



SPARKS



Vol. 18, No. 5

Puget Amateur Radio Society

May 2002

May program - mystery video

Our esteemed President Mark will be providing a video for our viewing pleasure this month. Mark has sworn me to secrecy as to its contents, but assures me that it includes no professional wrestlers or "Survivor" contestants (Too bad!).

Officer elections this month

Pursuant to the By-Laws, PARS will elect officers at this month's meeting for the '02-'03 club year. The following members have been nominated:

Vice-President: Don Hickman

Secretary: Doug Bell

Treasurer: Van Kichline

You'll notice a glaring omission in this list, namely a nominee for President. Don has agreed to run for the presidential post if no one else steps forward, but of course that will leave us lacking a vice-presidential candidate. One other member is considering whether to accept the V.P.

nomination. We won't know his decision until meeting night.

For those of you who might consider running for an officer position, but are put off by the time commitment required: Our By-Laws stipulate only that the Board meet a minimum of once a year. While I've enjoyed the "eyeball QSOs" at our monthly Board meetings, there's no reason why the new Board couldn't conduct its business via e-mail or phone, if they so choose. The President's primary task is to keep some semblance of order during the general meetings; the Veep's there to fill in for the President. None of these positions, except for Secretary, require more than a couple of

hours a month, not including meeting and committee time.

Please plan to be at the meeting this month for this important bit of club business. - de N7UK

Rules changes for Field Day

Yet another Field Day reminder: PARS will participate in this year's FD from the Senior Center, on the weekend of June 22-23. Antenna setup will commence at 0800, and we'll try to be QRV by 1100. Doug Bell has agreed to be our FD chair this year. Thanks, Doug!

The ARRL has made a couple of notable rule changes this year:

1. Stations anywhere in North or South America may compete. Previously, competition was limited to stations in the U.S. and Canada. Stations elsewhere can make contact with FD stations, but aren't eligible for awards.
2. The optional "free" Novice station previously accorded to class 2A or larger operations has been replaced with a "Get On The Air", or GOTA station. The intent is to allow Novices, Technicians, and unlicensed club members (with a control operator), and other hams who may be inexperienced at contesting, or whose skills have gotten rusty, to have a radio to call their own. Participating clubs can claim credit for up to 400 QSOs from the GOTA station, on top of a 100-point bonus. The GOTA station must use a separate callsign from the main FD operation.

Complete Field Day info. and rules are available at www.arrl.org/contests/forms/02fdpack.pdf

Next general meeting - Thursday, May 16 at 7:00 PM at the Bellevue Senior Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE in Bellevue. We'll have a mystery video, courtesy of Mark Whitaker (see 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, June 6 at 7:00 PM, location TBD. Contact Kirk if you'd like to attend. All PARS members are welcome.

Things you won't hear (or say) at a Hamfest

[Now that Hamfest season is in full swing, it's an opportune time to consider this list from Clinton Herbert, AB7RG, and others at eHam.net. - Ed.]

"Gee, I wish there were more computer junk here." - If there were any more, you couldn't walk.

"Who was Marconi?" - That would be like asking, "What was Hiram Percy Maxim's callsign?" or "How do you calculate the length of a half-wave dipole?"

"I'm not putting any more antennas on my car." - This is true only if there isn't any room left.

"I never have any RFI problems." - If a ham said this, his/her antenna would have to be a dummy load.

"Free Collins Gear!" - If so, it's either stolen or an obvious ploy to get everyone over to the booth. This would also work to clear out the concession stand line!

"I don't think that it will fit in my car." - Another impossibility; after all, if the price is right a ham will tie it to the roof and/or the hood to get it home. [We'll certainly never hear this from Doug Bell - Ed.]

"I threw out my junk box." - No ham will ever do this. It might get done *for* you, however ...

"No, there's nothing here that I want or need." - A physical impossibility for any known ham.

"Hey, does anyone here have a table selling sock puppets?" (May substitute "homemade jelly," "ugly jewelry," "inkjet cartridge refill kits," or "ceramic doodads" [presumably excluding insulators - Ed.] in place of "sock puppets" as appropriate).

"\$700 for a TS-520?? Well, okay, but only because it's

a collector's item."

"Let's choose a secret frequency to coordinate on. How about ... let's see ... 146.52?"

"I am here today to meet women."

"I can't wait for this to be over so I can get back to my exercise routines."

"The receiver gets WWV at 2.5, 5, 12, 18, and 20 MHz... yep, it's in fine shape ... you won't find a better Hallicrafters at this whole damn 'fest!

"To be honest with you, I don't think it transmits full power, so I'll let you have it for 5 bucks."

"You'll meet a lot of nice young friends your age at the hamfest."

"Sure you can test it out. I'll be here awhile, just bring the rig back and pay if it works."

"I'm selling everything in my shack so that I can spend more time with the XYL and help her with HER hobbies. And the proceeds from the sale? I'm donating those to charity!!!"

"You look like you've been working out."

"Hey, those 11-meter amplifiers work great!"

"Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu, come here!" and here will come three dogs. Or worse, along come three children!

"Dear, I don't need any more radio equipment. Let's buy you a new diamond ring."

"Sure, I'll hold your check until the end of the month."

PARS 2001 - 02 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, limericks, 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.

Herschel Whiting, 1921-2002

Herschel Lloyd Whiting WS7K, ex-WA7IMC, an avid amateur radio operator and formerly of Bellevue, died April 13, 2002. He was born on December 12, 1921 in El Centro, California to Walter Calvin and Mary Agnes (Gleason) Whiting. He was raised on farms in Southern California and near Eugene, Oregon, with five brothers and one sister. At the age of 17 he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, and in 1940 at the age of 18 began studying airplane construction and maintenance at the Northrop company school. During the Second World War he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard, serving on ships guarding North Atlantic convoys and in the South Pacific. At the end of the war he was a third class Petty Officer with a Radarman rating. After the war he continued flying and working on airplanes, indeed flying his own from Southern California to Alaska where he lived for three years. In 1955 he settled in Bellevue, maintaining airliners for Pacific Northwest Airlines (later Western Airlines and now part of Delta). He married the former Janet Murdoch Gow, who predeceased him in 1992, and the couple had five children.

He was bitten by the amateur radio bug and soon antennas began sprouting from his car and his house with one large tower attracting faraway signals as well as lightning bolts. He constructed remotely controlled radio repeaters for mountaintops which pioneered technologies we use today to talk on our cell phones. He was a member of the Puget Amateur Radio Society and donated many hours and parts rebuilding a trailer for their use as a radio station and classroom. He provided backup emergency communications for 911 as a member of the Eastside Amateur Radio Support Team.

Herschel was a true handyman, able to fix or build almost anything, including his own cars, airplane, boat, and radio towers. He was the first to complain about being unable to work on computerized cars. He was extremely talented in the workshop, able to make anything he set his mind to. Projects included a cabin cruiser, in which he cruised several times to Bainbridge Island; an airplane; and a telescope for his son

who is now a professional astronomer. He spent many hours puttering around the yard and planting gardens and trees when he retired in 1985, he planted his entire backyard with farm crops he loved from his youth.

Not at all a storyteller, the few incidents in his childhood and his military career known to his children were learned in unguarded moments or from his siblings. He had a very strict code of right and wrong which he followed stubbornly and without hesitation. He strongly opposed any sense of entitlement, but was overwhelmingly generous when he thought the cause worthwhile. The love and support which poured out from all his family and friends during his last illness are a testament to how badly he will be missed.

Herschel was preceded in death by his wife, parents, and two brothers, Warren and Ray. He is survived by his brothers Bernard, Gordon, and Evan; his sister Martha; daughters Marion Dowell, Ann MacGowan, and Susan Kemp; his sons Alan and Stuart KB7UUX; 4 grandchildren: Laurie, Connie, Alissa, and Daniel; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at Evergreen Washelli Funeral Home, 11111 Aurora Avenue N, Seattle WA, at 12:00 Noon Saturday April 20. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association. Please sign the on-line guest book at evergreen-washelli.com.

[This obituary was printed in both the Seattle Times and Seattle Post-Intelligencer on Apr. 16.]

A reminder: In the wake of Hershel's passing, PSE has disconnected the WS7K ID'er from our 443.2 repeater. Until PSE connects our new controller, please ID the repeater manually, using our K7PAR call. This will be the repeater's ID from now on. - Ed.]

Minutes of the PARS general meeting, 18 Apr. 2002

The members met at the Bellevue Senior Center. 8 members were present, a quorum. One visitor also attended. The President and Vice-President were absent. The Secretary brought the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

After the members had introduced themselves, the Secretary called for a moment of silence in memory of former member Herschel Whiting, WS7K [See the obituary on page 3 - Ed.]

Lynn Burlingame, N7CFO, presented a program in which he recounted his exploits as a VHF roving station, and gave some tips on how to get started in roving. He brought some of his VHF equipment for display.

Following a break, the Secretary called the business meeting to order. The members approved the minutes of the March meeting as published in the April issue of *Sparks*.

Treasurer's report: The Secretary didn't have a bank balance available, but reported that there was a positive balance and no withdrawals during the previous 30 days. [Financial statements are available from the Treasurer - Ed.] He noted that he had ordered the linear amplifier retrofit kit, pursuant to member approval in March, but hadn't yet deducted it from the club account.

Trailer committee: Committee chair Mark Whittaker was absent. The Secretary had installed a new ground rod and wire for the trailer on Apr. 13, in an effort to alleviate the RFI problem plaguing the Senior Center's PA system. He and Dick Schwanke had made some transmitting tests from the trailer on Apr. 16 and had added a filter capacitor to one of the PA amplifiers, but had been unable to complete their tests due to a group that wanted to use the PA at the time.

The President still hadn't installed the new smoke detector or CO detector in the trailer.

Contest: The Secretary noted that the next event, other than Field Day, would be the Washington

Salmon Run in mid-September. He planned to lead a DXpedition to San Juan county for the event. He suggested that PARS could have a second Salmon Run operation from the trailer, if there were some members wanting to work the contest as a group but unwilling to travel to San Juan.

Hamfest: Nothing to report. The Secretary remarked that the club endeavors year-round to collect donated hamfest items.

Field Day: The Secretary discussed some of the details of this year's Field Day operation, and reminded the members that PARS would be operating from the Senior Center this year. Doug Bell agreed to act as Field Day chair, with help from John Heflin.

Old Business: There had been no progress on the new 443.2 repeater controller since the March meeting. PSE liaison Steve Szombathy had turned off the repeater IDer in the wake of Herschel Whiting's passing, since the club had been using Herschel's call for the repeater. The Secretary asked everyone to ID the repeater manually, using the club's K7PAR call, until Steve could hook up the new controller.

New Business: The Secretary announced the names of the members who had agreed to run for office for the '02-'03 club year: Don Hickman for Vice-President, Doug Bell for Secretary, and Van Kichline for Treasurer. Don agreed to run for President if no one else came forward.

The Secretary recounted some of Herschel Whiting's contributions to the club, and noted that he was one of PARS' first Hams of the Year. The members voted and approved purchase of a floral arrangement to be delivered to Herschel's memorial service on Apr. 20.

With no further business, the Secretary adjourned the meeting at 8:48 PM.

- Respectfully Submitted,
Kirk Bellar N7UK
PARS Secretary-Treasurer