

K7LED Relay



Volume 52, Issue 11

Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club – Seattle

November 2024

President's Report

Carl Reynolds / N7CJR
President

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, so your president will share some of the things he's thankful for. To mention a recent and much talked about event, I'm glad the elections are over. Almost without exception, all of us were disappointed about something. But remember we do live in a very special country, not perfect by any means but full of opportunity. I spent the majority of my adult life in the military and I believe it's worth defending.

Sometimes I've been quick to complain about something that doesn't go as planned and looking back, I realize it was really a small thing and very quickly forgotten except the shame of being ungrateful. My first experience in HAM radio didn't go to well when I failed to pick up CW well enough to pass the Morse code test. I was a teenager and had my head on backwards most of the time. I am thankful for my mom dragging me to the novice class because a few decades later a Pierce County HAM gifted me a VX-6R HT, told me Morse code wasn't required and the rest is history. I appreciated my time as club secretary, but maybe not so much when a certain club member nominated me. It was a good starting position to learn how the club operates. As president, I'm humbled when seeing the dedication, energy and enthusiasm for amateur radio throughout the membership. We've added members recently with many new ideas; Satellite tracking, POTAs and Hybrid meetings during Covid, which has allowed those who are unable to attend in person to participate.

Finally, I'm thankful to my family, friends and coworkers who have shaped my life, for living in a county blessed by God with the important task of passing those blessings on to others. HAMS know this and do this without being asked, when disaster strikes, at a moment's notice, in some of the worst conditions.

I'm looking forward to see everyone at the meeting. You might be asked what you are thankful for.

Celebrating November Members

By Scott Gilyeat, KC7SAG, Treasurer

As of November 2024, 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

32	Richard Bridges	N7YOB
31	Gil Drynan	W7GIL
30	Joe Langjahr	KJ7DG
24	Dick Radford	WA7NIW
23	Dave Mackin	KB4ERF
22	Hideki Saito	WU7J
19	Adam Koczarski	K7ARK
18	Tim Kane	K7ANE
14	Robin Carter	WA7BRI
6	Alex Malesis	W7AEM
5	Bronwyn Thomas	KJ7KAK
4	Ryan Frederick	WR7F
4	Michael Jarchow	W6TS
4	Megan McLaren-Adams	KN4VUW
4	Bob Nunes	KJ7RAN
3	Scott Eklund	W7HYZ
3	Allyson Fry	KK7AJZ
3	Gregor Harrison	NW7GO
3	Rob Horsch	N7RLV
3	Joe Levorsen	KF7AAT
3	Chris Sokol	KD5ILI
2	David Croppi	KK7GIM
2	Jeremiah Pope	NE9Z
1	James Edison	KK7PBE
1	Joel Goff	KJ7SXR
1	Barry Kelman	W7BIK

Pete Hedberg, K7WTG Silent Key



Pete, K7WTG, was one of the founders of the current iteration of the Mike and Key ARC and a member for 54 years.

He will be missed.

Repeater Roundabout

The Repeater Roundabout is a weekend-long event held on many local repeaters. The goal is to meet new people and work repeaters you might not usually key up. It's also a great way to get started with ham radio contests for folks who are primarily repeater users.

The Repeater Roundabout will be held during the weekend of November 23rd and 24th.

If interested please checkout <https://www.repeaterroundabout.com>

A Mobile Radio

Dennis Krinke KK7HXX

I have been wanting to add an amateur radio to my car, so I bought a YAESU FTM-3100 for \$170. This is a 65-watt, 2-meter FM transceiver. In my car the dashboard and console are already packed full of heater, air conditioner, a commercial radio, an air safety bag and a glove box. Your car is probably just as packed. I hoped to get someone to install my new amateur radio because I did not know where to start.

I called my Buick dealer and asked them to recommend someone who could install my amateur radio and they recommended an audio store up the street. I called them and they did not want to do the job.

They recommended FOSS Audio in Tukwila. I drove to them and asked if they would do the installation. They looked at the radio and my

antenna and said they thought that they could do it but would not guarantee success. I made an appointment for the installation. On the appointed day, I brought my car and radio in and different people were working that day. The first person that looked at the radio said he could not do it but to wait for another technician to come in and to ask again. The second technician said he could do it.

Actually, both technicians worked together to install my radio. Foss Audio prides themselves in better than average installations of car stereos; they solder many connections that other installers only twist. The installation cost was \$270.



This first picture shows the transceiver and microphone installation from the passenger seat. The power wires go into the center console and somehow come out in the engine compartment

and run to the battery. Power is supplied even when the engine is not running.

This second picture shows the antenna installation. The antenna is magnetically mounted to the roof. The cable runs through a gap near the door hinges and then behind the glove box. I added the duct tape to keep from crimping the cable when I shut the door.



So how well does my new mobile radio work? My car engine creates quite a bit of static on the radio. My receiver works better when the engine is not

running. One day I drove the Maple Valley highway from Renton to Enumclaw and was able to listen to the PSRG net for the entire hour of travel. I could hear conversations better in Renton and less clear, but still readable, as I drove to Enumclaw.

There are locations along the highway that are at the top of slight hills and locations that are at the bottom of slight valleys. The radio reception is better on the tops of hills and bad at the bottom of valleys. I was surprised at just how bad the reception became driving across the Green River gorge.

I hope to switch to an antenna with a stronger signal. My current antenna is 17 inches tall. I have ordered and received another antenna that is 34 inches long, but I have not yet installed that antenna.

This mobile radio has solved a problem that has given me great difficulty; I am happy for that. I have been trying for several weeks to check in to an Auburn Area Emergency Communications Team while I was located in Enumclaw. Even though I tried three different handheld transceivers and four different antennas, they could never clearly hear me. I can finally check in with this mobile transceiver - they read me 'loud and clear'.

Ham Radio Dilemma

Mark Holt W7EAZ

What's right/wrong with "HAM RADIO" today?
Musings of an OM.

DISCLAIMER:

The opinions expressed here are mine alone!

To start with, there isn't an entire industry feeding into ham radio like there was during the 50's-early 70's. Television was the springboard of innovation into ham radio. You could get everything from a TV set, including enough to build a pretty decent transmitter AND receiver. The *Radio Amateur's Handbook* of that early era (which I'll never stop calling it that) was just jammed packed with all kinds of methods to 'roll your own' equipment salvaged from TVs.



I did actually build a 60 watt crystal controlled transmitter from the 1953 Amateur Radio Handbook salvaged from old TVs like those above: (My brother had the '807' tube)

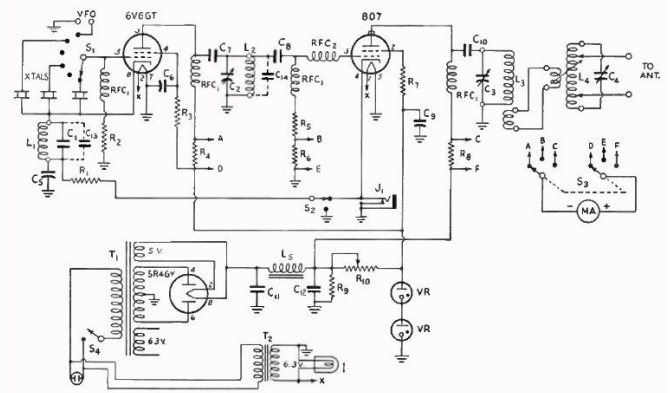


Fig. 6-43 — Circuit diagram of the 3-band 60-watt transmitter.

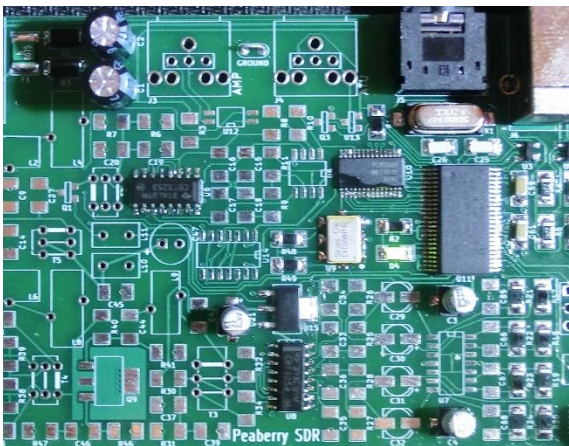
Quite a contrast from today. Resistors, capacitors don't even have markings on them anymore. I found out the hard way. Surface mount technology has made salvaging obsolete and impossible.



I plunged headlong into surface mount kit building. SDR radios were just making their debut about 10 years ago and I wanted to learn what these advances in radio technology were going to provide in the realms of amateur radio. See my QRZ.com page (W7EAZ) for some other descriptions of these kit SDRs.

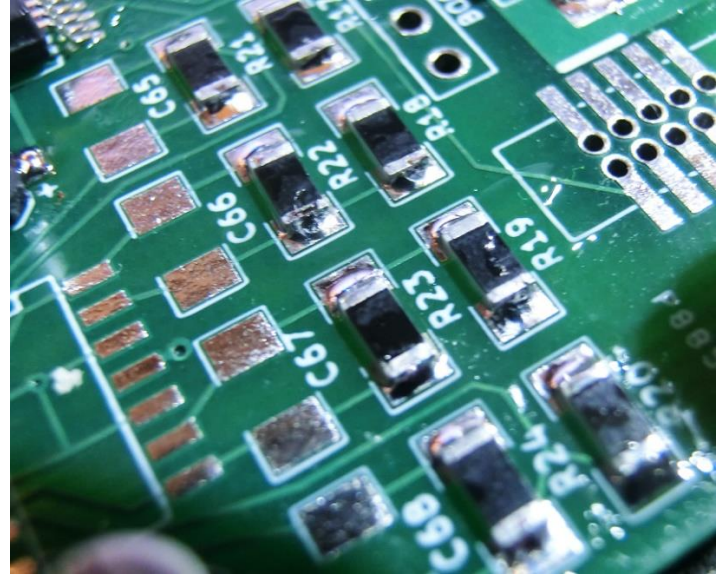
This was a project not for the faint of heart. It IS VERY DELICATE work. I employed an almost needle point soldering iron and a dial-eye head-worn magnifier to be able to even see these tiny parts.

The integrated circuit parts hardly had any room between their legs.

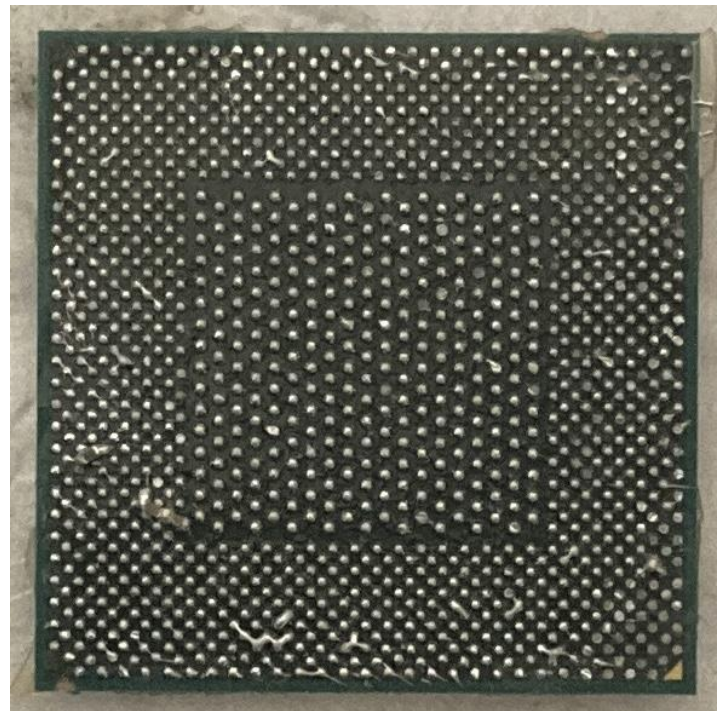


Picture

SDR(3)



There is NO WAY I could have soldered this Microprocessor:



This is a very specialized soldering process. Each DOT is a solder blob that is pre-tinned then just heated and makes connection to the circuit board. The 10x16 matrix in the middle is the connection for the CPU. The rest of the solder blobs around the perimeter are used for heat-sinking. This was from my dead netbook.

So, why learn the color code?

The shrinking, by integration, complexity and functional specialization, has pretty much sealed the fate of "home brew" anymore.

The only reason I can do any Home Brewing is from what I have left over from my early salvaging days when I still could.

You have to find some real old *junque box* (good junk box) treasures from those estate sales where someone had hoarded tubes, chassis and even bunches of transformers with just the right windings to power some of the old tubes. These troves of home brew boxes are becoming scarcer at every Swap meet year.

So, what do you do besides buy radio-appliances?

There is an ever-increasing barrage of 'appliance' type radios. The culmination of integration by miniaturization has spawned a plethora of radios of every conceivable shape, size, function and features. Many of which are so inexpensive that getting into the first level of Technician class license will only cost about as much as you paid to acquire your amateur radio license- \$35. Just recently I purchased one of these 'inexpensive' hand held radios. The most unfortunate part was I found that it would transmit on the NOAA weather channel frequencies. WOW! How could something like this pass any FCC scrutiny?

The user's manual is very limited in explanation of any of the particular menu functions which were a stack of 54 menu options in the radio accessible by a special combination of button presses. Luckily, the programming software CHIRP was able to read/write to the radio. I really didn't like the idea of loading a foreign piece of software on my phone. I had an old android 'bricked' phone I loaded it to. It is my testbed for strange software. It wanted so much access that I was careful on which function I gave it access to. I don't know why it asked for access to my photo library or contacts. Not going there!

I will stick with my original handheld radio from one of the BIG THREE radio manufacturers who put some thought into the design and not kludge together a serious knock-off radio which has

spurious radiation of harmonics seen on a spectrum analyzer. My caution: Watch out what you buy. If it's cheap, it probably is.

Then, what is there to keep my interest?

I have always been a listener to the entire spectrum of radio. In the late 60's-70's, you could actually hear multiple channels of Short-Wave radio broadcasts from foreign countries with just a long length of wire out your window dangling into a tree. OK- those broadcasts have diminished greatly. An internet tunable radio has pretty much replaced those types of 100 KW stations. Gone are the requirements of HUGE antennas transmitting towers and acres of real estate to accommodate such transmitters. VOA is one of those that is still on the air. Searching VOA frequencies has about 30 different frequencies listed to be used based upon daily propagation.



See <https://alcpres.org/comm/voa-dixon/index.html> for a very interesting article of the VOA relay station in California. A friend of mine has an internet radio station that fits into the hall closet in his house. With the accessibility to high-speed internet, it's pretty easy to host your own internet radio station.

If you have a full range radio that covers 30KHz-30MHz the entire spectrum is your playground. You can even decode NOAA weather satellites with nothing more than the sound card interface in FLDIGI. Search "NOAA Weather Map Frequencies" and you'll find some that are on every band that has good propagation any time of the day. Load the FLDIGI SW and sync to the WEFAX transmissions. I've done this for many years.

Transistor is King

I believe if the transistor hadn't come along when it did then tube advances would have improved to the sensitivity, we have today to the low-level noise figures we have in the transistor receivers. However, it was inevitable the transistor would be king over tube technology because the power consumption is the main factor that drove tube technology into oblivion.

Digital modes

One of the latest marvels of the transistor and super miniaturization is the horsepower of microcomputers making low level signal analysis only dreamt of when I started in ham radio. The digital modes we now take for granted which can decode signals you cannot see in a waterfall had their roots in the Voyager space exploration. The methodology using Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) which can make Frequency Shift Keying (FSK) jump out of the noise.

There are over 100 different digital modulation techniques just in FLDIGI alone. Now since the FCC has changed the definition of symbol rates and removed the 300 baud (bits of audio data) which hampered some of the digital explorations, you can bet that higher modulation speeds will be on their way.

I found it very peculiar that our friends to the north (Canada) could use PACTOR 4 and yet we were stuck with PACTOR 3 limit. The silly part is, I remember when PACTOR 1 was released with the original Terminal Node Controller (TNC) by Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR) and Advanced Electronics Applications (AEA) and their PK-232. I built the Heathkit HK-232 (copy of PK-232 with Heathkit's name) because I wanted to understand the methodology that went into Packet radio. Finally, I can use my P4 Dragon modem and boy does it scream on HF. It easily matches the VARA sound card modem when the signals have really good Signal/Noise (S/N) ratios. PACTOR 4 wins out when the signals are less than ideal.

My historical paradigm.

Most of my own experiences through 55 years of amateur radio drive my interests. There have been some advances I've seen come along that make me wish I had some of them when I started out as a novice. For instance, PSKReporter which

website (<https://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>) shows all the stations you hear and can hear you when you are transmitting a digital mode. Incredible technology to see your radiation pattern from your antennas.

Within the past 10 years, being able to view a portion of frequency spectrum on a waterfall was unheard of when I began. It's now point and click with a mouse and your zeroed in what you wanted to hear.

What will the next 50 years bring?

General Rules of Amateur Radio Safety

David Okrent W7DAO

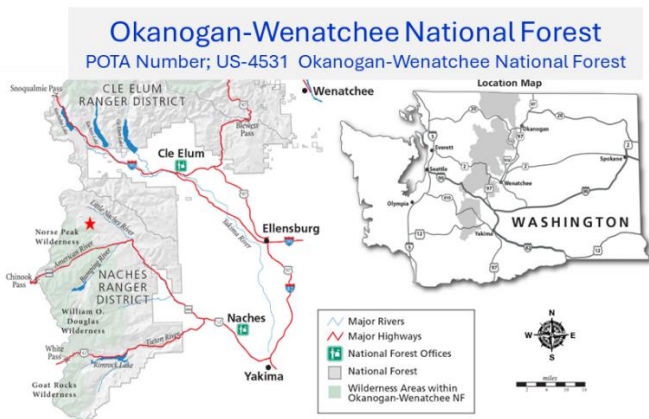
- 1) The Law of Cognitive Perception: You may think you're an 18-year-old, but your body is often a lot older, out of shape, and more fragile; get some help.
- 2) The Law of Negative Dexterity: Anything that could slip out of your hand(s) will do so in a way and at a time that directly or indirectly will damage the item and/or some other critical piece, cause an injury to you or someone else, and/or be lost and end operations.
- 3) The Law of Seeking the Ground State: What goes up, including you, has the potential to come down in an uncontrolled fashion.
- 4) The Law of Discernment: Before starting take a breath, clearly see the situation, size things up, understand your limits, think it through, give it another thought, then act.
- 5) The Law of Listening: If a little voice in your head, associate, or spouse, says, "don't do this, it's going to hurt, I don't think this is going to work," immediately stop and see Rule #4 to validate or invalidate the potential action.

- 6. The Law of Confirmation: When working on a circuit or machinery assume it's energized or pressurized until such time as you have confirmed the fact yourself.
- 7. The Law of Attraction: When one sees a button, switch, knob, or slider, he/she will be tempted to press it, even if it's big, red, and has lots of warning labels on it. Fight this urge, step away, and read the manual or get advice first, if needed see Rule #4.

Checking out Raven Roost
LAT 47.026732, LONG -121.337528
Ross W7ROV

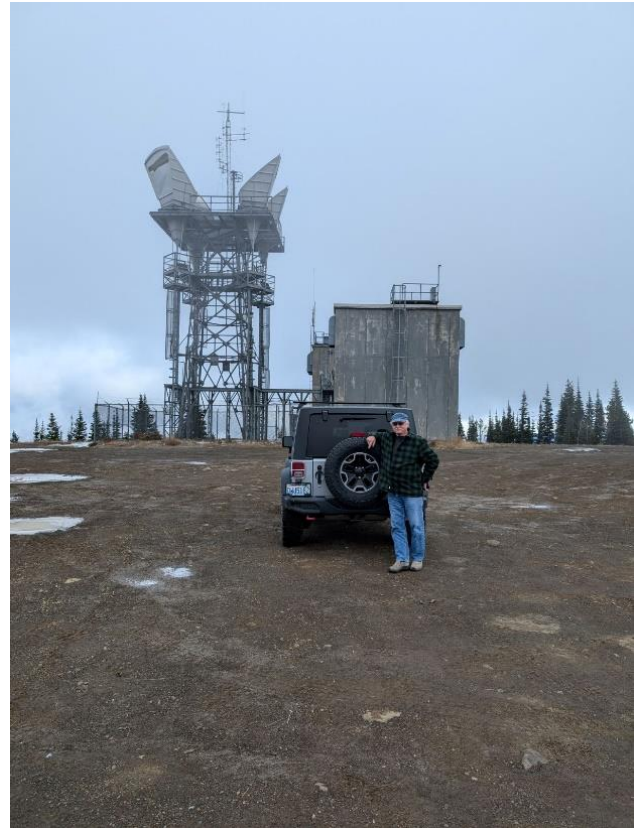
On Wednesday October 23, 2024, Frank, KC1PIU, and myself, Ross, W7ROV, drove up to Raven Roost which is WNW from Cliffdell, just past the Little Naches River on SR-410 east of Chinook Pass.

We were talking recently about POTA; Raven Roost came up. We decided to do a little scouting. The POTA number for Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is US-4531. The red star below on the map shows its approximate location.



Raven Roost's elevation is 6200 ft. The road up from SR-410 is not too bad, but there are significant holes and ruts. We were scouting the location to determine just how accessible Raven Roost is. Accessibility is good. We

were also looking for any potential locations to camp in an RV or tent, these were also available, but you would need a 4x4 to get up to the top, the last part of the road was not suitable for a travel trailer or RV. Surprisingly



there were quite a number of campers along the road, we suspected that these people were hunters.

Raven Roost is a highpoint on a long east-west ridge which is in the Naches Ranger District, just east of the crest. A 14x14 foot ground L-4 lookout was built in 1934 by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corp), including a narrow one-way road to reach it. The lookout was active until it was abandoned with Dick Simmons as the last person that manned the lookout in 1962. During the last several years Ravens Roost was used only during times of high fire danger. The lookout was removed around 1964 to make room for the microwave radio facilities. This required lowering the mountain top 34 feet to make it flat and allow for ample

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parking. During that time, the road was also improved, part of the deal between the private company and the Forest Service for tower leases and road right-of-way use. The Raven Roost summit offers a direct line-of-sight to both Seattle and Yakima for signals. The summit parking area was even a tourist attraction, and the railings today still hint of that time.

To access Raven Roost, Turn off State Route 410 onto Little Naches Road #1900 west of Cliffdell. Proceed to Road #1902. Cross Crow Creek at the campground and take either the old or new road up to Ravens Roost (13 miles). You should not be surprised to find snow drifts across road until July 1st annually. We also used my GARMIN GPS which took us right to the summit.



We were expecting clear skies but Cold temperatures. Raven Roost is ~850 ft higher than Chinook Pass (5350 ft). When we drove over Chinook Pass conditions were as we expected. We arrived at Raven Roost about 10:30 AM PDT, again conditions were very much as expected. We set up.

The setup was my Buddistick PRO vertical antenna. Great POTA antenna. When broken down it is about the size of a laptop and about four inches thick. Frank had a great collapsable table that we used to set up my IC-

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705. Included was my MAT705 antenna tuner and a Bioenno 15Ah LiFePO₄ battery. I setup the radio on a PC monitor stand and the whole setup was nestled into a Laptop hood. I bought the hood primarily to keep the hot sun off the radio during summer events like RAMROD and Bigfoot. I never expected to use it to keep the snow off the radio setup. Just as we started to operate, it started to snow. The entire area was socked-in until after we left, which was about 3:00 PM PDT.



We were able to make several contacts, the furthest being southern Utah on the 20M band using the Buddistick PRO. We also made contact with Colorado and Lake Tapps. We made several other contacts but we just could not log them due to the conditions we were in.

After we worked the 20M, 10M and 17M bands we set up my Ed Fong Roll-up J-Pole with a SOTA Beam 12Ft Carbon Fiber mast. The mast was set into a Flag-pole mount inserted into the Jeep's trailer hitch receiver. Our station setup can be seen in the picture below.

When we switched to 2.0M using the Ed Fong J-Pole, I tuned the K7LED repeater on East



Tiger Mountain just to see if I could reach the Mike & Key repeater. What I heard was Wayne, KA7CEE, talking with Dean, N7XS. I think that this was part of the very informal "Torture Chamber" net that typically happens every day at around noon. To say I was somewhat shocked and very pleased would be an understatement. We copied the K7LED repeater with full quieting and the radio indicated 5x9. Both Frank and I were



impressed by the reach that we had at this

location and using the Ed Fong J-Pole antenna setup.

After talking with Wayne and Dean, the wind came up and it was blowing the radio setup about on the table we were using. We decided to tear down and pack up to leave. Luckily, we did not lose anything.

It was good preparation that we both dressed for conditions that exceeded what we expected. We both brought foul weather gear. Frank brought a jump suit for wintry weather, and I brought a very heavy coat that I originally purchased for winter in N. Idaho. We did not really notice the biting cold until we took off our gloves to tear down our station. When I took off my coat to get into the Jeep, I noticed it was crusted with ice. I don't need to tell you that it was brisk outside. We were both glad that we brought a thermos full of hot coffee.

We jumped into the Jeep and headed back



down. On our way we came upon a tree that had fallen across the road and blocked our path. We both looked at each other with looks of surprise, this tree was not across the road on our way up. In the truest tradition of Ham

Radio operators, we got out of the Jeep, attached the winch to the tree and cleared it from the road. We were on our way home again. This was just another aspect of the day's adventure.

Country Store Donations

Bill Swickard KK7KCN

Donations to the Country Store during the annual Swap Meet result in 100% of the sale price going toward the Mike and Key Amateur Radio club, assuming they sell. Items sold at the swap meet that are not donated result in 10 % of the sale price going to the club for each item sold.

If you have items, you no longer need and do not want to go through the process of marking them for sale, feel free to donate them to the Country Store so that we can reap 100% of the benefits for the club. The Country Store consignment form has a handy box that can be marked "Donation."

Mike & Key ARC Electronics Swap Meet Consignment Agreement		
Read carefully and check one only		Page of Seller#
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consignment Agreement for Swap Meet Non-Volunteer <small>The Mike & Key ARC will retain ten percent (10%) of the selling price on any item sold.</small>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consignment Agreement for Electronic Swap Meet Volunteer <small>No Fees will be charged. Must have a Volunteer/worker badge to be eligible.</small>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donation Agreement <small>I understand that I will receive no monetary compensation for the donation. The club may dispose of the items as they see fit. I also affirm that I own, or have permission from the owner to donate these items.</small>	

Relay Editor

Michael Dinkelman N7WA

June of 2025 will be a full 3 years for me in this iteration as Editor of the Relay. I can't tell you how many iterations there have been but the first one was done on WordPerfect and a dot matrix printer. June will also be the end of this iteration.

In July, there will need to be a new editor or there will be no Relay. Any volunteers?

Mike & Key ARC – General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: October 19, 2024, 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: Ross VanDeen, W7ROV – Winter Field Day

Vice President (Manfred Bester, AG7NR for Paul Petach, KI6QXV): Verified a quorum is present (at 11:00AM)

Approval of Sept. 21, 2024 General Meeting minutes: Motion made by Steven, KD7IQL, seconded by Robert, KJ7CBO. Minutes approved with no dissention.

Agenda:

Reports

- President (Carl Reynolds, N7CJR): No report.
- Vice President (Manfred Bester, AG7NR for Paul Petach, KI6QXV – not present): New membership applications (3): Gerry Maitland, KB7CHY; Gregory Von Schleh, N3GMV; Martin Perkins, KK7VCD. All were approved by the General Membership with no dissention.
- Secretary (Jeanne Yearian, KE7MES – not present): No report.
- Treasurer (Scott Gilyeat, KC7SAG): Welcome to the new members. Current active membership count is 307. Reminder: Please pay your dues to keep current. Check the Mike & Key website for current payment options.
- Activities Manager (Ross VanDeen, W7ROV): See presentation
- Radio Officer (Steven Cook, KD7IQL): Explained upcoming narrowband transition of the K7LED 2m repeater; Presentation by Scott (WWARA) planned for an upcoming General Meeting

Standing Committees

- Technical & Special Interest (Robert Christian, KJ7CBO): No report
- Public Service (Robert Grinnell, KD7WNV): No report.
- Education & Training (Daniel Stevens, KL7WM): Upcoming Technician Class on Nov. 16 & 23 in SeaTac; Previously scheduled Technician Class in Renton was canceled.
- Membership (Manfred Bester, AG7NR): No report

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- Facilities & Publicity (Alex Malesis, W7AEM): No report
- Repeater (Steven Cook, KD7IQL): See above
- Publications & IT Support (Scott Gilyeat, KC7SAG): Provide suggestions for updating the web site via email.
- Relay Editor (Mike Dinkelman, N7WA – not present): No report

Essential Committees

- Audits: (Sam Sullivan, N7RHE): No report
- Awards (Presenter: Dean Holtan, N7XS): No report
- Finance (Scott Gilyeat, KC7SAG): No report
- Strategic Planning (Manfred Bester, AG7NR): No report

Event Committees:

- Swap Meet (Manfred, AG7NR): Scheduled Zoom meetings on Nov. 12 to strategize about Swap Meets in 2026 and beyond, and on Dec. 10 to discuss the upcoming 2025 Swap Meet. As Hal, N7NW and Mike, N7WA who ran the Swap Meet for decades are intending to step back a bit, we will be looking for additional Club members to backfill the leadership ranks and help with the organization.
- Field Day (David, WA7DY): No report.
- Picnic (Hal, N7NW): No report.

Old Business:

- Carl, N7CJR: Strategic Planning – will try to get some grant money from the ARRL to support the Tiger and Gold Mountain repeater upgrades/operations.

New Business:

- Steven, KD7IQL: To get involved in the Club, consider running for elected office. Trustee positions 1, 3 and 5 are up for (re)election in March 2025 (2-year terms), along with 4 Officer positions (1-year terms).
- Manfred, AG7NR: Looking for Club members who are interested in helping with the Holiday Party (at the December General Meeting). Also encouraged other Club members to participate in various committees.

Good of the Order:

- Carl, N7CJR: Welcomed visitors: Belinda, N3PAJ; Matt, AG7TY; Jim Newman (no license yet).
- Daniel, KL7WM: Noted that license classes not only cover technical material, but also the amateur radio culture.

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- Daniel, KL7WM: Discussed the ongoing election of ARRL Section Managers.
- Manfred, AG7NR: Reported that lifelong, founding Club member Pete Hedberg, K7WTG passed away on Oct. 18. The Club was notified in September that Chuck Benefiel, N7STR became a Silent Key in August already.

Next Meeting: November 16, 2024, 10:00 AM Pacific at the [Kent Senior Center, 600 East Smith, Kent, WA](#)

Adjourn: Vote to adjourn at 11:42 AM. Motion made by Scott, AG7T; Seconded by Tim, W7EEE and Phil, K7PIA. Motion approved with no dissention.

Mike & Key ARC – Board Meeting via Zoom

Date/Time: November 5, 2024, 19:00 Pacific
Attested to by Jeanne Yearian, Secretary

Participants:

Carl Reynolds, N7CJR (President)
Paul Petach, KI6QXV (Vice President)
Jeanne Yearian, KE7MES (Secretary - not present)
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)
Alex Malesis, W7AEM (Trustee #5)
George Thornton, AE7G (Volunteer Counsel)
Hal Goodell, N7NW (Repeater Committee Co-chair, Swap Meet Co-chair)

Agenda:

Call to Order (19:00 Pacific) by Manfred, AG7NR
Establishment of quorum (Paul, KI6QXV, standing in for Jeanne, KE7MES): We have a quorum.
Approval of previous Board meeting minutes: Motion made by Paul, KI7QXV, seconded by Carl, N7CJR. Motion passed with no dissention.

Reports:

- Chairman of the Board (Manfred, AG7NR): Due to international travel he will not be available for the Dec. 2024 General Meeting and the Jan. 2025 Board Meeting; Carl, N7CJR agreed to run the Jan. Board Meeting.
- President (Carl, N7CJR): No report
- Vice President (Paul, KI6QXV): New membership applications (4): Belinda

Frederick, N3PAJ; David Keogh, KK7VNR; Joshua Murphy, KK7VRR; Beth Stober, KJ7WVL; All were pre-approved to move for a vote of the membership.

- Secretary (Jeanne, KE7MES - not present): No report
- Treasurer (Scott, KC7SAG): Accounting status: Current active roster: 305; No unusual budget expenditures.
- Activities Manager (Ross, W7ROV): See below for POTA Adventure proposal
- Radio Officer (Steven, KD7IQL): Discussed grant application for repeater upgrades and maintenance; Contacted WWARA to propose a new frequency pair for the 2m K7LED repeater that is consistent with the narrow-band channel assignment.

Standing Committees:

- Technical & Special Interest (Robert, KJ7CBO): Looking forward to the POTA Adventure that Ross, W7ROV proposed
- Public Service (Robert, KD7WNV): Nothing to report
- Education & Training (Jeff, N7FCC): See newly proposed HF Transceiver Loan Procedure below
- Membership (Manfred, AG7NR): Planning for the holiday party is difficult due to unavailability of previous volunteers; May want to have a stripped-down version
- Facilities & Publicity (Alex, W7AEM): Nothing to report
- Repeaters (Steven, KD7IQL): See above

Publications & IT Support:

- Relay Editor (Mike, N7WA - not present): Contributions to the Relay due on Friday, Nov. 8
- Web Master (Scott, KC7SAG): Nothing new to report.

Essential Committees:

- Audits: N/A
- Awards: N/A
- Finance: N/A
- Strategic Planning: Not discussed

Event Committees:

- Swap Meet: Strategic planning meeting on Nov. 10 via Zoom to discuss options for future Swap Meets (2026 and beyond): Steven, KD7IQL noted that the Enumclaw Expo and Events Center are a smaller venue, may be worth considering, they have ample parking

- 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 was done already.

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.

New Business:

- New Policy #25 - HF Transceiver Loan Program (Draft provided by Jeff, N7FCC): Presented idea of an HF Transceiver Loaner Program; May want to have a committee (Jeff, N7FCC volunteered to be the chair); Advertise the program, already have 2 ICOM rigs ready to go; Develop an Elmer list; Try to get going by January 2025; Also provide antennas (e.g. OCF dipole); George, AE7G: Biggest problem with getting started was for him the equipment expense and putting up an effective antenna; Should include looking at an antenna solution; Consider how to provide a successful solution for someone to have a good experience; Jeff, N7FCC noted that effort should be directed towards youths; George, AE7G noted a policy should be useful to have; Will assemble a team (2-3) to discuss details; George would like to help and noted a synergy with the Field Day GOTA team
- Changes to the 2025 Club Budget (Scott, KC7SAG): May need to take out food funds (banquet, holiday party, picnic; field day potluck)
- Lifetime membership plaque purchase plan (25 & 50 years) (Scott, KC7SAG): Discussion tabled for next Board meeting
- Tower trailer donation: The Club was offered a donation of tower trailer (100 ft vertical extension) by Don Baker. Ross, W7ROV initially considered purchasing the trailer; It is in good shape, although 50 years old; Contains a 6 kW generator; Hydraulics work fine, but motor and winch seized up and may need to be replaced; Tires were not bad, electrical system worked fine; Electric brakes need to be checked; Estimated value: ~\$8-10k; A new trailer of this kind would cost \$120k; Weight: ~8,000 lbs.; Ross offered to store it on his pasture; Board consensus is to accept the donation; Motion to accept the donation by Carl, N7CJR and seconded by Robert,

KJ7CBO; Vote: 100% in favor; Will need to transfer the title; Steven, KD7IQL will contact Don Baker to get the trailer; Daniel Stevens, KL7WM should come out to inspect it; Scott, KC7SAG will write a letter to acknowledge the gift to a non-profit organization

- POTA Adventure proposal (Ross, W7ROV): Discussion tabled for next Board meeting
- George, AE7G noted he will be moving to Anacortes; Will not be able to setup antennas at the new HOA location; Will still be available to help with the Field Day GOTA station
- Paul, KI6QXV reported that Pierce County has two upcoming radio training events at the Tacoma EOC: Radio Communication 101 and 201

Good of the Order:

- None

Action Items:

- None

Next Meeting

- December 3, 2024, 18:45 Pacific remotely via Zoom (no change in meeting date/time/location)

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn by Robert, KJ7CBO; Seconded by Ross, W7ROV at 21:17 Pacific. The motion passed with no dissention.

Field Day Results

The 2024 Field Day results have been published in the December issue of QST

#1 in our ARRL section, Western Washington

#1 in our class, 6A

#4 overall out of ALL participating Field Day operations

2025 Swap Meet Updates

Michael / N7WA

Flyers are being printed with addresses. No labeling volunteers needed. Our next organizational meeting will be the second Tuesday of December. 7PM via the usual Zoom credentials. They will be published on the email list prior to the meeting.

The on-line worker signup will be active later this month. Watch for an announcement on the email list. The instructions, if needed will be in the December Relay.

We need a Hospitality Chairperson. This position manages the Worker Hospitality suite.

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>

Postal Address:

P.O. Box 4234
Renton, WA 98057-4234

The club website includes extensive information about our activities, events, VE testing, membership, past editions of the Relay, and more.

The Mike and Key ARC is an ARRL affiliated club dedicated to the growth and betterment of Amateur radio. The annual dues are \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families. Visit our website for meeting, membership, and other information

