

November Meeting

The November general membership meeting will be held on Saturday, November 11th, 2006 at 10:00AM at the Everett Activities Center. We will announce the slate of club officers for 2007 and status a variety of other items that were discussed at the October general membership meeting regarding the potential scholarship program, shack antenna rework, etc.

October Meeting Summary

The October general membership meeting was held on Saturday, October 14th. We were able to identify a list of candidates for club officer positions for 2007. As each of the officer positions only had one identified candidate, no formal elections will be held. An announcement of the club officer slate for 2007 will be made at the November general membership meeting. One new business item was discussed regarding a potential scholarship program – Lloyd Hopkins, N7LH, volunteered to do the initial research and legwork on this item. There was also a discussion about offering a door prize consisting of a gift certificate to be awarded in the March time frame. The amount and method of determining the winner are TBD. We also discussed the current status of the ham shack and repeaters. The 440 MHz repeater continues to function normally however there is a definite lack of use of this club resource. The 6 meter repeater is still not functioning as it should. The ham shack antennas are in need of maintenance and/or replacement. The R7 vertical is deformed from wind abuse and either needs to be re-worked/repared or replaced. The feedline to this antenna may be in need of replacement as well. The satellite antenna system has never been used and is a likely candidate to be removed from the roof permanently in the near future.

SnoCoHams Yahoo Group

There is a new Yahoo discussion group formed – it's called SnoCoHams. At last count, there were about 75 members signed up to it. If you'd like to become a member of the group, send an e-mail to: SnoCoHams@yahoogroups.com and ask for information regarding membership. The group is meant to be an informal gathering area for hams to discuss all aspects of amateur radio and related goings on in Snohomish County. As the name implies, you must be a Snohomish County resident as a condition of membership.

Upcoming Operating Activities

October is the beginning of the major contest season and the California QSO Party kicked off the festivities during the first weekend. The other major operating event this month is the CQ WW DX SSB contest on the weekend of the 28th/29th. The state QSO party circuit is winding down but the Pennsylvania QSO Party is one of the last "biggies" in this category and was held last weekend. For you QRP and homebrew types, the annual Fall ARCI QRP CW contest is scheduled for the 21st/22nd. It's a great way to hone those CW skills for the upcoming majors in November, including the ARRL Sweepstakes and CQ WW DX CW.

FCC Report And Order

The FCC recently released Report and Order FCC 06-149 on October 10th, 2006. In it, the long awaited re-farming of the old Novice bands was announced. There is an expansion of the phone band spectrum on 75, 40, 15, and 220 MHz. In addition, changes were made to the vanity call system and a whole host of other minor changes. These changes do not take effect officially until November 10, 2006 so you must wait until then before taking advantage of the new rules. The FCC has not made a formal decision on the code/no code issue that is still before it and there is no indication of when they will rule on that.

ARRL Newsletters

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.

New Products

Ameritron now has a 75 amp switching power supply available. It is rated to deliver 13.8 to 14.2 VDC at 75 amps continuously. Power requirements are 120 VAC @ 18 amps. Price is \$360.

Hy-Gain is now offering the APA-3 Arrowpoint guy anchors. These guy anchors have a wide array of uses and consist of a 3 inch long, 13 gauge steel anchor and a 36 inch long, 1/8 inch thick steel cable attached to a swivel. Pull out resistance is up to 2000 pounds. The optional DR-3 drive rod is also available to make installation easier. The APA-3 sells for \$14.95/ea. and the optional DR-3 drive rod is \$30.

LDG has a new breakout box for transceiver accessory jacks. The RCA-14 breakout box is an easy way to make connections to those DIN accessory jacks on most popular transceivers. The box contains 14 RCA jacks mounted in two rows of 7. Cables are supplied to connect the RCA jacks to 7, 8, or 13 pin DIN jacks and 6 or 8 pin mini-DIN jacks on a transceiver. Price is \$59.

BEARONS VE Testing

There is a BEARONS VE test session scheduled for Wednesday, October 25th 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!! Remember that October is the last test session for 2006 as there is no BEARONS VE testing during the months of November or December. If you miss this one, it's a long, cold wait until January 2007.

Classifieds

For sale: Two (2) military surplus mast kits – each is complete with everything needed to assemble a single 40 foot mast. Each kit includes: mast sections w/carrier and cover, swivel base, base plate, guy rings, guy rope assemblies, guy stakes, stake swivels and clips, halyard with pulley, and a small sledge hammer. Yes, these are the mast kits that are most sought after but no longer available in the regular military surplus outlets – nearly impossible to find at hamfests or on E-bay. The ONLY reason I'm selling these is because I purchased an AB-577 tower and can't justify keeping these around for a "rainy day". These are medium/heavy duty units and can be deployed for long periods of time with virtually no maintenance required. Most popular use is as a center support for an inverted vee. Use two of them together to form a support system for a flat-top. Can't be beat in a Field Day application!! Price is \$150/ea. Contact Mark McLauchlin, KN7T, 425-486-6275.