

Next Club Meeting

The next scheduled club meeting will be on Saturday, November 10th, @ 10:00AM at the Boeing Everett Activities Center. We will announce the club officers for 2008 at this meeting. We will also be having a "slideshow" of sorts – if any club member has any digital photos or scans of 35mm photos that depict BEARONS activities, members past or present, or other subject matter relevant to amateur radio (shack/antenna photos) and BEARONS in general, please either bring a USB memory stick or CD-ROM with the appropriate files. We'll have a laptop computer and digital projector at the meeting.

Upcoming Operating Activities

November kicks off the real heart of contesting season. The only state QSO party this month is Kentucky. The "major" contests in November are ARRL CW Sweepstakes, ARRL SSB Sweepstakes, CQ Worldwide DX CW, and the ARRL 160 Meter Contest. Sweepstakes is a North America only event and a great way to work on your WAS or 5BWAS awards. The CQ Worldwide DX contest will afford opportunities to work new countries for DXCC credit. There are a number of DXpeditions scheduled to be on the air for that contest. Don't let these great opportunities pass you by!

Antenna Projects?

Wonder if anyone has any interesting antenna projects or experiments planned for the upcoming months? If you do, please drop the newsletter editor a brief write-up or article about what you are planning to do or have already done along with your initial impressions. We will include these articles in upcoming newsletters. Mark, KN7T, is planning on installing a super linear loaded inverted vee at his QTH for coverage of 80 and 160 meters. This antenna is essentially a halfwave dipole for 160 meters that folds back on itself and is able to be installed in a restricted size area. By feeding the antenna with 60 feet of 300 ohm ladder line via a DX Engineering 1:1 balun, multiband operation should be possible. The feedpoint will be at

approximately 40 feet with the ends supported at around 22 feet. Each leg of the "vee" portion is 50 feet long, with the remaining 80 feet of each leg folded back towards the center support level to the ground and then folding parallel back out towards the end supports. The two foldback portions of each leg are separated by approximately 10" with extremely lightweight non-conducting spreaders. As this wire antenna needs to be tensioned to maintain proper form, the wire used in its construction should be flexible enough (i.e. stranded wire) to allow for that. The current plan calls for using 19 conductor, 18 AWG, 40% copper clad insulated stranded wire. The center support will be an AB-577 military surplus mast/tower that currently supports a 5-band Traffie Hexbeam. The end supports will be extra heavy duty 22 foot push-up fiberglass poles from T-Mastco. These fiberglass poles feature a top section that is 5/8" in diameter and is the stiffest fiberglass pole offered for this type of application. Whether or not these poles will be able to provide sufficient tensioning for this particular antenna remains to be seen. Each fiberglass pole will be located approximately 40-45 feet from the center support. The hope is that this antenna will provide decent coverage for the western half of the USA and Canada on 80 and 160 meters and broad North America coverage on 40 meters. With any luck, initial use results and general impressions will be available in time for next month's newsletter.

ARRL Newsletters and Publications

Are you subscribed to any of the newsletters that the ARRL publishes? If not, here's a list of what's currently available:

The ARRL Letter – published weekly, contains a news summary of all things amateur radio related.

The Contester's Rate Sheet – edited by local ham Ward Silver, NØAX. Published every two weeks, it contains a comprehensive contest calendar with articles and technical content.

The ARES E-Letter – a monthly publication – it is a source of news of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

The VE E-Express Newsletter – published 4 to 6 times per year, this document keeps Volunteer Examiners up to date on the ARRL VEC program and other items of interest to VEs.

BEARONS VE Testing

There are no more VE test sessions scheduled for 2007. Keep watching the BEARONS website for the 2008 VE testing schedule. It will likely become available in January 2008.

Special Event For 787 First Flight?

Briefly discussed at the October general membership, we are debating the merits of having another special event station for the first flight of the 787. Since the special event for the 787 rollout was so well received, a number of external parties have requested that we consider doing this. Although we probably would not create another set of unique certificates for such an event, we would offer something to mark the occasion, possibly a sticker or decal that could either stand alone or be applied to the original rollout certificate for those stations who QSLd during that event. We will discuss/evaluate the whole idea further as we get closer to the actual flight event.

ARRL Recruiting For OO Program

Perhaps many of you received a recent e-mail from the Western Washington ARRL Section Manager regarding opportunities for volunteer Official Observers. For those who didn't, the ARRL is recruiting new folks to volunteer/participate in the Official Observer program. The program is a vital part of the self-policing effort that has served the amateur radio community for more than 50 years. Official Observers are not enforcement officials, they serve in a non-legal capacity to collect data and to bring attention to potential

problems to amateur operators before it gets the FCC's attention. Interested parties should contact Scott Douglas, W7XC, at w7xc@arrl.net

ARRL Technical Help/Forum

The ARRL Western Washington Section is also offering a technical assistance program. This program is designed to provide points of contact for amateurs who may need assistance in resolving technical issues pertinent to amateur radio. Tom Herman, N1BEC, is the leader for this effort in our area. There is a technical forum on Yahoo that's meant to be the focal point for issues. Check it out at:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/WWA-SectionTS-Technical-Forum/>

Classifieds

For Sale: Timewave DSP-599zx digital signal processor. Excellent condition, includes power cable and manual. \$250. Mark McLaughlin, KN7T, EvernhamMS91@verizon.net

For Sale: MFJ-962D Versa Tuner III (roller inductor), w/manual. Good condition. \$135. Mark McLaughlin, KN7T, EvernhamMS91@verizon.net