



# SPARKS



Vol. 17, No. 9

Puget Amateur Radio Society

November 2001

## **Nov. program - ARRL forum with K9JF**

PARS welcomes back ARRL NW Division Vice Director Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, this month for an update on the latest activities at ARRL and the FCC. As usual, there will be plenty to talk about: Proposed restructuring of the HF bands, a new band possible at 60 meters, the ARRL's efforts to persuade the FCC to extend PRB-1's protection to preempt restrictive covenants, and of course the continuing threat to our bands from commercial interests.

Also, this month, we'll conduct the vote on the proposed budget for the '01-'02 club year. There weren't enough members at October's meeting to constitute a quorum.

## **PARS holiday party**

We're continuing our tradition of holding a holiday party in December, in lieu of a general meeting. Don and Pat Hickman have graciously offered to host the soiree once more. This year's party will be held on Dec. 8 at 6:00 PM. As in previous years, this will be a potluck affair. If you plan on attending, give Kirk or Lisa a call at 206-542-6742 and let us know whether you plan to bring an entree, salad, side dish, or dessert.

The only "business" to be conducted that night will be to present the Ham of the Year award to one of our worthies, assuming that he or she shows up for the occasion.

Don's address is 12807 NE 136th Street in Kirkland. His number is 425-821-7025.

Note that there will be no *Sparks* and no Board

meeting in December. We'll have the next general meeting on January 17.

## **ARRL Sweepstakes - Nov. 17-18**

We'll come out to play once again in the ARRL Phone Sweepstakes, to be held on the weekend of Nov. 17-18 this year. We're getting ever-closer to that elusive Clean Sweep (working all 80 ARRL and RAC sections)... last year, only Quebec eluded our grasp. While we don't expect to be able to compete with the "Big Guns" on points, a Clean Sweep is a definite possibility.

As usual, we'll start setting up antennas at the trailer at 0900 on Sat. morning. The contest runs from 1300 local on Sat. to 1900 local on Sunday, or as late as we can stand it.

## **Dick Schwanke on the mend**

Member Dick Schwanke, W9HXM, is recovering from surgery Oct. 16 to repair a torn rotator cuff. It hasn't seemed to slow him down much, as he is still checking into his MARS net regularly. PARS extends its best wishes to Dick for a quick recovery.

## **Minutes of the PARS General Meeting, 18 Oct. 2001**

The members met at the Bellevue Senior Center. 3 members and 2 visitors attended. The Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer were absent.

Clay Freinwald, K7CR, presented a program on the Emergency Alert System (EAS). This system allows federal, state, and local governmental agencies to notify the public via broadcast TV and radio of emergency situations.

*Next general meeting* - Thursday, November 15 at 7:00 PM at the Bellevue Senior Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE in Bellevue. Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, will conduct an ARRL forum (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* - Thursday, Jan. 3 at 7:00 PM, location TBD. Contact Kirk if you'd like to attend. All PARS members are welcome.

As there were insufficient members to constitute a quorum, the President dispensed with the business meeting and did not call for a vote on the approved budget, as stipulated in the By-Laws.

*Respectfully Submitted -  
Kirk Bellar N7UK, PARS Secretary-Treasurer*

## **FCC clarifies CORES amateur implementation**

From the ARRL: "The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has clarified several issues regarding Amateur Service implementation of the Communications Registration System - or CORES. Starting December 3, everyone doing business with the FCC - including amateur licensees - must obtain and use a 10-digit FCC Registration Number (FRN) when filing.

"Amateur licensees now registered in the Universal Licensing System (ULS) already have been cross-registered in CORES and issued an FRN by mail. The FCC said it planned another cross-registration by November 28. Amateurs can check to see if they have an FRN via a ULS license search. Many Internet call sign servers, including ARRL's, also can provide this information.

"Once CORES becomes mandatory, the FCC will 'auto-register' all amateurs who seek to register in ULS and will issue them an FRN. Amateurs then should use their FRN in place of their Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN - typically an individual's Social Security Number) when filing applications with the FCC. New or upgrade license applicants not previously registered in ULS will be registered automatically in both CORES and ULS when they provide a TIN on a license application filed through a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

"Although both ULS and CORES will contain a licensee's FRN, updating information in one system will not update the other. For amateurs, CORES registration will replace ULS 'TIN/Call Sign' registration, but the ULS will remain the Amateur Service licensing database within WTB, and only ULS will associate an individual with a particular call sign and FRN. Once CORES/FRN becomes mandatory, those registering in ULS will be redirected to CORES registration.

"Going away December 3 will be the so-called Assigned Taxpayer Identification Number, or ATIN, which the FCC has been issuing to applicants ineligible to obtain a Social Security Number, such as foreign applicants and club station licensees. An FCC Public Notice this week said applicants that have been using ATINs 'must now register in CORES.' The FCC said it will accept ATINs only 'during a short transitional period' after December 3.

"CORES will offer exemptions to amateur clubs and to foreign entities not holding a TIN/SSN. Club station applicants also may use a trustee's TIN/SSN or a tax-exempt club's IRS-assigned EIN.

"The WTB says that starting December 3, 'all passwords will be maintained in the CORES database.' Amateurs also may use FCC Form 160 to register in CORES, and those doing so will be mailed a CORES password for on-line access.

"The FCC continues to work out the details of how amateurs, CORES and ULS will coexist. Amateur Service testing with CORES is planned for early November."

### **PARS 2000 - 01 Club Officers:**

President - Mark Whitaker, KD7KUN  
Vice Pres. - Lisa Marker, K7LAM

206-542-6742

Secretary-Treasurer - Kirk Bellar, N7UK 206-542-6742

**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.

**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, etc. (no anthrax, please) 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](mailto:n7uk@aol.com).

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

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## ***Sharing spectrum with other services a ham radio reality***

From the ARRL Letter: "Amateur Radio operators can get mighty territorial when they perceive that some other radio service is intruding upon 'their' turf. What many hams often don't understand, however, is that Amateur Radio is a secondary service in the US on several popular bands or subbands. As such, it's subject to interference from primary radio service occupants and, by law, must avoid interfering with them. And, of course, ham bands are not all the same everywhere in the world.

"Hams share most of their spectrum - especially the UHF and microwave allocations - with other users, typically the US Government and Fixed and Mobile services. The popular 70-cm band, 420-450 MHz, is a good case in point, says ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Brennan Price, N4QX.

" 'Amateur use of the 70-cm band is secondary to government radiolocation services in the US, so hams must tolerate interference from the primary service and may not QRM it,' Price explained. No operation in the 420-430 MHz band is permitted in some parts of the US (in the vicinity of the Great Lakes), while 50-W output power limits apply to operations centered near certain US military installations.

"Price notes, however, that military use of the band is not confined to these areas, and the band is utilized aboard aircraft. 'We occasionally receive inquiries from amateurs who complain of 70-cm disruptions when military planes fly overhead,' said Price, who also serves as the ARRL Monitoring System coordinator. 'We have every reason to believe that the current spate of widely heard disruptions is due to high-altitude airborne operations by the band's legal, primary occupant - the US Government.' The 420-430 MHz segment is allocated on a primary basis worldwide to the Fixed and Mobile (except Aeronautical Mobile) services.

"Two meters - 144 to 148 MHz - is an exclusive allocation in ITU Region 2, which includes North and South America. US hams who have taken along an H-T while vacationing in Europe or elsewhere in Region 1, however, know that the 2-meter band in that part of the world is 144-146 MHz. In Region 3, hams have exclusive access to 144-146 MHz and

share 146-148 MHz on a co-primary basis with Fixed and Mobile Service stations.

"Six meters - 50 to 54 MHz - is an exclusive ham allocation in Regions 2 and 3, but the band is allocated exclusively for broadcasting in Region 1 - although certain countries do allow limited 6-meter operation.

"The sharing news is much better on the higher HF bands. The 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10-meter bands are allocated to the Amateur Service on an exclusive basis worldwide - with a few minor exceptions for the high end of 20. On other HF bands, some sharing occurs.

"On 30 meters - 10.1 to 10.15 MHz - hams are secondary to non-US Fixed Service stations throughout. Amateurs must avoid harmful interference to these stations.

"The 40-meter band is currently the focus of an effort supported by the International Amateur Radio Union and ARRL to obtain a 300-kHz worldwide exclusive allocation. Most of the world does not have access to the 300 kHz-wide swath from 7.0 to 7.3 MHz that US hams enjoy. In the rest of the world, the upper two-thirds of 40 is dominated by broadcasters. This issue is on the agenda for the 2003 World Radio Communication Conference. One suggested remedy would shift the allocation downward to create a 300-kHz worldwide band at 6.9 to 7.2 MHz.

"The 80/75-meter band - 3.5 to 4.0 MHz - is exclusive to the Amateur Service in the US. Elsewhere in Region 2 hams have exclusive status from 3.500 to 3.750 MHz and share the rest of the band with foreign Fixed and Mobile services on a co-primary basis. Amateurs in Regions 1 and 3 share parts of the band with Fixed and Mobile. There is no amateur operation allowed above 3.8 MHz in Region 1, which includes Europe.

"The 1.8 to 1.9 MHz segment of 160 meters is exclusive to US amateurs. Hams in the US are secondary on 1.9 to 2.0 MHz to the primary Radiolocation Service (government and non-government).

"A table of US Amateur Radio allocations is available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/USbands.pdf>. The 'Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide' details band plans for Amateur Radio: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/conop.html>."