

# SQUAKBOX

Issaquah Amateur Radio Club

Volume 29, No. 9

Issaquah, Washington

September 2007

## Section Manager Elections Results Announced

Jim Pace, K7CEX, of Centralia, Washington, will become the Western Washington Section Manager on October 1. Pace will take over the reins from Ed Bruette, N7NVP, who decided not to run for a third term of office. Pace has moved up through the section leadership ranks by previously serving as District Emergency Coordinator, Section Emergency Coordinator and presently as an Assistant Section Manager.

And a note from Jim:

Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2007

5:11 PM

Subject: QST QST QST Section

### Staff Openings

This message is being sent on behalf of SM Elect Jim Pace, K7CEX.

October 1 will be here sooner than we think and I am in the process of not only training, but preparing the Section Staff personnel for what I hope will be a busy but exciting next two years.

Two of our most dedicated and dependable Hams, in Western

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## The Nature Of Disasters And Implications For Amateur Radio

Part 3 of 6, from a lecture presented at the Communications Academy, 2006

### Characteristics Of Disaster Response

Emergencies are taken care of on a local level - it is what emergency services are staffed and trained to do. By definition, anything that is beyond the capabilities of the local services or severely impacts the local emergency services requires outside help. As well, disasters often cross local jurisdictional boundaries. This means that you will have multiple organizations responding. You have no idea what that means until you see it! [In a Detroit plane crash, there were 69 fire departments and a total of 288 different organizations which eventually responded.]

Convergence of Responders. Everyone and their (Search and Rescue) dog comes. This includes off-duty, retired, probationary,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## September Program

### Formal Message Formats

John MacDuff, KA7TTY, will tell us about formal written messages and various formats used in Amateur Radio.

Future programs are as follows:

Oct - Open

Nov - Auction

There are openings for future programs. Contact John, KA7TTY, 392-7623 to volunteer.

### Also . . .

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## At the last meeting . . .

August 1, 2007

Vice President John MacDuff, KA7TTY, called the meeting to order at 7:30. Fourteen members and two guests were present. The guests were Bill Hurt, KE7HMS, and Bob Brady, KB7HP.

A motion was passed to accept the minutes of the last meeting.

Members and guests introduced themselves.

Treasurer's Report: Petty Cash -- \$47.69, Checking -- \$1,705.28.

Bruce Helbert, KG7OI, introduced a motion to reimburse Kermit Parker, W6JFN, \$32.72 expended on behalf of the club for field day lunch. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by those members present.

Bruce reported our field day score:

37 CW contacts,  
133 digital contacts,  
142 phone contacts,  
1250 bonus points  
Total of 2214 points.

Rod, WE7X, told us he will work the September ARRL VHF contest from a location on Mt. Rainier. Last year he received a first place limited multi-op certificate for his effort.

Bruce filled us in on the recent activities and plans of the Issaquah Ham Radio Support Group. The group participated in a Puget Sound emergency exercise designated as Sound Shake. Issaquah did well in the exercise. Issaquah had radio operations at both the Police Department and at Issaquah public works. Issaquah's having two different ham stations in the exercise apparently caused some confusion among other emergency groups.

Bruce said possible activities for future Support Group meetings

*(Continued on page 3)*

## E-Mail Elmer

Got a HAM radio question and can't find an Elmer to talk to? Just send your question by E-Mail to our E-Mail Elmer at:

[IarcElmer@hotmail.com](mailto:IarcElmer@hotmail.com) - Ed. - S

### 2007 IARC Officers

#### President

Del Marker (AC7QS) - (425) 392-1857 (Issaquah)

#### Vice President

John MacDuff (KA7TTY) - (425) 392-7623 (Issaquah)

#### Secretary-Treasurer

Peter Rosenberg (AC7SB) - (425) 222-9255 (Fall City)

#### W7BI Trustee

Rod Johnson (WE7X) - (425) 392-8497 (Issaquah)

## Disasters Cont.

volunteer, fired and wanna-be personnel.

Convergence of Organizations - Red Cross, Salvation Army, church groups, Disaster Child Services, SPCA, ARES, RACES, CERT.... Dozens or hundreds of organizations will arrive.

Convergence of Media - local outlets are augmented by regional, national and international media looking for unique stories.

Convergence of Relatives - especially if children are affected, every relative will come looking for missing family members.

Convergence of Volunteers - emergency services will be overwhelmed with something they rarely allow otherwise with the addition of volunteers.

Convergence of Equipment and Supplies - because the exact needs are unknown, supplies will be ordered approximately three times more or three times less than what is actually required. The lack of information on the scope of the disaster, the numbers of people affected and the most severely affected areas means that supplies will be poorly allocated.

Convergence of Spectators. They will interfere with the responders trying to reach the scene.

"Who is in charge" becomes a major issue. Legal requirements, multi-jurisdictional devastation, multiple agencies, conflicting priorities mean much time is spent initially picking the top person or much more time will

*(Continued on page 5)*

**SM Cont.**

Washington, have decided to retire from their Section Leadership positions. Marry and Harry Lewis have worked hard for many years and have been some of the most important "spark plugs" in our Section's development and progress and they have set the bar pretty high; their retirement is well deserved.

The following positions will need to be filled by October 1, 2007:

- \* Section Technical Coordinator
- \* Section Affiliated Clubs Coordinator
- \* Official Observer Coordinator

If you have any interest in any of the above positions, please contact me at the address, email or phone in the signature block of this message. Job Descriptions for these positions are available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

Ed Bruette has agreed to remain as Assistant Section Manager, which will be very helpful ... especially during the transition period. Lee Chambers (SGL), Ken Dahl (SEC), Bill Frazier (STM) and Bruce Miller (PIC) have all agreed to stay on in their current positions.

Western Washington Section cannot be managed by any one individual; it takes a team. If you would like to be part of that team, let me know. I'd love to talk with you.

73, and have a good rest of the summer,

- Jim Pace K7CEX,  
K7cex@arrl.net, 360-736-2221,  
PO Box 1602, Centralia, WA  
98531- S

**Field Day Lessons Learned**

So, whoever gets to do this job next year, here are a few "lessons learned".

This year the sunspots were zero, yes zip, nil, zilch. Band conditions were as bad as I have ever seen, but still we managed a respectable number of contacts. We had good antennas and good rigs, and of course our team of great ops. Others are still complaining of poor conditions. Other than a slow start, we did great, racking up most of our contacts on 20M. 15M and 10M were dead every time we checked. 40M and then 80M came alive later in the evening, but these bands were very bad.

DO NOT cross the antennas!!! We on the digi station got very tired of being washed out by SSB spurs, and as well the SSB station experienced continual Digi-garbage. Emphasis should be put on as much physical separation as possible. I am thinking the G5RV works great, and it could be easily supported from the ladder, but attached to the goal post in the play field area. And yes, the G5RV will work great as an inverted-V.

Emphasis must be placed on using only the highest quality rigs. We have done extremely well in this regard. But remember, with stations operating this close, those -60db transmitter noise specs become very loud when rigs are this close together. If a sub-standard rig were to be operating, it could easily wipeout every other receiver in the area!!!

The VHF QSOs are less than encouraging. I managed to make

one, just one, 2M FM QSO. Rod had better luck, but not very. I know we are encouraged to make VHF QSOs, but it hardly seemed worth the effort. Well, that is really not to the point I had in mind. I don't think we should abandon our VHF station on FD, on the contrary. In the class we operate, this is really a "free" transmitter, meaning we can operate it and still keep our 2A class. What I am thinking we need to do is be smarter about how we run it. There have been many reports of good 6M and 2M results. What I am thinking we need to think about is keeping this station going the whole period, even if its only listening for band activity. This way any ops can easily hear if there is anything going on and quickly make a contact or more. All it would really take is to dedicate a battery to it (we already had

**Meeting Cont.**

might be ride-alongs in patrol cars, and shift tours alongside police dispatchers. Bruce also reported that some equipment has been donated for the implementation of an Issaquah RACES 440 repeater. Planning for the repeater is in a conceptual stage.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments after which Doug Phillips, W7RDP, explained his interest in QRP and showed us his kit built QRP rigs.

73 de Peter -- AC7SB – S

## Lessons Learned *Cont.*

that) and keep the rig running...just a thought.

The Sunny Hills location is an excellent HF location. Physically having a roof over our heads is priceless. >From a propagation point of view this location is super. It has a low noise level and our antennas get out great. I think it would be hard to improve upon, and we should work to keep it if we want to continue to operate from here.

We had some close neighbors this year. Sammamish was operating from the new city hall and we had another group operating from Discovery School. Neither caused any problems.

The digi station did great, but field day is not the time or place to teach digi station operation. Some pre-event training might be in order, better yet would be to get some of the team up on digi at their homes!!!

For digi, calling CQ worked super, we really piled up the contacts. I was really pounding out the CQs. They were short, and I only waited 5-10 seconds between calls. I usually got a call every two or three, and often several in a row. Its was also much easier than the hunt and pounce. This is a big secret, don't let it out, but for digi calling CQ and calling CQ often is really the way to get contacts.

Having a set of working macros in the digi mode makes all the difference in the world. The set I used this year has been refined to the point I am fairly happy with it. This means we can have complete contact, just with pressing a few

function keys. Very impersonal, but gets the job done.

I made several CW QSOs, and probably could have made many many more. Two points per contact really would add up the score. It would be nice if we could have a few CW trained ops for this, I am not, and "cheated" using the computer to help with the copy.

For the digi station, even with the online logging, a dupe sheet is a must. This would be easy with a second op, but would have eliminated the dupes we had.

As before, the batteries continued to work great and served us well. It is so very nice not to have to listen to a generator. We did use Rod's generator to peak up the Optima battery, but it probably wasn't required. It was nice to have the generator to make coffee though.

We had vandalism incident early Sunday morning. Someone threw a couple of wine bottles down from the school, and then fled, but not before pulling out our power line! Don't think we could have done anything about this, but it could have gotten nasty if someone had been struck or a vehicle was damaged. I filed a 911 report on the incident.

Setup and teardown again went quickly and smoothly. As the proverb says, Many Hands Make Light Work. So great thanks to all those who showed up and helped with these "less fun" tasks.

Coordinating this event is really easy and fun to do. Things really pretty much run themselves. Special thanks again have to go to

John for his excellent press release that got us an article in the Issaquah and Sammamish papers, and Frank who once again kept us well fed.

So we were thinking...what could we do to make Field Day "Different and exciting" next year. Well how about running a different class. I was thinking about something like 18A!!! We would definitely cut down on the competition and would be the talk of the day!!!! Interesting...yes????

Can't wait till next year, and once again very happy Field Day only does come around once a year!!!

- Bruce, KG7OI , (Wow, does this thing drive my spell checker nuts!!!) - S

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## Low Profile Amateur Radio

(A book available from ARRL that may be of interest. Ed.)  
-- Second Edition, by Al Brogdon, W1AB

More and more ham radio operators are faced with installing equipment and antennas amid a flurry of modern day limitations. The need to operate a low profile Amateur Radio station may be imposed by the confines of a small home or apartment. Other hams are restricted by deeds or leases that regulate the size of the antenna they can install.

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## Disasters Cont.

be spent debating and working against one-another.

Situation reports are given infrequently and are not updated. Emergency organizations may know that their situation has changed, but they rarely advise outside organizations, agencies or the public because they never do it on a regular basis.

Rumors start in the absence of reliable government or response agency information. Spontaneous sources of information will spring up in the absence of a widespread, easily accessible official source of information. Emergency services will turn to ad-hoc sources because they too are not getting all the information they need.

Logistics issues become huge. Not only does the over- or under-supply of scarce resources cause problems, but the transportation issues become huge. Which roads are blocked? What bridges are out? What streets are gridlocked by fleeing evacuees and responding agencies and relatives?

Logistics issues become huge with the allocation of scarce resources. Who gets the ten generators when there are thousands of needs? The hospitals? The reception centers? The fire halls? The water supply? The gas stations to supply fuel for the fire trucks? The utility companies? The Red Cross? The Amateur Radio operators?

Financial issues are ignored until later. There is an attitude in the disaster response of "someone will pay for this." At the end of the day, the government says "Let's

# RYRYRYRY...



DE KA7TTY

Wow. Is Summer really over already? Well, the other day was Labor Day and the kids are back in school. So, I guess so.

That means it is time to start thinking about what we want for our club for the next year. What went right last year, and what would we like to do differently? Do you like the format of our meetings? What would you like to see changed? These are all good questions to ask ourselves. Here are some things I think we should address:

It would be great if we had more Hams involved. How do we do that?

It would be great if we could get young people interested in Ham radio and our club. How do we do that?

Many of us are also involved in actively supporting our local governments in times of emergency as their backup communications system. Is there some way we can augment this activity and provide a larger base of support and get more Hams active?

And last, we have a couple annual activities which everyone seems to enjoy: Field Day, our Auction, and the Ice Cream Party. Are there other activities we should add to this list?

Bring your ideas to the meeting and lets see what everyone thinks. 73, and see you there, John KA7TTY

## Low Profile Cont.

First edition readers will find this second edition contains ALL NEW material.

Low Profile Amateur Radio, second edition, includes the information you need to operate your station under many types of restrictive situations. Follow the easygoing discussions of Al Brogdon, W1AB, as he provides details for many real-life examples and techniques for a variety of low

see the purchase order. Let's see the receipts. Let's see the authorization." Issues like "If everyone else is donating meals for the responders, why should McDonalds

profile circumstances.

- # Contents: Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions
- # Low-Profile HF Antennas
- # Disguised Antennas
- # Indoor Antennas
- # Operating Modes and Tips
- # Interference
- # Antenna Tuners
- # Transmitter Output Power
- # Low-Profile VHF/UHF Antennas
- # Mobile Operating
- ...and more!

Second edition, © 2006. Published by American Radio Relay League (ARRL). - S

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SQUAKBOX

This newsletter is published monthly for the members of the Issaquah ARC W7BI. Items for publication must be received by the 15th day of the month preceding publication. Send items to:

**SQUAKBOX Editor**  
**John MacDuff, KA7TTY**  
**620 S.E. Bush St.**  
**Issaquah, WA 98027-3909**

Material may also be sent via E-Mail at w7bi@qsl.net.

The IARC is a nonprofit organization registered in the State of Washington and is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Visit our WEB page at: <http://www.qsl.net/w7bi/>

Membership is open to anyone regardless of age, sex, race, national origin, religion, or amateur radio license status. Dues are \$20 per year for a family membership, free for those under 19 years of age.

A two-month courtesy mailing of this newsletter will be made to meeting visitors and others upon request.

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## - Coming Events -

- **September 5, 2007** - Monthly Issaquah ARC meeting at the Issaquah Valley Senior Citizens Center, 75 NE Creek Way, Issaquah. Doors open at 7:00 PM, the meeting begins promptly at 7:30 PM and the program begins at 8:00 PM. Refreshments are provided.
- **September 21-22, 2007** - CLARA 40th Anniversary Celebration. Surrey, BC.
- [http://rac.eton.ca/events/detail.php?event\\_ID=1087](http://rac.eton.ca/events/detail.php?event_ID=1087)
- **September 22, 2007** - Spokane Hamfest. (ARRL Washington State Convention). University High School, Spokane, WA 99206. Info: Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ, n7wrq@aol.com . (509)448-5821.
- **September 24, 2007** - Issaquah Ham Radio Support Group meeting, Police Station, Issaquah, talk-in 146.56 MHz at 7:00 PM, Meeting at 7:30 PM.
- **September 28-30, 2007** - Pacific Northwest VHF Society Annual Conference. Shilo Inn, Bend, Oregon. Contact secretary@pnwvhfs.org . Info: <http://www.pnwvhfs.org/>
- **October 3, 2007** - Monthly Issaquah ARC meeting. See Sept 5th for time and location.

## Disaster Cont.

be the only one to get paid?" or "Why are urban firefighters being paid seven times the amount of

forest fire fighters for doing the same job side-by-side?" This will be continued next

month. - Tom Cox VE6TOX - Communications Academy, April 1, 2006, Burien WA - S

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NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, Sept 5, 2007 - 7:30 PM

Talk-in frequency: 146.56 MHz

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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE --- TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Issaquah Amateur Radio Club  
 P. O. Box 2171  
 Issaquah, WA 98027-0097