

January Meeting

The January general membership meeting will be held on Saturday, January 14th, 2006, at 10:00AM in the Everett Activities Center. Let's get 2006 started off right with a large membership turnout for this meeting. We will have plenty of important items to status and discuss so please make it a priority to attend. We have some interesting club presentations planned for 2006 so stay tuned to the newsletter and the website for all the latest information.

Upcoming Changes

As reported in the December newsletter, the club's current constitution will need to be completely reviewed and possibly revised to conform to the latest policies and procedures postings for the Boeing Recreation Department. Mark McLaughlin, KN7T, will undertake the initial review and report the results to the Executive Council along with required revisions. In addition, changes will also be required to the club's internet website.

7 Land QSO Party – "7QP"

There's a new contest on the horizon, the 7 Land QSO Party or "7QP" as it's being called. Use the link below to get all the latest information. We are expecting to have a formal club presentation on this new contest from one of the volunteer organizers within the first two or three months of 2006. Here's the website link:

<http://www.codxc.com/new/Page.asp?Content=dryland7s>

The first rendition of this contest will be on May 5-6, 2006. Mark your calendars and make plans to participate – this is going to be a biggie!!

2006 VE Testing

The BEARONS 2006 VE testing schedule will be published on the BEARONS website within

the next couple of weeks. Our first test session of 2006 will be Wednesday, January 25th at 6:30PM at the Everett Activities Center. Typically, the VE test sessions occur on the 4th Wednesday of every month with the exception of November and December, when there is no testing held.

Upcoming Operating Activities

The annual Straight Key Night contest starts on December 31st and runs through January 1st. It's a great time to dust off those old straight keys or bugs and give them the annual workout during this contest. The ARRL RTTY Roundup is also happening in January as well as the North American QSO Party for CW and SSB and the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes. Later in the month, the CQ WW 160 Meter contest will be held. "Top band" has been very active lately, especially in the local area. There was lots of activity during the recent Stew Perry Top Band Challenge and the noise level on 160 meters has been down so it's a great time to get on 160 and give it a try.

New Products

Tower Planning Resources – Harry Noble, N8CYS, the ARRL Volunteer Consulting Engineer, is offering a computer disk that includes documentation for amateurs who are considering applying for a tower permit. Included is information regarding design and strength considerations, sample site plan, checklists, and tower technical information. The disk is available for \$5 from Harry Noble, N8CYS, 1124 Old Springfield Pike, Xenia, OH. 45385.

Antenna Tuner – Palstar just announced the availability of their new high power auto-tuner. The AT-AUTO will handle 1500 watts and has a 2-line information display. It also incorporates an active peak/peak hold wattmeter with 300 and 3000 watt ranges. The unit carries a 3 year warranty and is available from Palstar for \$1195.

Ten Tec Orion II – According to Ten Tec's website, they are now shipping the long awaited Orion II transceiver. The basic Orion

II without antenna tuner lists for \$3995. The antenna tuner version lists for \$4295. There are a number of filter options also available for the Orion II at additional cost.

Vector Network Analyzer – TAPR and Ten Tec have joined in an exclusive agreement to manufacture the PC-hosted 100 MHz vector network analyzer designed by Tom McDermott, N5EG. The VNA is a tool for analyzing passive networks, including antenna systems. It can also be used to measure and adjust filters, coax cables, amplifiers, antenna input networks and other frequency dependent systems. This VNA is controlled completely from a PC via a standard USB interface. For more information, see the TAPR or Ten Tec's websites.

All-Band No Trap Wire Antenna – Alpha Delta Communications, Inc. offers their new model DX-OCF antenna. It is a 135 foot long, off-center fed wire antenna that claims to be all-band capable (10-80 meters) and requiring no antenna tuner. Alpha Delta recommends that the antenna be installed "in the clear at 30 feet or greater" for best performance and lowest SWR, either as a flat-top or in an inverted vee configuration. List price is \$199.95 from Alpha Delta.

Classifieds

For Sale: Yaesu FT-817 (non-ND version) all-band QRP transceiver. Includes microphone, interface cable for remote PTT/footswitch, MP-1 "Super Antenna", standard "duddy" antenna, internal battery pack, charger, and all documentation. Radio has brand new Yaesu-installed PA board and SSB filter. \$350. Available after January 1. Contact Mark, KN7T, via e-mail to Evernhamms91@verizon.net

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

Available: Tube testing. I have a Hickok 6000 tube tester and am willing to test tubes for you. Can test most older tubes found in amateur gear, TVs, stereos from 50s, 60s, and 70s. Unable to test nuvistor or compactron tubes at this time. Contact Mark, KN7T, via e-mail to Evernhamms91@verizon.net if you need a tube tested.