

K7LED Relay



Volume 53, Issue 2

Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club – Seattle

February 2025

President's Report

Carl Reynolds N7CJR
President

I hope everyone is as sick and tired of freezing temps, slippery roads, shoveling snow and scrapping ice off their windshields. Please be safe traveling no matter what mode you're using. I threw down some ice on our driveway since it's on the north side of our house and barely gets any sun. Our external antennas definitely need thawing out as well. Summer's right around the corner.

February means our Swap Meet is getting closer which is one of the club's main efforts in fund raising and outreach to the Ham community. Besides the monthly meetings, the Swap Meet was the first activity I got involved in after I joined the club. I like eyeing the highly engineered equipment and meeting their soon to be "previous" owners. It's a great place to catch up with fellow Hams you haven't seen in ages or since the last meeting. If you're upgrading your license it takes a team effort to put on a quality swap meet and you will be tired when it's over, but the enjoyment will make you forget your aching feet and sore back. I guarantee it! Sign up soon!

I've bought a Mobilinkd TNC4 along with a few cable adapters for my Baofeng and Yaesu HTs. My journey into the digital Ham world has begun. I'm planning on using it for my volunteer work with the city of Renton. I've used a phone App "APRSdroid" with my Baofeng which I haven't used in quite a while. Winlink and Fldigi is next, I'll be going to school at YouTube University to get up to speed.

I would like to congratulate those members who participated in "Winter Field Day". I'll have to buy a RV in order to participate, 'cause my camping days are over and it's too cold for tent camping. I heard they had good weather as well. I'm sure they've got an article in this newsletter.

A repeat reminder that our officers(Chairman of the Board, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and trustees (#1,#3,#5) elections will occur at the March general meeting after the swap meet. Nominations will be requested by our Chairman of the Board during the next 2 meetings. Please feel free to self-nominate or someone you know that shows aptitude and spunk. *continued...*

Swap Meet Update

THANK YOU to those who have signed up to work. Since my plea last month, we have reached the +74% level in work slots filled for Friday. Saturday, the actual Swap Meet date only has a 55% work slots filled rate.

We don't even have a bare minimum for putting on the Saturday portion of this event right now. The program for the February meeting will be the Swap Meet. This is a particularly important meeting to attend, in person or on Zoom. You'll get the latest info we can provide and newbies are especially encouraged to participate. DON'T forget to sign up for SETUP and TEARDOWN. Even if you signed up for other slots.

President's article continued...

The membership is very talented and that talent should be put to use growing the club. Our club is consistently adding new members, which produces a fresh pool of talent to draw from.

An opportunity for STEM Teachers from ARRL: The ARRL "Teachers" Institute on Wireless Technology is a donor-funded professional development program designed to help classroom teachers elevate their STEM programs through the use of wireless technology. As a part of the ARRL **Education & Technology Program**, several sessions are conducted each year, and the program continues to grow. Teachers Institute is filled with lectures, hands-on activities, and demonstrations to inspire teachers so they can inspire their students

through the use of tools and strategies to introduce basic electronics, radio science, satellite communications, Amateur Radio, radio direction finding (fox hunting), weather science, microcontrollers, and electronic sensors to their students. Teachers are provided with the equipment needed to take wireless technology to their classrooms. If you, or someone you know, would like to support ARRL's mission to elevate STEM programs in schools, click here: **DONATE TODAY** or contact the ARRL Development Office at (860)594-0291

Look forward to seeing you at the February meeting.
Carl N7CJR

Celebrating February Members

By Scott Gilyeat, KC7SAG, Treasurer

As of February 2025, these folks have been Mike & Key members for the number of years stated. Congratulations to all of you, and thank you for your participation and service. Happy Anniversary this month! Each of you makes us who we are.

(Life Member, 25 years or more with the Club)
(Anniversary Certificate)

Years

51	Hal Goodell	N7NW
35	Dean Holtan	N7XS
34	Sandra Dunkel	K7OZY
31	Richard Danielson	K7RIC
29	Paul Roth	N7DOH
29	Adrian Roth	KB7BVL
25	Brendan Burget	KD7IKV
25	Curtis Hanner	N7MWC
25	Dawn Hanner	N7VWH
15	Randy Stagers	K9VD

15	John Swafford II	W7MEU
12	Jim Monson	K7JGM
12	James Wraalstad	WQ7H
11	Dan Aalberg	KG7DAB
8	Koda Mondragon	KI7IXR
6	Jeffrey Kenner	W7GPG
4	Mark Chubb	K7NZL
4	Erik Petersen	KG7NOC
3	Victor Bloomfield	KJ7CBM
3	Delia Fjelstad	KJ7YED
3	Michael Munsinger	KJ7VID
3	Jim Roach	A17OZ
3	Shihua Sun	WA7SUN
3	Guangqiang Zhao	NB2Y
2	Charles Aggenbach	KK7EFH
2	Matthew Beldyk	KC8PNF
2	Mike Cirineo	AB7D
2	Tim Holmes	WV7TIM
2	Bill Swickard	KK7KCN
1	Joe Brand	KE7BBQ

**Schevonne Vercueil
KJ7USZ, Silent Key**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Schevonne Vercueil. Word came to us through a Facebook post by her daughter Madison Dang. Condolences to Madison, her daughter here in Seattle, her family in South Africa, and her friends near and far. 73 Schevonne.

**Mike & Key Swap Meet –
History and Future Plans**

Manfred Bester, AG7NR

Introduction

The Mike & Key Electronics Show and Swap Meet (formerly known as Flea Market) has been a major annual Club event since 1982. It is listed as an ARRL Hamfest and, along with Field Day and VE

activities, puts our Club on the map, both regionally and nationally.

The Swap Meet is also a significant social event for the PNW amateur radio community and draws participation from adjacent states and even DX in some cases. It provides opportunities to sell and acquire hardware at a time where classic electronics stores are few and far between.

The Swap Meet fosters camaraderie among our members and provides a major source of revenue

for the Club. Mike & Key membership fees have always been and are still rather low, compared with other Clubs. However, instead of paying higher dues to cover the Club's expenditures, members are expected to actively participate and donate their time to make the Swap Meet successful. Without revenue from the Swap Meet (and in the absence of other sources of income) we would need to increase individual membership dues from \$20 to around \$50 per year to afford the current level of annual expenditures.

FREE PARKING
DOOR PRIZES

DO DAH & DIT

ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET 1982

AMATEUR RADIO COMPUTERS RC HOBBIES
 CARNIVAL MINI AUCTION BAZAAR

SATURDAY, MARCH 13th 9-5 SUNDAY, MARCH 14th 10-4

LOCATION AT LONGACRES JUST OFF 405

SNACK BAR CLUB BOOTHS 807's ON TAP FREE S/C RV SPACE

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

\$.50 ADMISSION under 12 accompanied by parent FREE

BOOTH SPACE AVAILABLE CALL:

Deb de JONG 883-3012 Hal Goodell 927-7603
 Mike Cross 935-2688 Bill Balzarini 762-7738

NICKED NACKS JUNQUE TRINKETS
 DEALERS DISTRIBUTERS

END YOUR CHECK TO: ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET 1982

20903 NE 77th REDMOND WASH 98052

MIKE & KEY ARC

Relay 1982-02

Swap Meet related excerpts from K7LED Relays in the 1980s.

Current Challenges

In 2025, the Swap Meet will be held for the 43rd time. There was only one missed year (2021) due to the COVID pandemic. In 2022 and 2023 we saw a large dip in attendance, but in 2024 we were back to ~80% of the net revenue from 2019, our best year to date. During those weak years we needed to use parts of our financial reserves to cover Club expenditures. With continually rising costs for putting on a large event, and considering an age-related decline in participation, we need to be concerned about the risks of losing money and think about ways to adapt as we go forward.

Relay 1986-02

*** FLEAMARKET ***

All the flyers have been mailed and publicity is in full swing for the March 8, 1986, Fleamarket. I have been trying to attend a few of the local club meetings to talk about the fleamarket. If you go to any ham or computer functions please pitch the fleamarket and pass out so flyers. You can get the flyers from me. I will have a packet for each volunteer at the next club meeting and we will spend some time reviewing the assignments. It is necessary for everyone to attend this meeting. Deborah, N7AVD, is handling the table sales which are accumulating at the usual clip. Mike, WA7UWJ, will be putting notices out to local radio stations and we have covered all the ham publications as well as notified all the clubs in the northwest. Jimmy, WA7LNG, is putting the word out via radio nets on all bands. He could use some help and would appreciate if you would contact him with net information and if you could provide the announcements. Warren, K7MRH, has been busy making up new signs.

Hal, N7NW

Relay 1989-02

FLEA MARKET EXAMS

As in years past, we will be making UE Exam sessions available during the annual Mike & Key Flea Market.

There will be two sessions, one in the morning and another past noon. Because of the high demands for seats at these sessions, reservations are accepted and recommended. To get information on how, what, when, and where: send me an SASE and we'll get the ball rolling. -uvj

Michael Dinkelman
637 2nd Ave So.
Kent, WA 98032

We have already looked at alternate venue options such as the Enumclaw Expo Center or the ShoWare Center in Kent but were unable to identify one that would meet our needs and saves costs at the same time. The Pavilion at the WA State Fairgrounds appears to be the only available venue that can handle the size of our event. Obviously, the Swap Meet cannot be grown arbitrarily due to space and occupancy limitations of the exhibition hall, but at this point we have not maxed out.

To make up for rising costs, entrance fees and charges for tables can only be increased to a

certain point before interest in participation starts to diminish. We therefore need to find creative ways to be more efficient, saving operating costs and reducing the workload for volunteers where possible.

Speaking of volunteers, the second challenge we are facing is the handover of leadership roles to new team members. Hal Goodell, N7NW and Mike Dinkelman, N7WA have been running the show for decades. The enormous work hours they donated to the Club over so many years are invaluable and highly appreciated. Now, both Hal and Mike are ready to pass the torch.

Financial Adjustments in 2025

The largest expenditures for putting on the Swap Meet are the Fairgrounds rental fees that keep increasing (\$15,300 in 2024). For 2025, we are for the first time charged for services that used to be included, such as \$40 for each ceiling power drop, and garbage removal.

The second largest expenditure is the printing and mailing of registration flyers (\$6,000). Since our Swap Meet is an ARRL-recognized hamfest, the League used to provide free-of-charge address labels for some 12,000 amateurs living in selected, regional ZIP codes. These labels were then manually pasted onto the flyers by our volunteer team.

This year the ARRL offered the printed address label service for \$800, or alternatively an electronic database in Excel format free of charge. We decided to use the free-spreadsheet option and have the addresses printed directly onto the flyers. This service did cost \$700 extra, but at least we saved the manual labor.

Going forward, we need to keep a close eye on the revenue versus expenditure balance and make changes along the way if necessary. Venue reservations for the next Swap Meet and the first down payment to the Fairgrounds are typically made during the month following current year's event. Once we made the payment we are basically committed, so there are significant financial risks involved.

Since the Swap Meet is the major funding source for our Club, we need to assess where costs can

be reduced, and revenue increased. For 2025, we decided that general admission ticket prices will be increased from \$12 to \$13 to offset new charges. Table and admission fees for vendors will remain unchanged from 2024.

Changes to the Country Store pricing scheme are also under consideration. In 2024, the total commission from selling items was less than \$20 since almost all sales were on behalf of volunteers who received the full price.

Event Management and Volunteer Support

The Swap Meet leadership team consists of Club members who signed up to chair key functions of the event. Going forward, we need to find ways to spread the workload and motivate the next generation to take on leadership roles and get trained up to do the required jobs. Some of these are rather complex, but others can be learned quite easily.

A good resource to identify potential candidates for leadership positions are the submitted membership application forms with their stated professional backgrounds, interests and talents.

Task areas where leadership functions are required can be grouped as follows:

1. Event planning functions (from time to time throughout the year):
 - Administration (working with Fairgrounds and subcontractors on schedules, pricing, logistics, insurance, fire safety, security, coordinating the volunteer team)
 - Registration (interacting with vendors, managing table reservations, tracking payments, maintaining the vendor database, preparing vendor packets, managing vendor arrival)
 - Treasury (keeping track of finances, making timely payments, supporting audits)
2. Event support functions (mainly during the week or day of the Swap Meet):
 - Event Management
 - Setup & Teardown
 - Loading Dock Operations
 - Ticket Sales
 - Country Store

February 2025

- Announcing
- Hospitality
- Volunteer Examiner (VE) Testing

Each one of these functions require a leader (Chair) and ideally also a backup (Co-chair). For most of these functions we already have Chairs who have been doing these for many years. With the 2025 Swap Meet on our doorstep, we can bring additional Club members into the leadership team so they can get trained on the different jobs on hand.

Hal and Mike have been the primary actors for many decades and developed personal relationships with vendors and Fairgrounds personnel along the way. Those relationships need to be preserved. There are expectations by the vendor community to have a smooth and successful event, so we need to pay a lot of attention to details. Given many years of experience with organizing and running the event, most of the processes are now well established. Others still need a bit of tweaking, as new challenges arise.

Strategic Planning for 2026 and Beyond

While there was downturn related to the COVID pandemic that we have not completely recovered from, there is generally a very positive encouragement among our Club members and the amateur radio community to continue our annual Swap Meet. However, we will need to develop a plan and find a balance between reducing costs, increasing revenue, and improving efficiency in some areas.

The following bullet points should guide us towards achieving this plan:

- Document team knowledge and identify major focus areas
- Recruit additional volunteers that are willing to learn leadership functions
- Bring in fresh ideas to improve efficiency
- Assess where costs can be reduced
- Modernize registration and ticket sales by using online tools
- Ask for donations of items to be sold at the Country Store

K7LED Relay

- Advertise the event more broadly beyond the amateur radio community
- Include other amateur radio related attractions (small VHF/UHF GOTA station; EmComm booth)

One way to reduce costs may be to only mail registration flyers to prospective vendors but then reach out to a larger audience via social media and other means (radio nets, other forms of advertising, personal invitations, word of mouth). Registration material would be distributed to other Clubs and could also be downloaded from our web site.

Looking at the excerpt from the Relay 1986-02 (see above), some of these ideas are not new, but may have fallen dormant. David Okrent, W7DAO just provided an excellent list with modern suggestions that was forwarded to swapmeet@mkarc.groups.io for review and discussion.

After meeting with Mike last week, it became clear that we need to modernize the registration process for 2026 and beyond. In preparation, vendors need to be informed at the upcoming Swap Meet that changes are coming. This should happen through in-person exchanges and by distributing flyers with a corresponding note and a QR code pointing to our Swap Meet web page.

Summary

The Mike & Key Swap Meet is a very rewarding and valuable community experience. Let's pull our resources together - we can do this and continue the great tradition, hopefully for years to come!

To get involved, please join the Swap Meet discussion and sign up for the email distribution list: swapmeet@mkarc.groups.io

Also, please check out the signup sheet for 2025 Swap Meet volunteers: <https://mkarc.ivolunteer.com/>

There are still many open slots for both Friday, March 7 and Saturday, March 8. And even once all slots are filled, we will still be looking for backups, especially in Administration (see signup page for Friday). The web site also contains links to descriptions for each of the positions that need to be filled. We are counting on your support. Thank you!



Impressions from recent Swap Meets.

It was a cold and noisy day...

Dave Okrent W7DAO

I decided to try Winter Field Day (WFD) for the first time, although it's not the first time I've operated in the field during a PNW winter. My first time was at Pacific Beach on a fine rainy January weekend at a more or less flooded campground. Luckily, I can use my minivan as an antenna platform while camping in it. For this WFD the skies were clear the entire time, albeit a bit cold, and I stayed in a

heated, dry, and comfortable cabin at Bay View State Park east of Burlington. Outside of my window was a beautiful view of the industrial area of Anacortes across the bay.

I set up my antenna about 30 feet away and was able to run the coax through the window. Although, there was 120VAC in the cabin, I operated my FT-991A at 100 watts SSB from my 30-amp battery. I can do digital modes, but I'm not a big fan. Yes, CW is still on my bucket list.

Prior to going out I looked at the space weather and

Sol was relatively quiet, even with a Solar Flux Index of 180-ish, the NOAA site showed the solar wind as relatively low and there were no CMEs in route. I ran a vertical antenna with 16 radials as I didn't have the space to run a horizontal antenna,

However, the dreams of hams don't always line up with nature's plans. I started about an hour and a half after the official start time and found 20m too noisy for me to hear much of anything. I heard several stations, but it was hard to figure out their call signs and exchanges through the noise. Yes, I have noise processing, but it didn't help. Okay, time to move to 10 meters, where I generally get a quieter situation. Opps, ten was a bit noisy too and there weren't many stations coming through. Next, I re-adjusted the vertical antenna for 15 m and took a listen.

Fifteen meters was less noisy than 20m and there were many stations that I could hear sufficiently to make out their call signs and exchanges. I always listen and get these before I try to make contact. I made about 30 contacts on Saturday over four-hours of on airtime across the day, greater than 90% of my contacts were on 15m. Forty meters was a lot quieter, and I picked up a few contacts in the evening. I was surprised to contact a WV station on 40-meters SSB.

An Urban Foray into HF with the DX Commander Signature 12.4

David Keogh KK7VNR

My Journey from VHF to HF

My ham journey started not too long ago on VHF, where I discovered the Mike and Key nightly net while experimenting with SDRs. I listened regularly even as I prepared for my technician and general exams. Since then, I've grown a lot as an operator. Mike and Key will always stay with me as the place that encouraged me, and provided a nice friendly springboard to help push me to explore the RF spectrum and all the modes that exist.

Discovering HF and the Call of DX

Already fascinated by software-defined radios, I wanted to explore the longer bands. I set up a 132-ft end-fed half-wave antenna and was soon making

Facebook traffic during Saturday from the M&K team at Fort Casy indicated they had the same noise issues. I couldn't hear their transmissions possibly because 1) I was running a vertical with a relatively low take off angle, and 2) I think a hill between us blocked their space wave to me, but who knows.

Results, well the number of contacts were not so good, but there is a silver lining. I was able to have QSOs with NB, EMA, AL, OH, WV, and WPA; therefore, I'm claiming victory. Maybe next year I should select a space big enough for a horizontal dipole. I was wishing for a day like I had last fall when I was able to have QSOs with Spain and Ireland using 20 watts SSB on 10m with the vertical on top of my car in Bellevue; it's nice when the sun blesses the HF bands, not so good when it doesn't.

[Side note: I was going to bring the Force 5 portable vertical dipole that I can remote switch from 20-10, but it seems to have taken off on its own trip. I couldn't find it and I am wondering if I left it at our last Field Day in June 2024. If anyone sees it roaming around, it's in a four-foot brown box, please give me a call.]

contacts all over North America using FT8 on my Icom 705. However, the noise levels on 80 m kept me away from that band, and the height of my EFHW kept me away from some proper DXing. Living on half an acre in Lynnwood, I had enough space for an end-fed or vertical, but the suburban noise environment pushed me to find a quieter HF solution.

Finding a Quiet Spot and a New Approach

Armed with my trusty 705 and a small HF magnetic loop antenna, I hunted for that elusive quiet spot in my garden. I eventually discovered an area with minimal noise, even though the rest of the garden was not ideal. That's when I decided to try a vertical antenna. I did find the source of the noise though. I have some RGB LEDs all around the front of my house. The LEDs are a single string, approximately 140 ft long. Suspiciously close to the same length of my EFHW. My opinion is, if you like RFI silence on HF, stay away from Govee outdoor LED lights.

The DX Commander Signature 12.4

I turned to YouTube and discovered Callums (M0MCX) DX Commander live stream, which led me to the DX Commander Signature 12.4 from DX Engineering. Their thorough documentation made the project approachable, even if daunting, given the many HF antenna options out there. I opted for the 12.4 m version of the antenna because I had the room for guy ropes and was eager to operate 80 m vertically without resorting to inverted L's and such, as I assumed the wire would fall foul of the RF noise my EFHW did.

Building the Antenna

The assembly was a bit of a workout—aligning the sections for the approximately 40 ft pole required some brute force. The tolerances vary between sections, so your mileage may vary.

The kit supplies about 300m of wire for 8 different elements covering 80m, 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, and 10m—with the 80m and 30m elements sharing the same wire. The 80m element, featuring a coil of roughly 100 turns (located about two-thirds up the pole), proved to be the most challenging to install. I think that enlisting help (and perhaps compensating with a beer or two!) would make winding the coil much easier, but I soldiered on alone. I decided to go with thirty-two 6.3m (~21ft) radials, and since this is fairly close to my fence, they make a kind of truncated circular pattern laid out.



Using the Fence as a Bench

Erecting the Structure

Getting the pole upright was a two-person job. With my wife's help (even if she sometimes jokes that I'm trying to contact Mars), we secured the pole using 12" helical ground supports (available on Amazon) and reinforced the base of the antenna with some spare 12-inch bolts to prevent sliding in the wind. The center of gravity of the antenna is higher than the point you need to push up to get the antenna past 45 degrees, so I found it had a tendency to lift off the ground, making the job near impossible for me alone.

The Finishing Touches

I secured the radials using 4" biodegradable green plastic lawn staples—both to keep the dogs safe and to prevent the radials from shifting. Finally, I ran LMR400 direct burial cable from my garden to the shack, passing through my custom-made entry box before connecting to my radio and SDR. I've yet to tune this properly until I discover which mode I'd like to use more, phone or data. But all the bands are under 2:1, and my tuner takes care of that with ease.

So, Did It Work?

By comparing daytime images of the OpenWebRX waterfall displays for both my EFHW and the Signature 12.4 (fed into my SDRPlay RSPdx-R2), I can say that the vertical antenna has noticeably improved my noise issues on HF. It's a satisfying upgrade that has enriched my operating experience and opened up new possibilities on the 80 m band.

Happy DXing, and may your antennas be ever in your favor!



Antenna the first night:

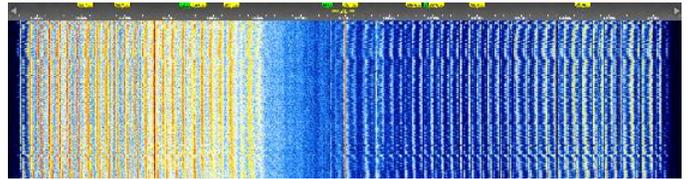


Antenna in the Wind

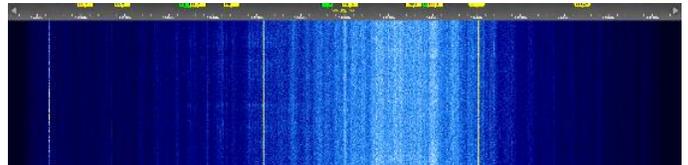


Stapled Radials

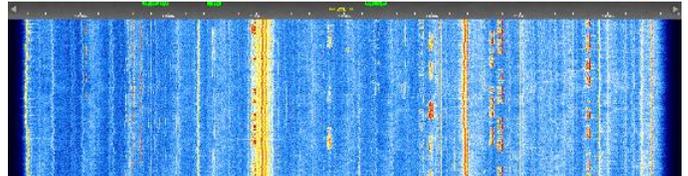
End fed half wave noise at 80m



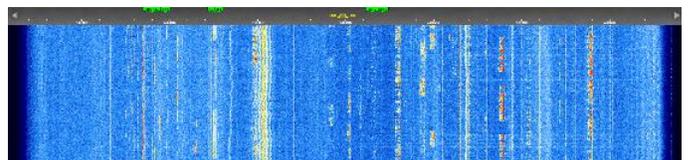
Signature 12.4 noise at 80m



End fed half wave noise at 40m



Signature 12.4 noise at 40m:



Helical tie downs

Winter Field Day

Bill Swickard KK7KCN

Most of the Seattle area was in the low 20's, but we were much warmer at 27F degrees overnight and in the upper 30's during the day. It might have reached all the way up to a balmy 43 at one point. We were toasty in the bright sunshine. One massive wind gust was something like 6 mph. The bright sun, the morning and evening horizons were mind-blowing.

We had cover over a handy fire in the evening and stayed warm as long as we were six inches from the fire. Ross singed his boots a bit but just rotated them so they singed evenly. Ahh the life of WFD. It was almost like a summer vacation. I am sorry for those who did not make it. It was quite grand. We BBQed steak on two evenings reminiscing about farms, cows and stuff like that.

Saturday morning at 0800 PST we were down to business lighting up the radio waves with excitement. I was so efficient that there were a couple complaints that other frequencies might have picked up an unintended signal. I think there may have been a fabrication in there, someplace. However, winter field day for me in 2024 was 21 contacts total. This year I reached almost 90 with only a few (too many) errors. Most were fixed eventually. Robert was busy with his yellow highlighter.

We had a great band plan with scheduled hours for different wavelengths that gave everyone a chance to try something different every 3 hours. That worked great. Someone else can proclaim about all the multipliers we earned, since they are likely better at math than I.

The saltwater was a big plus with far reaching signals and an opportunity to water ski. None of us took that opportunity, though. You could literally see the sparks on the water as four or five radios at 100 watts blasted the Americas. Maybe that was just sun sparkles.

Join us next year. You will have a blast.

Here's the QSO tally by band.

Band	Count
80m	1
40m	40
20m	162
15m	42
10m	49
2m	20
70cm	5
	319

Our achieved objectives and multipliers were:

- Operate away from home: 3X - YES
- Deploy multiple antennas: 1X - YES
- Copy the Winter Field Day Special Bulletin: 1X - YES
- Operate on at least six different bands: 6X - YES
- Operate six continuous hours during the event: 2X - YES

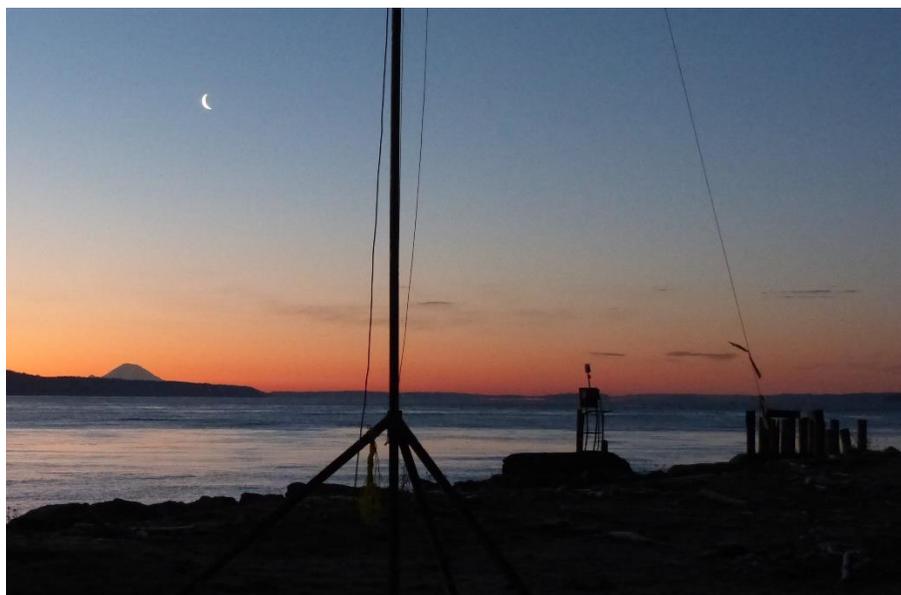
TOTAL MULTIPLIERS: 13X

That gives us a claimed score of 319 x 13 = 4,147



February 2025

K7LED Relay





Mike & Key ARC – General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: January 18, 2025, 10:00 Pacific
 Meeting Place: [Kent Senior Center, 600 East Smith, Kent, WA](#)

Attested to by Jeanne Yearian, Secretary

President, Carl Reynolds, N7CJR: Call to Order (Pacific) 10:00AM

Presentation: Kenny Richards KU7M – Narrowband Band Plans WWARA (Western Washington Amateur Relay Association)

Vice President (Jeanne Yearian KE7MES for Paul Petach, KI6QXV): Verified a quorum is present.

Approval of December 21, 2024 General Meeting minutes: Motion made by Phil Pia K7PIA, seconded by Gil W7GIL. Minutes approved with no dissention.

Agenda:

Officer Reports

- President (Carl Reynolds, N7CJR): Welcome.
- Vice President (Scott Gilyeat, KC7SAG for Paul Petach, KI6QXV): New membership applications (3). John Emrick, KJ7KSY; Brandon Dominguez, N7MID; Bill Agee, AG4WF. All were approved by the General Membership with no dissention.

- Secretary (Jeanne Yearian, KE7MES): No report.
- Treasurer (Scott Gilyeat, KC7SAG): Welcome to the new members. Current active membership count is 312. Reminder: Please pay your dues to keep current. Check the Mike & Key website for current payment options.
- Activities Manager (Ross VanDeen, W7ROV): No report.
- Radio Officer (Steven Cook, KD7IQL): No report.

Standing Committees

- Technical & Special Interest (Robert Christian, KJ7CBO): No report
- Public Service (Robert Grinnell, KD7WNV): The 2025 Service Booklet is being compiled. If you have a business you would like to advertise, please contact us. Consider participating in at least one public service event during the year. If you have found any errors or know of any changes to be made to the booklet, let us know.
- Education & Training (Jeff Hite, N7FCC): Daniel Stevens, KL7WM, reported a Tech class is scheduled in Auburn on the 22nd and 29th of March. Hopes to hold an Extra class later this Spring. If you are interested, contact Daniel.

- Membership (Manfred Bester, AG7NR): No report.
- Facilities & Publicity (Alex Malesis, W7AEM): No report.
- Repeater (Steven Cook, KD7IQL): Looking for volunteers to help us work with DSTAR and other IT computer-related issues. If interested, send an email through the radio officer email address which can be found in the Relay and on the website.
- Publications & IT Support (Scott Gilyeat, KC7SAG): No report.
- Relay Editor (Mike Dinkelman, N7WA): There is currently one person expressing interest in becoming the editor of the newsletter after June 2025. If someone would like to share the responsibility, contact Mike.

Essential Committees

- Audits (Sam Sullivan, N7RHE): The Audit Committee will be auditing the general books later this month via Zoom.
- Awards (Presenter: Dean Holtan, N7XS): No report
- Finance (Scott Gilyeat, KC7SAG): No report
- Strategic Planning (Manfred Bester, AG7NR): No report

Event Committees:

- Swap Meet (Mike N7WA, Hal N7NW): 7th and 8th of March. We need sign-ups in all areas. There is a considerable amount of construction going on at the Fairgrounds. This will impact the entry for the Sellers. We are meeting with the Fairground officials to discuss access for Swap Meet Buyers and Sellers. Next meeting is scheduled for the 11th of February.
- Field Day (David, WA7DY): No report.
- Picnic (Hal, N7NW): The picnic site has been reserved.

Mike & Key ARC – Board Meeting via Zoom

Date/Time: February 4, 2025 19:00 Pacific
Attested to by Jeanne Yearian, Secretary

Participants:

Carl Reynolds, N7CJR (President)
Paul Petach, KI6QXV (Vice President)
Jeanne Yearian, KE7MES (Secretary)
Scott Gilyeat, KC7SAG (Treasurer)
Ross VanDeen, W7ROV (Activities Manager)
Steven Cook, KD7IQL (Radio Officer)
Jeff Hite, N7FCC (Trustee #1)
Robert Christian, KJ7CBO (Trustee #2)
Robert Grinnell, KD7WNV (Trustee #3)
Manfred Bester, AG7NR (Trustee #4 - Board Chair)

Old Business: N/A

- Mike Dinkelman will not be continuing on with the newsletter. If you are interested, please step up. He also needs someone to take over setting up coffee and doughnuts for the monthly General Membership meetings asap.

New Business:

- Elections will be held in March. Nominations are open for Officers and Trustees:
 - President:
 - Vice President:
 - Secretary:
 - Treasurer: Scott Gilyeat
 - Trustees: Ross VanDeen, W7ROV, volunteered for another year as Activities Manager. Nominated to fill vacant positions: Bill Agee, Steve Olsen, Phil Pia

Good of the Order:

- Cards available on the front table to help promote Ham Radio.
- Elections are coming up in March. Please consider volunteering for a position.
- A reminder that Winter field day will be taking place on January 25-26. Contact Ross VanDeen, W7ROV, if you would like to join the Mike & Key group at Fort Casey.

Next Meeting: February 15, 2025, 10:00 AM Pacific at the

[Kent Senior Center, 600 East Smith, Kent, WA](#)

Adjourn: Vote to adjourn at 12:09 AM. Motion made by Scott KC7SAG; Seconded by Jeanne KE7MES. Motion approved with no dissention.

Alex Malesis, W7AEM (Trustee #5)
George Thornton, AE7G (Volunteer Counsel)
Hal Goodell, N7NW (Repeater Committee Co-chair, Swap Meet Co-chair)
Mike Dinkelman, N7WA, (Relay Editor, Swap Meet Co-chair)

Agenda:

Call to Order (19:00 Pacific) by Manfred, AG7NR
Establishment of quorum (Jeanne KE7MES): We have a quorum.
Approval of previous Board meeting minutes: Motion made by Robert Christian, KJ7CBO, seconded by Alex Malesis, W7AEM. Motion passed with no dissention.

Reports:

- Chairman of the Board (Manfred, AG7NR):.
- President (Carl, N7CJR): No report
- Vice President (Scott, KC7SAG for Paul, KI6QXV): New membership applications (6): Joseph Seefeldt; Bruce Dahl, KK7MEH; Bruce Axworthy, K7AXY; Ethan Hahn, KU1I; Doug Scott, KK7 YQX; Branden Born, W1BMB. All were pre-approved to move for a vote of the membership.
- Secretary (Jeanne, KE7MES): No report
- Treasurer (Scott, KC7SAG): Accounting status: Current active roster: 314; No unusual budget expenditures. As a reminder, to avoid service charges for donations, please pay by check or use Zelle.
- Activities Manager (Ross, W7ROV): No report.
- Radio Officer (Steven, KD7IQL): Working on putting a Repeater Committee together. A Repeater Committee meeting will be scheduled in February.

Standing Committees:

- Technical & Special Interest (Robert, KJ7CBO): The Seattle Yacht Club is very interested in having training and testing for club members. Looking forward to the Mike & Key POTA events in 2025.
- Public Service (Robert, KD7WNV): Working on the 2025 Public Service booklet. Exploring different printing options.
- Education & Training (Jeff, N7FCC): The draft proposal for the new policy on the Loaner Program has been reviewed by the Club's legal counsel. We will be working to finalize it and address the liability issues within the next few months. The parts for the Kenwood 430 (for the Loaner Program) have come in. Hopefully the repairs will be finished soon. Jeff and Scott have been working together to get cases to protect the equipment in transit.
- Membership (Manfred, AG7NR): Thanks to all who helped with the holiday party.
- Facilities & Publicity (Alex, W7AEM): Nothing to report
- Repeaters (Steven, KD7IQL): Nothing to report.

Publications & IT Support:

- Relay Editor (Manfred, AG7NR for Mike, N7WA): Contributions to the Relay due on Friday, February 7. Someone has shown interest in the position as editor of the Relay.
- Web Master (Scott, KC7SAG). No report.

Essential Committees:

- Audits (Scott, KC7SAG): The General Account Audit went well. We are waiting for Sam Sullivan to send a summary letter for the Board.
- Awards (Scott, KC7SAG): Scott will bring 3 longevity plaques to the February meeting.
- Finance: N/A
- Strategic Planning: Not discussed

Event Committees:

- Swap Meet (Hal, N7NW): First floor is sold out. The Swap Meet Committee will be meeting with the Fairground staff to discuss logistics for this year.
- Field Day (Scott, KC7SAG): Wagon Wheel at Fort Flagler has been reserved from Tuesday, June 24 to Monday, June 30, 2025.
- Picnic (Hal, N7NW): Reservation for the picnic in 2025 is done.

Old Business:

- ARRL Club Grant proposal to support repeater operations (Carl, N7CJR; Steven, KD7IQL; Manfred, AG7NR); Will be meeting via Zoom to discuss options for applying for a grant; Ross, W7ROV has experience with such a grant application and volunteered to help. Carl will look into getting instruction through an ARRL webinar.
- The Board discussed establishing a new Policy to create one location (Safety Deposit Box) to hold critical club information (i.e., user IDs and passwords). Once compiled, a printed copy would be printed and placed in the Safety Deposit Box and reviewed annually. Scott has been gathering information. Once all of the information has been received, Scott will put it into the Safety Deposit Box.
- **DRAFT** New Policy #25 - HF Transceiver Loan Program (Draft provided by Jeff, N7FCC):

HF Transceiver Loan Program The Board approves of the creation of a HF Transceiver Loan Program for use in allowing members new to HF operation the opportunity to experience and learn about the fun of operating and establishing a station on HF frequencies. The goal is providing members learning opportunities and experiences on HF who may lack funds or are unsure about an investment beyond a HT.

Jeff will follow up with the Club's legal counsel and discuss liability issues.

New Business:

- Elections are coming up in March.
- Toku has suggested a tent for the antenna trailer.

Good of the Order:

- The Club needs a volunteer to take over setting up coffee and doughnuts for the monthly General Meeting as soon as possible. Contact Mike Dinkelman for details.
- Robert, KD7WNV, Five stations set up for winter field day at Fort Casey. Met all the objectives. Had beautiful weather.

Action Items:

Workers Needed

Michael N7WA

As I indicated, worker signups have not even met minimum threshold for running this year's Swap Meet. Apparently, having 300 members (which we crow about a lot) in the club isn't enough or most of the members don't believe this event is worth supporting anymore.

Areas of need:

Hospitality (Saturday, all day) This is a cushy, indoor job surrounded by food and drink. We need some folks to signup, particularly for setup and teardown. Your boss is Jeanne (also the Club Secretary and organizer of the Club Holiday party). This is also a good position for a spouse that wants to help the Club but who wants nothing to do with those filthy radios in the next building.

Registration (Friday, Gold gate, Saturday, Gold Gate) Not so cushy a job. Mostly outdoors. We hand out packets to the vendors as they come in the gate. We are out in the middle of the fairgrounds and you should be prepared for weather. We do have a little golf-cart and a warm building to duck into when it slows down. I, N7WA, am your boss. Sometimes, the weather is nice!

Country Store (Friday, all day) Bill Swickard is the chair. Help sell consignment items. Bill has done some restructuring to make it easier.

Treasurer (Saturday, all day) Scott Gilyeat is the Chair

- Safety Deposit Box: Scott, KC7SAG, will make an appointment with the US Bank in Renton to update the list of authorized signers. Hal, N7NW, will be removed and Steven, KD7IQL, added.

Next Meeting

- March 4, 2025, 18:45 Pacific remotely via Zoom (no change in meeting date/time/location)

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn by Carl, N7CJR; Seconded by Jeff, N7FCC at 20:55 Pacific. The motion passed with no dissent.

Tickets (Saturday morning) Need some ticket takers Manfred AG7NR runs the show.

Setup We usually have plenty of folks show up but nobody seems to remember to actually signup for setup even if they have signed up for other work. It just makes us feel a lot better if you let us know you are coming Friday morning. Plus, it'll raise that percentage of worker slots significantly. David Yarbrough is the chair.

Teardown Yeah, please stay after the event is over and help us stack tables and chairs. I know, we are all tired. Trust me, I am more tired than you. I am hoping people have just forgotten to sign up. If we had a good signup here, We might reach our minimum worker signups.

As usual, Signup Here:

<https://mkarc.ivolunteer.com/>

Releasing a License

Michael N7WA

Swap Meet season always reminds me that few Hams let their estate know that their license lives on until it expires or it is released. That can be ten years. You can hear the pain in the phone calls I get when they receive a Swap Meet flyer. Maybe you might consider printing off this info and sticking a copy with your important papers.

**Canceling an Amateur Radio License with the
Federal Communications Commission**

You may provide proof of death in the form of a copy of the death certificate or a copy of an obituary with the date of death listed.

Send this information (a copy is fine) via FAX or Mail along with a cover letter to the FCC requesting that the individual's call sign be canceled. The letter should look something like this:

(Your name)
(Your street address)
(Your City, State, ZIP)
Tel: (Your phone number)
E-mail: (Your email address, if any)
(Today's date)
Federal Communications Commission
Attention: Amateur Division
1270 Fairfield Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Re: Deceased Amateur License Cancellation

To whom it may concern:

I am requesting that you cancel amateur license (callsign) since the holder, (holder's name), died (date of death). A copy of the death certificate (or obituary) showing the required information is attached.

Thank you,

(Hand-written signature)
(Your name)

You can fax this information to:
Federal Communications Commission
Attention: Amateur Division
Fax number 717-338-2850

or you can mail this information to:

Federal Communications Commission
Attention: Amateur Division
1270 Fairfield Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Prefer to try this on-line:?

If you can scan and attach the required information, you can point your web browser to the FCC's help request page at <https://esupport.fcc.gov/onlinerequest.htm> and submit the cancellation online.

Simply fill in the requested fields with the subject of "Deceased Amateur License Cancellation" and paste the information as listed above into the "Problem Description" field. You can then attach the required supporting documentation by clicking on the "Add Attachments" link. Then submit your request and you should receive your tracking number which will allow you to track your progress.

February Program

Michael N7WA

Hal will be presenting the February program. This is where you get the latest information on the Swap Meet.

The fairgrounds WILL be doing GOLD GATE construction. We will not have access to the Gold Gate for vehicle traffic. In fact, we won't have access to the Orange Gate either (also construction). It'll be the Purple gate for entering and exiting. See map on next page.

There will be walk-in access near the Gold Gate, probably a door to the Expo Hall along 9th Avenue.

Donuts and Coffee

Michael N7WA

I won't be in town the next two months for the next two Club meetings. I am still looking for a volunteer, or team of volunteers, to take over Club meeting donuts and coffee. I've been doing it 19 years.

If no one steps up, there will be no coffee or donuts. I'd prefer that the person(s) who step up, not be one of the regulars who always volunteer. Time to spread the load with some fresh blood.

Oh, I am leaving town late Monday. If someone wants the coffee supplies, better pick them up soon.



Contact Us:

Email: info@mikeandkey.org

Message Bd/Reflector: <https://groups.io/g/mkarc>

Website: www.mikeandkey.org

Officer contacts info:

<http://www.mikeandkey.org/officers.php>

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