

October Meeting

The October BEARONS general membership meeting will be held on Saturday, October 14th, at 10:00AM at the Everett Activities Center. This is an important meeting as we will be nominating officers for 2007. Please be sure and check with the person you nominate to run for office to make sure that they are willing to serve in that capacity before you nominate them.

Web Repeater Directory

For those looking for an alternative to the paperback version of the ARRL Repeater Guide, there is a web repeater directory located at the following URL:

<http://www.usrepeaters.com>

There are over 18,000 listings and more being added everyday. The BEARONS repeaters were recently added to this site's listings.

Upcoming Operating Activities

State QSO Parties for Texas and Arkansas, CQ WW DX RTTY, and the Fall QRP Homebrew Sprint. Check the latest editions of QST, CQ, or NCJ for all the rules.

Local Event – Tour de Whidbey

The Tour de Whidbey will be held on September 23, 2006. The route is still in development but it is projected that a total of 15-18 amateur radio operators will be needed to support this event. Much of the projected route will be in the radio shadow of the local repeater, so high power simplex will likely be used for about half of the planned course. If you are interested in supporting this event, please contact Mike Atwood at n7xlf@arrl.net

Washington State QSO Party

The 2006 Washington State QSO Party was held last weekend, September 15 and 16.

W7FLY was activated for the contest – the participants were Dwayne Broderson, W7GD, and Mark McLaughlin, KN7T. Dwayne hosted the event at his QTH on Camano Island. A total of 311 QSOs were logged and we were able to work 32 out of Washington's 39 counties. We were also able to work the contest sponsors, W7DX, an all bands 160-10 meters on both SSB and CW. We were able to claim 1000 bonus points since we worked them on both modes. Our total score was a little more than 63,000 points, including bonuses. We took time out in the middle of the contest to drive over and visit the folks at the W7DX operation. This year they were also operating off of Camano Island. Their set-up was quite impressive, using a pair of SteppIR verticals, a sloper, and a helium balloon floated wire for 160 meter operation.

New Products

B&W has a new Manpack Antenna and Mast assembly designed to take advantage of NVIS propagation and covers 1.6-60 MHz with an SWR of less than 2:1 and requires no tuner. The mast breaks into sections and supports the antenna at a height of 6 feet. All hardware and guy wires are included. Total weight of the entire package is less than 25 pounds. Price is \$545 for the antenna or \$1190 for a complete antenna and mast kit.

SteppIR has announced an 80 meter option for their BiggIR MkII verticals and will handle up to 1500 watts. The 80 meter option will set you back an additional \$295 over the initial cost of \$663 for the antenna itself. When used on the original BiggIR verticals power handling on 80 meters is reduced to 500 watts.

BEARONS VE Testing

There is a BEARONS VE test session scheduled for Wednesday, September 27th 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!!