



SPARKS



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Puget Amateur Radio Society

November 2000

Nov. program - KC7FEH/MM

PARS' own Jim Von Seggern will be giving us a long-anticipated show-and-tell about his round-the-world cruise. Jim had the opportunity to operate maritime mobile from some exotic locales, gladdening the heart of many a CQ Zone chaser. He'll promises to bring plenty of incriminating photos to share with us.

2000 IOTA Contest Results

The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) has published the claimed scores of this year's Islands On The Air (IOTA) contest. I described this contest and reported on PARS' participation from Whidbey Island, in the Sept. *Sparks*.

PARS finished dead last in our category (Island Multi-operator) in '99. This year, using better equipment and operating for more hours, we zoomed up to SECOND ... from last place, with a score of 23,157. Considering the top station's score of 9,673,650, I'd say we have some room for improvement.

In spite of growing participation worldwide, this is still mainly a European contest. Here's the breakdown of the 88 island multi-operator participants by continent: Europe, 67; North America, 10; Asia, 4; Oceania (Pacific islands), 2; South America, 1. Participants fell into different categories depending upon whether they were operating on an island or mainland, 12 or 24 hours, CW only, SSB only, mixed-mode, etc. Shortwave listeners could also participate. The RSGB received a total of 1131 logs.

As I mentioned in September's *Sparks*, PARS will abstain from this contest for the foreseeable future, at least as an island participant. - *de N7UK*

Holiday party - Dec. 2

Everyone should have received a written invitation to this year's PARS holiday party, to be held on Dec. 2 at John Heflin's. As usual, this will be a potluck affair, so RSVP Hef by phone or e-mail and let him know whether you want to bring an entree, side dish, or dessert.

PARS holds this party every year in lieu of a December general meeting. We'll present the Ham of the Year award at the party, if the recipient is present; otherwise, we'll make the presentation at the January general meeting.

ARRL Sweepstakes this month

Yet another reminder that PARS will again be participating in the ARRL Phone Sweepstakes contest, occurring on the weekend of Nov. 18-19. The object, as always, will be to work as many stations in as many of the 80 ARRL and RAC sections as we can. We'll start setting up antennas at the trailer at 0900 on the 18th, go QRV at 1300, and operate until 1900 Sunday if we can stand it. Hope to see you there!

No Board meeting in Dec.

Since the club will be holding its annual Holiday party next month in lieu of a general meeting, the PARS Board will not meet in December. The next scheduled Board meeting will occur on Jan. 4

Next general meeting - Thursday, Nov. 16 at 7:00 PM at the Bellevue Senior Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE in Bellevue. Jim Von Seggern, KC7FEH, will talk about his round-the-world cruise (see article above). 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 - At the home of Al Staples, N7VOF, 409 - 109th Ave. SE in Bellevue, Thursday, Jan. 4 at 7:00 PM. All PARS members are welcome.

PARS Congratulates ...

New member Mark Whitaker, KD7KUN, on passing his Tech exam (and on joining the club, of course!). Mark wasted no time getting himself a dual-band HT, and is monitoring 146.90 or 443.2 in the evenings. Give Mark a "howdy" if you're in range.

Mark has also agreed to act as "co-Webmeister" and assist Hef in maintaining our Web site. He'll be scanning our many back issues of *Sparks* and putting them on the Web in PDF format. Mark is soliciting your ideas for improving our site. Is there anything you'd like to add? Are you having trouble finding what you're looking for there? Let Mark know what it would take to enhance your surfing pleasure.

Coming soon: First Ham Operation from International Space Station

From the ARRL Letter: "Amateur Radio is poised to mark an historic milestone. Operation from Amateur Radio's first permanent foothold in space is expected to debut soon after the all-ham Expedition 1 crew arrives November 2 aboard the International Space Station. The ISS crew could be on the air by mid-November.

"The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station--or ARISS--initial station gear already is aboard the ISS awaiting the arrival of Expedition 1 Commander and US astronaut Bill Shepherd, KD5GSL, and Russian Cosmonauts Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, and Yuri Gidzenko. The equipment includes VHF and UHF hand-held transceivers as well as a TNC for packet, a specially developed headset and signal adapter module plus power adapters and interconnecting cables.

"The Expedition 1 crew is set to blast off October 31 aboard a Russian Soyuz rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan and will arrive aboard the ISS a couple of days later. Once on board, the crew will begin a four-month stay aboard the ISS--the first permanent occupancy of the international complex.

"Two US call signs have been issued for Amateur Radio operations as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program. The FCC granted vanity call signs NA1SS and NN1SS to the International Space Station Amateur Radio Club on October 11. The NA1SS call sign will be used on board the ISS, while NN1SS will be for ground-based ISS communications from Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. A Russian call sign, RZ3DZR, and a German call sign, DL0ISS, also have been issued for use aboard the ISS.

"The initial station gear will be installed temporarily in the Zarya Functional Cargo Block of the ISS and will permit operation only on 2 meters--FM voice and packet. Tentative operating frequencies are: Worldwide downlink for voice and packet, 145.80 MHz; worldwide packet uplink, 145.99 MHz; Region 1 (Europe) voice uplink: 145.20 MHz; Region 2 & 3 voice uplink, 144.49 MHz. Yet to be determined is the ARISS operating schedule, which will depend on the crew schedule. The ARISS Team anticipates multi-band, multimode operations with the crew and regularly scheduled school group contacts.

"For more information about Amateur Radio on the ISS and SAREX, visit the ARISS Web site, <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov>"

PARS 2000 - 01 Club Officers:

President - Charles Beckmeier, KC7GMF 425-392-5846
Vice Pres. - Al Staples, N7VOF 425-454-2882

Secretary - Kirk Bellar, N7UK 206-542-6742
Treasurer - John Heflin, KD7E 425-828-3034

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 Bellevue Senior Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE. Visitors are always welcome.

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 Kirk, N7UK, for a membership application.

Visit our Web page at <http://www.qsl.net/k7par>. This is always a work in progress, so check back often.

Send articles, comments, want ads, election projections, etc. for inclusion in this newsletter to Kirk Bellar, N7UK, 19353 Greenwood Ave. N, Shoreline WA 98133, fax to 425-867-2160, or e-mail to n7uk@aol.com.

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

FCC issues NPRM on spectrum leasing

Washington, DC - The Federal Communications Commission adopted a Policy Statement and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) today setting forth a framework to promote the development of more robust "secondary markets" in radio spectrum. Demand for spectrum has increased dramatically as a result of explosive growth in wireless communications technologies and user demand for wireless services. This demand threatens to outstrip supply and to impede the future growth of wireless services. An effectively functioning system of secondary markets will allow and encourage licensees to freely trade or lease their unused or unneeded spectrum capacity. Secondary market transactions could increase the amount of spectrum available to prospective users, uses, and new wireless technologies by making more effective use of spectrum that is currently assigned to existing licensees.

Summary of Policy Statement: The Policy Statement sets forth the Commission's principles for promoting the efficient use of radio spectrum by encouraging the development of secondary markets. A robust system of secondary markets will allow and encourage licensees to make all or portions of their spectrum usage rights available to other entities and uses. The goal of this effort is to promote the operation of competitive markets for the sale and lease of the right to use spectrum by licensees. This will facilitate both the transfer of spectrum usage rights for existing services to new, higher valued uses and the availability of unused and underutilized spectrum to those who would use it for providing service.

The Policy Statement articulates four guiding principles for this initiative:

1. Licensees should generally have clearly defined usage rights to their spectrum, including frequency bands, service areas, and license terms of sufficient length, with reasonable renewal expectancy, to encourage investment.
2. Licenses and spectrum usage rights should be easily transferable for lease or sale, divisible, or aggregatable.
3. Licensees/users should have flexibility in determining the services to be provided and the technology used for operation consistent with the other policies and rules governing the service.
4. Licensees/users have a fundamental obligation to protect against, and the right to be protected from, interference to the extent provided in the Commission's rules.

The Policy Statements identifies three key areas that the FCC will focus on in its efforts to foster the development of secondary markets:

1. Remove, relax or modify our rules and procedures to eliminate unnecessary barriers to the operation of secondary market processes and to promote flexibility and fungibility (exchangeable or substitutable) in the use of spectrum.
2. Encourage advances in equipment that will facilitate use of available spectrum for a broad range of services, e.g. software-defined radio and multi-band equipment.
3. Encourage mechanisms, including information sources, spectrum exchanges, and brokers, that bring together buyers and sellers and effect transfers of spectrum in a timely and cost effective manner.

Summary of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: In today's NPRM, the Commission tentatively concludes that the wider use of spectrum rights leasing by existing Commission

licensees of wireless radio spectrum will promote the public interest. Leasing of spectrum rights encompasses a continuum of arrangements that licensees might enter into with third parties, including other licensees. Such arrangements range from the leasing of excess capacity on licensees' existing systems to the leasing of portions or all of licensees' right to use licensed spectrum. The Commission states in this NPRM that wider use of spectrum rights leasing will increase the efficient use of spectrum and will enable more entities to gain access to the use of spectrum. Through leasing arrangements, additional spectrum usage rights can be made available for those existing services that are spectrum constrained. Further, leasing should facilitate the more rapid deployment of spectrum based services, including in underserved rural areas. The Commission seeks comment on a basic proposal that applies to a large set of the Wireless Radio Services licenses, including both mobile and fixed services. Specifically, the Commission proposes that most wireless radio licensees with "exclusive" rights to their assigned spectrum have the flexibility to lease their spectrum usage rights to third party users without having to secure prior FCC approval. This proposal affects services such as cellular, Personal Communications Services (PCS), Specialized Mobile Radio (SMR), Local Multipoint Distribution Service (LMDS), fixed microwave, 24 GHz, and 39 GHz, among others. A central feature of the proposed approach is that licensees at all times will retain ultimate responsibility and accountability for ensuring that their lessees comply with the requirements of the Communications Act, and any applicable Commission policies and rules. Under the proposal, all of the interference, frequency coordination, and other technical rules applicable to the licensee also apply to the entities leasing the spectrum usage rights. The NPRM also makes several proposals regarding how service rules applicable to licensees - such as eligibility rules, use restrictions, spectrum caps, unjust enrichment rules, and the requirements arising from the regulatory classification - should be applied so as to promote spectrum leasing without undermining the principles of our service rules. In order to promote the wider use of spectrum leasing, the Commission proposes to apply a less restrictive transfer of control standard than the Intermountain Microwave standard for interpreting Section 310(d) in the context of these arrangements. The NPRM, however, does not propose to change the manner in which the Commission currently applies the Intermountain Microwave standard outside of the spectrum leasing context. Finally, in the NPRM the Commission notes that the information currently gathered in the FCC's database, the Universal Licensing System, only contains limited data on spectrum use. Recognizing that secondary markets in spectrum usage rights can operate best when information regarding spectrum use in the marketplace is easily available, the Commission seeks comment on any steps it should take to facilitate the availability of such information.

Action by the Commission on November 9, 2000, by Policy Statement (FCC 00-401). Chairman Kennard, Commissioners Ness, Furchtgott-Roth and Powell, with Commissioner Tristani dissenting in part, and Commissioners Ness, Furchtgott-Roth and Tristani issuing statements. Staff Contact: Lisa Gaisford at (202) 418-7280, e-mail: lgaisfor@fcc.gov

Minutes of the PARS General Meeting, 19 October 2000

The members met at the Bellevue Senior Center. 13 members were present, a quorum. 6 visitors were also present, including ARRL Western Washington Section Manager Harry Lewis, W7JWJ, and former ARRL Northwestern Division Director Mary Lewis, W7QGP. President Beckmeier called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions, the Secretary introduced the evening's speaker, Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, the ARRL Northwestern Division Vice-Director. Jim discussed current activities within the ARRL and fielded questions from the members, then presented a slide show of his trip to Slovenia for the World Radiosport Team Championship 2000, where he acted as a referee.

After a break, Mary Lewis announced that the ARRL, in a cost-cutting move, would no longer be sending out paper application or renewal forms for club affiliation. Clubs wishing to affiliate must now apply on-line at the www.arrl.org Web site. Mary had sent an e-mail to all local affiliated clubs to advise them of this, and noted that PARS affiliation was up-to-date.

The President proceeded with club business. The members approved, without additions or corrections, the minutes of the June and September general meetings as published in the October issue of *Sparks*.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer reported a positive balance for the 30 days ending Oct. 19. [*Figures are available from the Treasurer - Ed.*] The Treasurer reminded the members that they could pay dues now for the 2001 calendar year. The Secretary said that 2001 dues were not due until January, but that the club would welcome early payment.

Trailer report: The Secretary noted that the trailer still contained a pile of donated parts and equipment to be sold at the Mike and Key hamfest in March. The Treasurer was still "negotiating" to try to move the donated items to his garage. The Secretary thanked Dick Schwanke for repairing one of the trailer's swivel chairs. The Secretary and Jim Darby had some discussion about connecting the club's Heathkit SB-200 linear amplifier to the ICOM IC-740 transceiver, and how to provide power to it in the trailer. The Secretary promised to talk with the Senior Center staff about the possibility of getting another electrical outlet to power the linear.

Contest report: The Secretary described the club's portable operation from Chelan county for the Washington State Salmon run during the weekend of Sep. 16-17, and announced that PARS would be participating in the ARRL Phone Sweepstakes during the weekend of Nov. 18-19. He also mentioned that the club would probably participate in the CQ Worldwide WPX contest in March.

Hamfest report: The Treasurer said that the hamfest would occur on March 10, and that he had ordered two tables and four dealer badges. The Secretary announced that the club had received a sizeable amount of donated items for this year's hamfest and expected to receive some more.

Field Day: Co-chair Jim Darby had nothing to report. The Secretary told him that his level of activity would depend on whether the club decided to move the trailer to Downtown Park or some other location for Field Day. The President said that he could move the trailer if desired.

Publicity: Chair Lisa Marker wasn't present. The Secretary reported that Lisa had obtained a copy of Bob Adams' pamphlet, and was using it as a guide to write a recruiting pamphlet to be distributed at Radio Depot, ABC, etc. Lisa had also agreed to send Field Day announcements to the local newspapers.

Refreshments: The President thanked Al Staples for providing refreshments.

Old business: The Secretary followed up on September's discussion of repeater controllers. He asked Doug Bell to research the controllers available on the market, and what kind of features were available, in anticipation of replacing the existing controller for the WS7K machine.

New business: The members approved, without modification, the proposed 2000-2001 club budget, as published. Jim Von Seggern congratulated Doug Bell for passing his Technician exam. Doug's callsign is KD7KKR.

With no further business, the President adjourned the meeting at 8:57 PM.

- Respectfully submitted,
Kirk Bellar, N7UK
PARS Secretary