

Noise Floor

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Pacific Northwest VHF Society

Winter 2001-02

Board of Directors Named

The Pacific Northwest VHF Society now has a Board of Directors to guide the organization. Society President Lynn Burlingame, N7CFO, has named five board members to serve until the 2002 annual meeting when elections will be held. Directors will represent the ARRL or RAC section in which they live.

Named to the board were Ralph Parker, VE7XF (British Columbia), Bob Lee, N7AU (Eastern Washington), Bob Hallock, K7TM (Idaho), Don Krug, K7HSJ (Oregon) and Eric Olson, N7EPD (Western Washington). All are active VHF, UHF and Microwave operators. They span a wide range of ages and interests, and bring a broad perspective to the organization. Brief biographies of each follow below.

Ralph Parker, VE7XF **British Columbia Section**

Ralph Parker has been hamming since age 16 when, as a high school student, he was first licensed in December 1954 as VE4SX in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He moved to Edmonton, Alberta, in 1961 as VE6MC and then to Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1966, becoming VE7AXM and then VE7XF. He is currently active on 50, 144, 432 and 1296 as well as on the HF bands.

At 63 years of age, Ralph is a semi-retired motion picture production sound mixer, "working four months a year with lots of time for radio." He lives in Delta, BC (CN891a), "right on the border with Point Roberts, Washington...10 more feet and I'd be a W7." Ralph also holds the call sign VE4KX and has spent the last few summers in VE4, activating a different grid every year. Other general interests include music, astronomy and UFOs.

Bob Lee, N7AU **Eastern Washington Section**

Bob Lee is 57 years old and retired from GTE after 30 years with them. He lives in Ephrata (DN07), Washington, just west of Moses Lake.

He is also working on a dish to put 1296 on the moon. Once-in-awhile, he gets on HF as well. Bob has HF, 6M and 2M mobile gear for use when he's on the road.

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ARRL affiliation granted

The Pacific Northwest VHF Society's application for affiliation with the ARRL has been approved. As of February 6, 2002, the organization is officially an "affiliated club."

Affiliation with the ARRL will allow the organization to benefit from a number of services available only to affiliated clubs, including liability insurance, club recognition programs, sanctioning of society events such as the annual VHF conference, the opportunity for club competition in contests and other similar benefits.

Nonprofit corporation application approved

The Pacific Northwest VHF Society has received approval on its application for nonprofit corporation status from the State of Washington. This is another step forward for the new organization.

The Certificate of Incorporation was received from the Washington Secretary of State's office on December 20, 2002. Incorporation was filed in the State of Washington because that's where the society's bank account is held and where its mailing address is located.

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Board of Directors appointed...

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Bob Hallock, K7TM Idaho Section

Bob Hallock is 51 years old and an engineering manager at Kootenai Electric Cooperative in Coeur d' Alene (DN-17), Idaho. He's been a ham for 35 years and holds an Extra Class license. Bob has lived in Idaho all his life with the exception of seven years in Portland back in the early 70's.

His primary VHF/UHF and Microwave interest is in mountain topping. In addition, he maintains an interest in building equipment, traffic nets, and contesting. Outside of amateur radio, Bob finds time for camping, skiing, and fishing, as well as being active in the Coeur d' Alene Lions Club.

Bob and his wife, Vonnie (WA7YEI), preside over an all-ham family. They have four children; all licensed (AA7LI, AA7LJ, KB7OXR, and KB7PBN).

Nonprofit status...

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Nonprofit corporation status will offer protection from individual financial liability to the officers, board members and others acting in an official capacity on behalf of the society. In addition, it provides the organization with an official status as a registered organization rather than as just a local group. Finally, it will lessen the burden on reporting requirements for bank accounts, income from the annual conference, etc.

70CM SSB Net in Portland

There is a 70cm SSB net in the greater Portland Area every Thursday Night at 8 PM on 432.125 MHz. The purpose is to promote 432 MHz activity, make new friends, perpetuate existing friendships, and discuss, experiment with and test 432 MHz equipment.

Dave Tucker, K7DLT is net control from his QTH in Tualatin. The net welcomes check ins from any location. Net control, and others will listen for CW stations who check in because of poor conditions, or act as relays for those stations that net control may not hear.

Don Krug, K7HSJ Oregon Section

Don Krug is the elder statesman of the board at 79 years of age. He's a retired pastor and has lived in Bend (CN94), Oregon, for 23 years in all. He lived in Bend in the sixties and seventies, left for a period and moved back in 1988. During WWII, Don was in the Army Signal Corps.

He got into amateur radio as a Novice in 1959, got his Tech license three months later, and his General in 1960. In 1968, he upgraded to Advanced and moved up to Extra in 1999. Don says "I first became interested in ham radio in 1936. A lot has changed!" He notes that he was interested in VHF from the beginning.

His favorite bands vary. "Six meters is my favorite for surprises; two meters for weak signal challenges and 1296 MHz for promoting something new for the local hams." Don has put together several DEM kits and has equipment through 10 GHz. He's also one of the most active stations in Central Oregon during contests.

Eric Olson, N7EPD Western Washington Section

Eric Olson is 36 years old and works as an electronics engineering tech for Sine Communications. He has lived in Tacoma (CN87), Washington, all of his life.

Eric has been a ham since 1978 and holds an Extra class license. He is active from both home and portable mountain top locations on six meters through 2.3 GHz, with 3.4 GHz soon to be on the air and 5.7 GHz in the works. In addition to VHF, UHF and Microwave activity, Eric says "I still enjoy HF CW DX contesting from time to time."

He notes, "I have been fascinated by six-meter sporadic E propagation since about 1985, but was not able to afford an all-mode VHF radio. I was bitten hard by the VHF bug in December of 1994, when I built a Ten Tec six-meter transverter and started working beyond line of sight. It soon grew to 2M, 432 and 222 MHz. Microwave bands have been added recently."

In addition to amateur radio, his other interests include astronomy and model high-power rocketry.

A note from the PNWVHFS President

By Lynn Burlingame, N7CFO

The five months since the formation of the PNWVHF Society have been busy ones, and there has been a lot going on behind the scenes. We can mark the following as milestones:

- Registration of 115 members, including 103 charter members
- Appointment of a board of directors
- Nonprofit corporation status received
- ARRL affiliation received
- Establishment of the society web page
- Designation of the official e-mail reflector
- Preparation and issuance of the membership certificates (believe me, this was no small job...)
- Publication of the first society newsletter

Now that we have established a solid foundation for the organization, we can go on to the fun stuff, and the sky is the limit! We have an opportunity to build an organization that will determine the direction of VHF activities in the Pacific Northwest for many years. There are a lot of opportunities to help out, so if you are interested please consider the following areas:

- Organization of mountaintopping and grid expeditions
- Coordinating contests and awards
- VHF/UHF presentations at club meetings
- Input for the web page
- Input for the newsletter
- Assistance at the annual conference
- Technical assistance and Elmering

Elmering is a particularly important aspect of our hobby, and one that we need to put a lot of emphasis on. We all stand to gain through assistance to newcomers. We can all remember what it was like to be a newcomer, and most of us owe a lot to those that gave us a hand when we needed it.

Many amateurs became licensed as a result of novice enhancement, and most of them purchased VHF FM equipment. Many of them are now ready to move on to other areas, and weak signal VHF is a natural area to go into since they already have equipment that will get them on at least one or two bands.

Providing information and assistance to the newcomers will benefit us all, and will enhance VHF activities in the Pacific Northwest. We can reach these people through presentations at clubs, our website and general publicity for the society.

Please don't be bashful; your ideas will be appreciated. You can contact me by email at n7cfo@ix.netcom.com or write me at: Lynn Burlingame, 15621 SE 26th St., Bellevue, WA 98008. My home phone number is (425) 641-5488.

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2002 Contest Calendar

The schedule of major contest events for the remainder of 2002 is shown below.

April 1: 144 MHz Spring Sprint (7:00 – 11:00 PM local)*

April 9: 222 MHz Spring Sprint (7:00 – 11:00 PM local)*

April 17: 432 MHz Spring Sprint (7:00 – 11:00 PM local)*

May 4: Microwave (902 MHz & Up) Spring Sprint
(6:00 AM – 1:00 PM local)*

May 11-12: 50 MHz Spring Sprint (2300Z Saturday
to 0300Z Sunday)*

June 8-10: ARRL June VHF QSO Party

June 22-23: ARRL Field Day

July 13-14 (tentative): CQ World-Wide VHF Contest

August 3-4: ARRL UHF Contest

August 17-18: ARRL 10 GHz & Up Contest – Part 1

September 14-16: ARRL September VHF QSO Party

September 21-22: ARRL 10 GHz & Up Contest – Part 2

September/October: Fall Sprints (dates TBA)

* Spring Sprint rules are available at
<http://www.etdxa.org/vhf.htm>

Noise Floor is the official publication of the Pacific Northwest VHF Society. All opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors unless specifically stated as being otherwise.

Editor

Jim Aguirre, W7DHC

Submit items for publication to w7dhc@arrl.net
or to PO Box 527, Preston, WA 98050

PNWVHFS Awards Program

The Pacific Northwest VHF Society has established an awards program to recognize the accomplishment of VHF, UHF and microwave operators in this region. In addition to a Major Contest Parallel Awards category, three annual awards have been established. For annual awards, the first year of eligibility will be 2002. Major Contest Parallel Awards will commence with the January 2002 ARRL VHF Contest.

Most Worked Pacific Northwest Grids

Awarded annually to the amateur that works the most Pacific Northwest grid squares. The purpose of this award is to foster activity within the weak-signal portions of the amateur VHF and higher bands in the Pacific Northwest. Grid totals are cumulative by band, with each grid eligible to be worked once on each amateur band above 50 MHz.

Most Pacific Northwest Grids Operated From

Awarded annually by the Pacific Northwest VHF Society (PNWVHFS) to the amateur that operates from the most Pacific Northwest grid-squares. The purpose of this award is to foster rover-type activity within the weak-signal portions of the amateur VHF and higher bands in the Pacific Northwest.

Major Contest Parallel Awards

Awarded by the Pacific Northwest VHF Society (PNWVHFS) in conjunction with the major VHF+ contests to the amateur from the PNWVHFS region (Idaho, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia) who posts the highest scores in each class where there is significant competition in the ARRL contests for 50 MHz and above, and in the CQ World-Wide VHF Contest.

Pacific Northwest VHF'er of the Year

Awarded annually by the Pacific Northwest VHF Society (PNWVHFS) to the amateur or amateurs in the Pacific Northwest who have gone above and beyond the call to further VHF+ activity. Recognition may be given for activities such as: Technical Achievement/Advancement, Teaching, "Elmering", Public Service, etc.

Complete rules for all the awards can be found at
<http://www.qsl.net/pnwvhfs/awards.htm>.