

February Meeting

The February general membership meeting will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2006 at 10:00AM at the Everett Activities Center. We will have a special presentation given by Hillar and Elsie Raamat that covers their recent DXpedition to the Pribilof Islands in Alaska and also information regarding the upcoming 7-land QSO Party (7QP). The presentation is XYL friendly so pass the word and make plans to attend.

January Meeting Summary

At the January general membership meeting, a special presentation was given by Steve Westfall regarding the Boeing Auxiliary Communications Service (BACS). He also updated us on the status of the repeater antenna tower project. If any of you current Boeing employee club members are interested in joining BACS, please contact Steve. The audit of the club's website, constitution and membership roster is ongoing. The website has been updated to conform to the latest Recreation rules. The constitution has been audited and will require some minor changes. The proposed updated constitution will be circulated to the membership for review/approval.

BEARONS Repeaters Update

The 440 MHz repeater antenna tower has been installed and is ready to accept the repeater antenna. As soon as the weather starts to improve a bit, we will put a plan together to finish installing the antenna. The new tower installation should preclude us from having to worry about future factory roof maintenance activities. The 6 meter repeater still has low power output and we'll need to investigate that further as time permits.

Straight Key Century Club

Recently, there was a thread on the QRZ.com website that introduced a new operating activity, called the Straight Key Century Club, or SKCC. The purpose of the SKCC is,

apparently, to further the art of CW in its most basic form, using a straight key. Membership is free and all you need to do in order to obtain your SKCC membership number is to e-mail the club's organizer and ask for one – simple enough! At last look, there were over 500 members in the club. To join the club, send an e-mail to:

tom@galesvillefiredepartment.org

Once you have your SKCC number, the object is to work 100 other club members and you'll receive a certificate of achievement for the feat. Formally, club members are supposed to gather on the first of every month and work each other on the following suggested frequencies: 1.820, 3.720, 7.120, 10.120, 14.048, 18.080, 21.120, 24.910, 28.170, 50.900, or 144.070. Be sure to exchange your SKCC number during QSOs and start working towards that goal of contacting 100 other SKCC members. Notice that some of these frequencies fall in the old Novice sub-bands!! There is also an SKCC discussion group on Yahoo. Use this link to have a look:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/skcc/>

If you're a CW nut this should be right up your alley!!

2006 Club Membership Renewals

Don't forget, it's time to renew your club membership for 2006. The necessary forms are available on the club's website. They are located on the "Other Links" page. The files are in PDF format so you'll need Adobe Reader in order to print them out. Your renewal is due by March 1 so don't forget to do it. In case you don't have the club's web address handy, here's the link:

<http://mysite.verizon.net/evernhamms91/bearons.htm>

Upcoming Operating Activities

This month there are a number of popular operating events to be aware of. The North American Sprint, both SSB and CW sections are on tap as well as several state QSO parties. The "biggie" is the ARRL International DX CW Contest, slated for the weekend of February 18-19. This is the last major DX contest in the current contest season.

Puyallup Hamfest

The 2006 Puyallup Hamfest is scheduled for March 11. Since our March general membership meeting date conflicts with the hamfest, we won't be having a meeting. See you at the hamfest.

New Products

LDG Electronics is offering two new coaxial antenna switches, the DTS-4 (4 position) and DTS-6 (6 position). Both are available with an optional remote control. These units will handle 1500 watts from 160-10 meters and up to 250 watts on 6 meters. The DTS-4 is priced at \$79 and the DTS-6 is \$99. The optional remote control kits are extra.

Ameritron has a new screwdriver antenna controller, the SDC-102. It features manual tuning for the antenna and can store up to 10 antenna positions in memory. A four-digit turns counter indicates antenna position. Price is \$119.95.

Cubex now has available the Skypole Portable Antenna Support. It includes a 2 inch aluminum pipe base section and five 8 foot telescoping fiberglass sections, stainless steel lock pins, swiveling lanyard support, two guy attachment plates, S-hooks, Dacron/polyester guy lines and tensioners. An optional easy-up base plate is available too. Overall height of this portable mast system is up to 40 feet. Price is \$225 for the basic set-up, the optional easy-up base is available for an additional \$125.

BEARONS VE Testing

There is a BEARONS VE test session scheduled for Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:30PM at the Everett Activities Center. There's no time like the present to get your first ham ticket or going for that upgrade you've been talking about for months!!

Classifieds

For Sale: Icom IC-737 HF transceiver, 100 watts, 160-10 meters w/built-in keyer and auto antenna tuner (will tune bed springs!), narrow CW filter, hand mic and manual. Excellent condition. \$525. Contact Lloyd, N7LH, via e-mail to LloydH@whidbey.net