

March Meeting

Just a reminder, there is NO March general membership meeting due to the Puyallup Hamfest conflicting with our normal meeting date. See you at Puyallup!

February Meeting Summary

At the February general membership meeting, Hillar and Elsie Ramaah gave a special presentation on their DXpedition to the Pribilof Islands and also provided some details on the upcoming 7-land QSO Party (7QP), which will be held on May 5 – 6 of this year. Specific details on the contest can be found at:

<http://www.7QP.org>

BEARONS Repeaters Update

The recent spell of extremely wet and chilly weather has not lent itself to accomplishing any antenna work on the BEARONS repeaters – we hope to be able to get up on the factory roof soon and get that done, weather and time permitting.

Recreation Open House

Earlier in the month, Recreation held an open house at the Everett Activities Center. BEARONS was asked to participate and we were able to set-up a table and provide information to interested parties who attended. The event was very well attended and a number of clubs had information tables set-up.

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. The forms 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.

Upcoming Operating Activities

This month the following state QSO parties are scheduled – Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Idaho, and Virginia, so if you're a county hunter, these are worth looking into. Also, the CQ WW WPX Contest (SSB) is scheduled for the end of March – this is one of the larger contests that occurs during the "off season". This one caters to the folks who like to collect all the various prefix/call area variations. The CW version of this contest is held in late May.

3YØX DXpedition

I hope everyone had an opportunity to work the 3YØX DXpedition from Peter I Island. They finally went QRT on 19 February. This was a much talked about DXpedition and the huge pile-ups were a testament to the ham community demand to have this entity put on the air. There is a dedicated website to the DXpedition so if you need QSL information, it's there – do a "Google" search to find it. I was fortunate enough to work them on 17 meters CW on February 18.

Field Day 2006

Field Day 2006 is only a few months off. The ARRL has made the rules package available on their website for download if you're interested. There are some rule changes this year, most specifically aimed at the operation of the GOTA station. The result of the voting for deciding the field day location for this year was a tie, therefore the Executive Council will need to make the final decision. The result will be announced as soon as a decision has been reached.

Club Constitution & Audit Activities

The club's constitution has been updated and approved by Recreation. This was done in response to an enterprise-wide audit that involved all the Boeing clubs. The final version of the constitution has been signed by both Recreation and BEARONS and is available for viewing on the club's website.

Stanwood Hamfest

Recently, the organizers of the Stanwood Hamfest mailed out flyers announcing that this year's event will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2006 at the Stanwood Middle School from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. A full size scan of the flyer has been added to the club's website if you want further details.

New Products

Heil has a new professional quality microphone available, model PR 780. It is intended for high-end transceivers, primarily the IC-7800. The PR 780 package consists of the microphone, SM-3 mount, CB-1 base, CC-1 XLR-i connecting cable, and Magnum 44 HS-2 handswitch. MSRP on the package is \$330.

Peak Electronic Design Hand Held Test Equipment. Peak Electronics introduces three new pieces of hand held test gear. The ESR60 is an equivalent series resistance meter. It can measure components in or out of circuit. The unit will also display a capacitor's value when measured out of circuit. The LCR40 is a passive component analyzer. It will automatically identify the component under test in addition to the component's value. The

DCA55 is a semiconductor component analyzer. It will identify component type, features, pin out, and various measured parameters. Peak test equipment is available directly from Peak in the UK or in the U.S. at either Dallas Avionics or Anatek Corporation.

The venerable Hy-Gain Hy-Tower antenna is now available in a "Junior" format. The new Hy-Gain Hy-Tower Junior is a 39 foot tall vertical antenna that covers 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. It is self-supporting and rated at 5 kW.

BEARONS VE Testing

There is a BEARONS VE test session scheduled for Wednesday, March 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: Kenwood TS-690(TS-450 + 6 meters) with built in antenna tuner. Awesome filter system. \$600.00 - Call or email before Puyallup Lloyd N7LH lloyd7lh@verizon.net