0506**  
**Secretary: Jim Von Seggern KC7FEH 885-7333**  
**Treasurer: Chaz Hitz N7NNS 230-9061**

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**7:30 pm Thursday**  
**February 15, 1996**  
**Puget Auditorium**

As the new administration takes control (?) of Pars, your new secretary feels moved to explain his absence at the first meeting. It's very simple, really; when faced with "awesome new responsibility", I merely did what any red-blooded American amateur would do-----I took my HT to the sunny Caribbean, and stuck someone else with the minutes (and, as it turned out, the snow shovel and all the rest!) This time, you'll have to agree, my timing was impeccable! We had a great time, and I thoroughly enjoyed my 2 meter HT, and my BVI license. Thanks to Tom WB7TEJ and Chaz N7NNS for filling in.

It is my intention to have SPARKS in your hands at least 4 days before each meeting, excepting this issue. We will include minutes of the general and any board meetings in the previous month. This means that items submitted should reach me by phone or mail not later than the 7th of the month. Eventually, I'll have an e-mail address, if I can ever find my password. This edition will be a bit shorter than usual due to time constraints in soliciting items. We'll accept all donations of interest items, committee reports or whatever.

'73 Jim KC7FEH

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From our Esteemed Leader:

I'm interested in interests. When I first became interested (that word again) in "radio" about 1930, ham radio was fairly simple. Never did get a license; too lazy to learn the code. I had ham friends, though, and built stuff; power supplies, receivers, transmitters and antennas. After that, there wasn't much choice for my ham friends; CW or AM phone. I can't remember when FM came on the scene so I may not be "historically" correct. But now, it would take at least a whole page to list all the activities possible. The question is, what interests or activities that the club is not now addressing should we be looking into? Give it a thought. ,

The February QST has two articles I recommend, both relating to Amateur Radio Public Service/Health and Welfare. The EARS group February newsletter talks along the same line. The state of California seems to be in the forefront of efforts to meld hams with city, county and state agencies in the domain of emergency preparedness. Will Washington catch up?

Al N7VOF

The next general meeting agenda:

- I. Introductions
  - II. Announcements
  - III. Approval of minutes
    - meeting of Jan. 25, 1996
    - Board meeting of Feb. 7, 1996
  - IV. Treasurer report
  - V. Committee reports
  - VI. Old Business
  - VII. New Business ---Field Day, programs
  - VIII. Adjourn
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ANOTHER LETTER FROM UNCLE FUDD

February, 1996

Dear Sparky,

Freida and I went south fer a little warm weather again last month, Sparky, and when we got home several of my old gang were eager to tell me about a little problem that Leroy had.

Seems that Leroy was digging around in a junk box and came up with an old Model-T Ford coil he hadn't seen for a long time. He set it on the bench, cleaned it up and then got to wondering if it might still be good. There was a car battery on the floor right across the room in the workshop, but Leroy has a bad back and he didn't want to pick up the battery and carry it across the room to the workbench so he dug out a pair of wires that were long enough to reach from the battery to the workbench.

If you're not familiar with 'em, Sparky, these old Ford coils were inside a wooden box about the size of a pound of butter, with a buzzer on top. Like all ignition coils they are a long single winding with a tap a short way up from the negative end, and when you would make and break a DC voltage across the few windings below the tap, you got about a 15,000 volt pulse from the top end of the long winding which then fed a spark plug. Every Model-T had four coils, one for each spark plug. And the buzzer on top of the coil box was wired in series with the DC input so that every time the buzzer contacts opened you got a spark pulse, and as long as you applied a steady DC it buzzed and you got a steady stream of spark pulses from the hot end.

Well, Leroy found it buzzed real good when he touched the wires to the old coil. He also noticed that the fluorescent goosenecklamp at his workbench glowed every time he put power to the coil. He was having so much fun with the buzzing and glowing that he even called his wife in to show her, and being a good CW man he just naturally started sending his call by zapping the coil with the 12 volts. But that's where he made a mistake.

His phone rang. I'm told he got several calls. Some of his friends had been working 20 and 40 meters and all of a sudden they were getting blasted with QRM all across the bands. Course, they didn't know who it was until Leroy sent his call. Leroy tried to explain that it couldn't have been him because he didn't have anything connected to the hot end of the coil, but Leroy had made two mistakes. He was zapping a 6 volt coil with 12 volts so no wonder it buzzed "real good." And since a car battery just looks like a big capacitor to RF, and being in series with the two long 12 volt wires and the buzzer, it all acted like a broadband oscillator connected to a loop antenna. Leroy put the old Ford

coil back in his junk box. It'll probably stay there for a long time again.

Thanks again for sending your newsletter, Sparky. Until next month, 73

Your Uncle Fudd

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Well, that's about all I can come up with on short notice. Hopefully, there'll be more next time. I do need some help though. All of you must be my eyes and ears for things of interest to the members, whether from within or external to the club. I can't print what I don't know about! See ya' on Feb. 15. Jim

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MINUTES of January 25, 1996

The meeting was called to order by President Al Staples N7VOF.  
Members and guests present introduced themselves.

The 1996 budget, as previously presented to the members, was approved.

Committee appointments were read as follows:

Membership	Tom Grotte WB7TEJ
Technical	Chuck Graff K7CHV chairman Tom Grotte, Jim Hossack W7LS, Steve Mayes KA7PMC and Alex Vdolek WA7ED2
Trailer	John Black W7HIL for radio equipment Jim Von Seggern KC7FEH for maintenance
BBS	Chuck Graff
EARS	John Black
Program	Chaz Hitz N7NNS

Old Business

There was some discussion of QRP operation.

New Business

There was expressed some interest in HF packet radio for a future program.

John Black W7HIL announced a wish list for the trailer, namely a tone decoder, a VHF/UHF dummy load, and a 3-5 gallon gasoline can. Chuck Graff K7CHV mentioned that things are available.

There is code practice available Sunday nights at 1900 PST on 28.325 mHz.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Chaz Hitz N7NNS

Treasurer, acting Secretary

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TREASURER'S REPORT

January 31, 1995

Beginning balance 1-1-96	\$1639.01
Deposits	
dues for 1996	\$ 190.00
Expenses	
Department of Licensing (trailer)	(\$ 53.25)
ARRL (members' dues)	(\$ 23.00)
Balance on 1-31-95	\$1752.76

Chaz Hitz N7NNS Treasurer

MINUTES of THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS February 7, 1996

The meeting was called to order by President Al Staples N7VOF. Board members present were Bob Adams KJ7BP, Stuart Whiting KB7UUX, Tom Grotte WB7TEJ, and Jim Von Seggern KC7FEH.

Al stated that he did not feel that he should act as Chairman of the Board, and after some discussion Jim Von Seggern was elected Chairman by assent.

Al then read the list of committee chairs as reported in the minutes of Jan. 25, 1996. It was felt that John Black W7HIL and Jim Von Seggern would function as co-chairs of the Trailer committee, due to the different aspects of radio-function and physical maintenance of the trailer.

Regarding the trailer, Jim stated that ultimately, our goal is to have a functional UHF/VHF and HF station in the trailer at its parked location. This will allow development of several potential uses for the trailer on a year-around basis.

Al then introduced the possibility that Puget Power may donate some repeaters to the club in the predictable future. Stuart pointed out that we have not as yet had any formal offer of such donation. There are a number of repeaters that PARS has a connection with that we do not actually use, and we might not wish to keep in service through this club. Tom pointed out that if such donations are made, we do not have to keep any or all of them as long as we insure that subsequent owners do not return them to commercial service.

The technical committee met last night, and Stuart reports that considerable progress was made toward getting a complete inventory of all the radio equipment that PARS owns. They have also made a start toward deciding what is usable, and what should be junked. While the Board feels that committee decisions should be approved by the Board, we feel that the committee can best judge the worth of these items. PARS members will be given first chance to purchase surplus items.

Tom requested consideration of some revisions in the By-Laws. He will write up a proposal for several changes, and the Board will appoint a committee to study these and any other proposed changes.

The deadline for submission of items for the newsletter will be the 7th of the month to allow mailing by 5-7 days before the general meeting. The format will change somewhat until Jim learns some new (for him) word processing techniques.

Jim also felt that we need to make more effort to get the PARS name out in public, publicize club events such as Field Day, and develop some intercommunication with other area clubs. Tom pointed out that we do mail to several non-member addresses, as well as local and regional ARRL officials.

No further business was evident, and the meeting was adjourned.

Jim Von Seggern KC7FEH  
Board Chairman  
Secretary, PARS