

Puget Amateur Radio Society

SPARKS

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President: Lorie Graff N7LC0 392-5846

NEXT MEETING:

Vice-President: Bob Adams KJ7BP 454-0506

7:30 pm Thursday

Secy-Treas. Jim Von Seggern KC7FEH 885-7333

February 19, 1998

Blakemore House

Our new meeting site is in the Blakemore House, located at the corner of 100th Ave. N.E. and N.E. 4th St. in Bellevue. It is the northwest corner of the Bellevue Downtown Park. and is directly across the street from Bellevue Square. The room is upstairs. Parking is available in the west parking lot of the park, just south of the building. (See the attached map) We did have some parking problems last month, as there are some city youth activities across the street. Some used the southwest corner of the Belle-Square parking lot, which we can't OFFICIALLY condone, and hopefully there will be less competition this time.

PROGRAM NOTES

February 19--No Bricel N7AY will speak about amateur radio in Europe during WWII

March 19-- Phil Ferrell K7PF, speaking on transmitter fingerprinting using DSP.

April 16--Jimmy Horn KA7GKP speaking about fox-hunting to occur in May.

THE PREZ SEZ

Spring is sprung
The grass is riz
And I know where
All the ham gear is!

It's in my living room, which is starting to look like a second hand HAM store. The donations for the flea market are stacked in front of our fireplace and starting to spread. There are still two more donations for Chuck and Kirk to pick up and then we have to start sorting and pricing.

The income from the flea market donations is an important part of our club budget and it takes a lot of time and work to pull it all together--time to pick up the donations, price them, haul them down to Puyallup, set up the tables, several hours of selling and then packing up at the end of the day. Not only is this an excellent opportunity to earn money for the treasury, it is a good time to promote our club by passing out our info pamphlet and telling other hams about

PARS. I always look forward to seeing old friends again, eating one of those huge apple fritters and seeing if I can find the same boat anchors that show up year after year. If you are planning on coming to the flea market on Saturday, March 7, please think about giving a couple of hours of your time to help at the PARS booth. Chuck will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting.

Kirk has been busy at the trailer doing maintenance work and installing the donated radios. Since he works close to where the trailer is parked he walks over thereon his lunch hour. He's tuned up all the HF bands 160-10 meters and has participated in a couple of noontime nets using the club call K7PAR. Hopefully it won't be too long before other members are using the trailer.

Please join us for dinner at Coco's on 112th in Bellevue before the next meeting. We meet around 6:00pm. Everyone is welcome. 73 Lorie N7LC0

Some of you will again notice the reminder about dues above your address this month. Dues are delinquent on February 1, according to the By-Laws, and those not paid by March 31 will be dropped from the roster. Also, according to the By-Laws, members delinquent in dues by Feb. 1 are not eligible to vote. I have so far received dues from about 60% of last year's members, but I'd like to see more come in. \$15 individual, \$20 for family (2 or more).

MINUTES
of
THE PUGET AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETING
January 15, 1998

The meeting was called to order by President Lorie Graff N7LC0 at 7:30 pm. There were 16 members and 4 guests present. Members and guests introduced themselves.

The program was presented by Gary Fiber, a senior technical customer service representative from ICOM, America, Inc. He discussed the miniaturization of components for ham radio equipment. He and Kirk Bellar KE7TN passed around examples of miniature components and modules, including a tiny capacitor about the size of a grain of sand. Following the program, Kirk made the formal announcement about our vanity call sign K7PAR. Harry Lewis W7JWJ and Kirk completed the first **QSO for K7PAR and QSO** cards were exchanged. Harry presented a certificate to the club to commemorate the event.

Following refreshments, the business meeting was held. The minutes of the previous meeting, as published in SPARKS were approved. Highlights from the annual Treasurer's Report prepared by Jim Von Seggern KC7FEH, the Secretary-Treasurer, were given by Pres. Lorie.

Chuck Graff K7CHV reported on the status of donations for the Flea Market in March. Kirk Bellar and Jerry Sampont WA7BUY have volunteered to help Chuck.

Bob Adams KJ7BP will again be the Field Day Chairman this year.

Discussion was held regarding insurance for the equipment in the trailer. It was moved, seconded and passed that insurance be obtained for the equipment, not to exceed \$100.00 in premium costs at this time. The members requested the Board to obtain information on the costs of comprehensive/fire insurance on the trailer and report to the members at the February meeting.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted Lorie
Graff N7LC0 President,
Secretary pro-tem.

The Board met Thursday, February 5, at Al Staples home. Items discussed were trailer insurance, trailer security during station operation by members, and some trailer maintenance items. Pursuant to the actions taken at the January general meeting, the Board purchased \$3000 of replacement insurance for the equipment contained therein. Apparently there is no comprehensive insurance available for the trailer itself.

Kirk Bellar KE7TN reported on the state of trailer maintenance to date. He and Cameron Etezadi KFORY will be meeting to work out procedures for opening the trailer to the members.

Public Service Opportunities

EARS (Eastside Amateur Radio Service)--interested parties contact John Black W7HIL at 391-8026 or Chuck Stroehrer WA7EBH at 392-5303.
Always room for more help in this community activity.

The following article was sent in by Ben Bennett N71VM. It's worth reading even if you've seen it before.

Specifications-- They are ETERNAL! The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 ft 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and US railroads were built by English expatriates.

Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways and that's the gauge they used. Why did they use that gauge? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools used for building wagons, which used that spacing. Why did the wagons use that odd wheel spacing? Well, if they used any other spacing the wagons would break up on some of the old long-distance roads, because of the spacing of the old wheel ruts.

Who built those old rutted roads? The first long-distance roads in Europe were built by Imperial Rome for the benefit of their legions, and they have been used ever since. And the ruts? The initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagons, were first made by Roman war chariots. Since the chariots were all made by or for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in wheel spacing.

Thus we have the answer to the original question.. The US standard railroad gauge of 4 ft 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman war chariot.

Specs and bureaucracies live forever! The next time you are handed a spec and wonder just what h***** a** came up with it, you may be exactly right, because the Imperial Roman chariot was made to be just wide enough to accommodate the back-ends of two war horses. (original source unknown)

As a footnote, the town where I grew up was on one of the original Roman roads--Watling Street. During WWII a bomb dropped in the middle of the main street, and made a crater about 10 ft deep. At the bottom of the hole was the old Roman road with the two ruts! Ben N71VM

(ed. note: I guess Roman roads, as well as specs, are eternal!)

From Kirk Bellar KE7TN----Lorie and I have been chatting about the **PARS repeaters**. I suggested that we have an informal weekly net on the Rose Hill machine (443.2mHz) as a way for everyone to schmooze between our monthly meetings, and to drum up some publicity for the club. There are some potential problems, however. Not everyone has a 440 radio, and Chuck Graff says the repeater doesn't work well into Bellevue because of a ridge south of the machine. Also we'd have to figure out how to not conflict with other club meeting or nets that the members might already be checking into already.

At any rate, I think it's an idea worth talking about at the next meeting, so maybe we could all think about it in the next few days. 73 Kirk

That seems to have cleared off my desk for the moment, so we'll stop here. Kirk also wanted me to point out that the **K7PAR** call sign was the first choice of 2/3 of the survey respondents but it was his personal second choice, so he really didn't fix the results! Any way, thanks again, Kirk, for a job well done. I'll see you all next week (I really am coming this time!). 73 Jim KC7FEH

