

January Meeting

The January general membership meeting will be held at the Everett Activities Center on Saturday, January 10, 2009, at 10:00AM. Our new slate of club officers will officially take office and there will be a number of items to discuss, including club participation at the Puyallup Hamfest, ideas for Field Day 2009, and other operating events for BEARONS to consider participating in.

December Meeting Recap

The annual year-end pizza meeting was held on December 11th at Alf's Pizza in Silver Lake. Membership turnout was a bit lighter than usual but the conversation and food were good.

Upcoming Operating Activities

January is a busy month for amateur radio – the following major contests/events are scheduled: ARRL Straight Key Night (1st), ARRL RTTY Roundup (3rd & 4th), Kids Day (4th), North American QSO Party CW (10th & 11th), North American QSO Party SSB (17th & 18th), ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes (17th – 19th), CQ WW 160 Meter Contest (23rd – 25th).

There are no state QSO parties during the month of January.

VE Exam Fee \$15 For 2009

Beginning January 1, 2009, the fee to take an ARRL VE-administered amateur radio license exam will be \$15.

Question Pool Schedule:

Technician (Element 2): Pool effective 7/1/2006 is valid until 6/30/2010.

General (Element 3): Pool effective 7/1/2007 is valid until 6/30/2011.

Extra (Element 4): Pool effective 7/1/2008 is valid until 6/30/2012.

BEARONS VE Testing

The next scheduled BEARONS VE test session will be on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 at 6:30PM at the Everett Activities Center.

Tidbits, Odds and Ends

The December 2008 edition of CQ magazine has a very interesting article on Begali Morse Paddles. If you are unfamiliar with these instruments, they are arguably the finest CW paddles in the world – produced in Italy by Pietro Begali, I2RTF. The article is a worthwhile read.

The January 2008 edition of QST has a very detailed and in-depth review of the Elecraft K3 HF transceiver. This review is much more complete than the original review that was done 8 months ago by the staff at QST.

Logs for the 2008 CQ DX Marathon are due by January 31, 2009. The rules for the 2009 DX Marathon are published in the January 2009 edition of CQ magazine. The DX Marathon is a year-long event that was started a couple of years ago. The goal is simple, work as many countries and CQ zones as possible at least once during the calendar year. There are various classes or "formulas" for entries so you don't have to be an expert DX'er to do well. There is an Excel spreadsheet template available for download to enter your contacts into. It can be found at: <http://www.dxmarathon.com>

2009 Membership Renewals

Don't forget to renew your BEARONS membership for 2009. Forms are available on the club website and were also e-mailed along with a copy of this newsletter. Please take care of this as soon as possible. Also, a number of members' e-mail addresses are no longer valid so be sure and update your e-mail address – changes should be coordinated with either Annie Wright, AA7AG, or Mark McLaughlin, KN7T.