

# SQUAKBOX

**Issaquah Amateur Radio Club**

Volume 32, No. 3

Issaquah, Washington

March 2010

## Youth@HamRadio.Fun: Ham Radio 2.0

Ham radio is an age-old hobby -- and at the same time a pinnacle of modern technology, but our goal remains the same: To initiate contact with another amateur in any way possible. Our means of achieving that goal continue to advance. From AM and tubes to PSK and solid state, the goal of contacting another amateur has stayed the exact same. We now have a new mode of connecting to other Amateur Radio operators; and that is social media.

When you turn on your radio, you use the ionosphere to communicate with a ham down the street or maybe in another country.

When you turn on your computer, the Internet is the ionosphere that allows you to connect with hams around the world. For many years, hams have argued over whether the Internet helps or hurts Amateur Radio, but I believe the two work synchronously.

Social media has two principles: To connect people with people, and to connect people with purposes. Twitter, a social media site,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Co-sponsors on Board for HR 2160

Last month, another Congressional Representative -- Jo Bonner (R-AL-1) -- pledged his support for HR 2160, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009, bringing the total number of cosponsors to 34, including original sponsor Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX-18). HR 2160 is also sponsored by W. Todd Akin (R-MO-2), Michael Arcuri (D-NY-24), Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD-6), John Boozman (R-AR-3), Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam), Andre Carson (D-IN-7), Geoff Davis (R-KY-4), Bob Filner (D-CA-51), Scott Garrett (R-NJ-5), Bart Gordon (D-TN-6), Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY-22), Michael Honda (D-CA-15), Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH-15), Tom Latham (R-IA-4), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA-16), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO-9), Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI-11), Charlie Melancon (D-LA-3), Candice Miller (R-MI-10), Dennis Moore (D-KS-3), John Olver (D-MA-1), Bill Posey (R-FL-15), Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA-46), Bennie Thompson (D-MS-2), Michael Turner (R-OH-3), Peter Welch (D-

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## March Program

### IEEE Wireless conference

Joe Decuir, KF7BMD will give us a summary of the IEEE Wireless conference.

Future programs are as follows:  
Apr - Open  
May - Open

There are openings for future programs. Contact Gerard AD7ZE, 425-395-4554 to volunteer.

## At the last meeting . . .

February 3, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Helbert KG7OI, at 7:30 pm

Twenty-four members and guests were present

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with one correction to the referenced model of the Icom transceiver being a IC-745 instead of the reported IC-245, as printed.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$2044.91

Rod Johnson reported the club has a table at Puyallup and admission tickets for two helpers. The IARC table will be located alongside Rod's table, but will need people to man the table.

Gerald Hickey is considering options for putting on a license class this spring.

Flash N7TCW reported on the IHRSG Fifth Saturday exercise on which was held on Jan 30. There will be a planning meeting at the police station, on the second Tuesday in February (Feb 17).

Bruce Helbert currently has custody of the IARC Icom-745 transceiver.

Gil Drynan W7GIL has discovered some ham related on-line apps for his new phone. He passed out copies of a chart showing HF and VHF propagation conditions, which are also available on-line at several sites. His were from: [WWW.HAMQSL.COM/SHORTCUT.HTML](http://WWW.HAMQSL.COM/SHORTCUT.HTML)

The meeting was adjourned at about 8 pm and after a short social time, Gerald Hickey demonstrated some digital modes under poor conditions, and with a marginal temporary antenna.

Johnson, IARC Secretary/Treasurer

## 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@dhuibh.net](mailto:IarcElmer@dhuibh.net) - Ed. - S

### 2010 IARC Officers

#### President

Bruce Helbert (KG7OI) - (425) 391-6828 (Sammamish)

#### Vice President

Gerard Hickey (AD7ZE) - (425) 395-4554 (Issaquah)

#### Secretary-Treasurer

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

#### W7BI Trustee

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

## Youth Cont.

is a prime example of this. You connect to your friends through messages of no more than 140 characters, and at the same time can connect to foundations, organizations and causes. Ham radio isn't too dissimilar, with our underlying goal being to connect with others. As Scot Morrison, KA3DRR, said, "There is not too much difference between ham radio and Twitter. What has Ham Radio done? It's allowed us to connect to those with similar interest. What has social media and Twitter done? The exact same thing."

Scot is an avid ham radio enthusiast, and Twitter guru. He first signed on to social media in June 2008, when Web 2.0 was really taking off. "I jumped on the social media bandwagon and was trying everything. But due to 'social media overload,' I decided to focus on promoting ham radio through Twitter," Scot said. "When I first joined Twitter, my intentions were to promote our 20th century hobby using 21st century means."

That is the first advantage social media has. While we're thought of as a hobby that has seen better days, by using social networking sites, we can prove to skeptics that it is quite the opposite. Through use of social media, we can make ham radio more visual to the public eye. Any kid with a computer can log in and see all this information on ham radio. Only instead of finding that on a club Web site or the ARRL's Web site, he's looking at it on Twitter and Facebook. But

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## Youth *Cont.*

for this to happen, hams have to be online with the intention of promoting ham radio to the public.

"The number of hams jumping into social media has been phenomenal," Scot said. "I have increasingly seen more and more hams using Twitter to share experiences, making ham radio a more personal and friendly hobby online." He continued by saying that the role Twitter will play in promoting ham radio will be by connecting hams with other hams on a more personal basis. "Hams share their projects, experiences, ideas and it's all out there for everyone to see. It not only connects those already licensed, but it shows to the world that ham radio is still a technologically exciting hobby and reliable form of communication." One of the challenges many find once they join Twitter, is finding ham operators to follow. An insider tip is to go to hamfeed.com, which will allow you to find other hams on Twitter.

While many hams continue to sign onto Twitter and Facebook, some have gone one step further and created entire social networking sites for hams. Social media for hams, by hams. Chris Matthieu, N7ICE, is one of those who went the extra mile and created 73s.org, which is basically the Facebook of ham radio.

73s.org is a social media project that Chris started simply because "none of the sites met what I envisioned in a ham radio/social

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## ARRL Leadership: Grant Hopper, KB7WSD, Appointed Northwestern Division Vice Director

ARRL President, Kay Craigie, N3KN, has appointed Grant Hopper, KB7WSD, of Everett, Washington, as the new Northwestern Division Vice Director. The position became vacant when no one submitted the necessary election materials needed to run for the Vice Director position. Hopper is an attorney and serves as an ARRL Volunteer Counsel (VC).



"I'm excited to serve the Northwest Division," Hopper said. "We have a phenomenal number of talented, innovative, committed, and generous hams here in the Northwestern Division. I look forward to not only doing what I can to support their efforts and the activities within the division, but also representing their interests up at the national level. From my community and volunteer activities --

as well as my law practice -- I tend to think of myself as a 'behind the scenes' sort of person, bringing people together, examining issues and solving problems. I think those skills will serve me well as a Vice Director and I'm glad I can share them for the benefit of Amateur Radio."

Hopper's was first introduced to Amateur Radio when he moved to Washington State at the age of 8: "The dad of my new best friend -- they lived next door -- had, what seemed to an 8 year old kid, a huge and fascinating station. This was the 1970s and I still remember how the tubes glowed. After that, Amateur Radio remained in the back of my mind until high school when the family of an area Silent Key donated his station and electronics library to the school. We had no Amateur Radio program, but the instructor knew I was interested so he gave me an ARRL Handbook to read. Unfortunately, there wasn't an easy way to translate the handbook into successful studies for my amateur license."

While attending Washington State University -- where he studied electrical engineering -- Hopper again discovered Amateur Radio when Craig Johnson, NG7N, a fellow student, showed him packet radio. "This ultimately resulted in getting my Tech license in 1994 -- together with my father Gary, KB7WSI. We attended the local license class put on by the Boeing

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Vice Director Cont.

Employees Amateur Radio Operators North Society (BEARONS), W7FLY."

After becoming licensed, Hopper immediately started volunteering with the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management, and still remains involved with the organization today. At the end of an eight year stint with the DEM, and after taking a CERT class from the City of Everett Fire Department, he was asked by the city's Director of Emergency Management to form an auxiliary communications program based around Amateur Radio, intended to support CERT activities in a disaster. "With law enforcement, fire services and EmComm experience in my background, as well as business and legal skills, I've enjoyed a certain amount of success getting a program off the ground with very few problems."

ARRL Northwestern Division Director Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, said he is glad to have on board as the new Vice Director in the Northwestern Division. "Grant will bring a wealth of experience in the EmComm and support areas, and he has the opportunity to learn the inner workings of the League and Amateur Radio during the next three years," he said. "Both Grant and I look forward to attending meetings, hamfests, and conventions during 2010 and meeting our members. We are both in our respective positions to serve Amateur Radio and our ARRL members."

Prior to his current career as an

attorney, Hopper spent a rewarding 10 years in law enforcement working in both Eastern and Western Washington State as an officer and deputy, respectively. During that period, he spent time investigating computer crime and electronic fraud in addition to "working the road". He is in his 10th year of law practice and now focuses primarily on business and real property related matters.

Hopper's other interests include many outdoor pursuits including mountain biking, hiking and snowshoeing, as well as the more sedate hobbies of photography and fishing. He is also involved in several local community and civic activities, including serving on the

## Youth Cont.

network Web site." Chris wanted a Web site that would provide a friendly environment for hams to connect and get to know each other, and for younger hams to delve further into the hobby. Chris thinks that 73s.org and social media can help give Amateur Radio a more modern feel and help bring hams together off air.

Chris also sees his site as a resource to those looking to get into ham radio. "When we create a network of friends with similar interests and share our experiences, we share our knowledge. Social networking makes the knowledge and experiences of hams accessible by putting them in one spot for everyone to see, ham or non-ham." Only hams can produce content, but

board of his neighborhood association, as well as a city board focused on neighborhood involvement with city government. He donates time to local pro bono programs, as well as participating in the ARRL Volunteer Council program.

Grant is the Immediate Past President of the Snohomish County Hams Club and serves as the Education Program Coordinator and as one of the chief instructors for the license classes (Technician and General class licenses) and the 'new skills' classes. "Most of my 'ham career' has been spent at the local and operational level of Amateur Radio: EmComm, license classes, ARRL Field Day and the public service aspects of the hobby. I'm very much looking forward to serving the Amateur Radio community at a more global, policy level. I believe my broad base of experience will serve the amateur community well." - ARRL Newsletter, Feb 18, 2010 - S

## ARRL Field Day: 2010 Field Day Packets Now Available

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 26-27, 2010! ARRL's flagship operating event - always held the fourth full week-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Youth Cont.

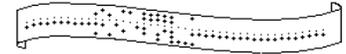
everyone can consume it. "The 73s.org community is a very friendly and genuine, and there are many diverse people with diverse interests providing a wealth of knowledge to everyone," Chris explained.

Chris says his mission is the same as the ARRL: promoting Amateur Radio and providing a place for younger and tech savvy hams to feel at home and for all hams to build friendships when the ionosphere won't cooperate.

While nothing can ever replace the magic crackle of the ionosphere, I see social networking as a tool that hams can utilize for personal enjoyment, as well as betterment of the hobby. By producing that valuable content and making it available to the world, we not only continue to produce a new generation of hams but we give younger generations a comfortable online environment to learn. As a teenager, the idea of being able to log on to Twitter and ask a question is much more appealing than attending a radio club meeting as an unlicensed newbie. As a ham, following friends and reading of other ham's adventures has kept me interested in this vast hobby.

While connecting to the nearest wireless hot spot isn't as exciting as 20 meters on a contest weekend, social media certainly has a purpose to serve. - Duncan P MacLachlan, KU0DM, ARRL Youth Editor, February 8, 2010 – S

# RYRYRYRY...



DE KA7TTY

Hi All,

Well, sorry to say, I will be missing the meeting again this month. The company is sending me to Delaware next week. I'm glad I was able to get to the HRSG meeting and at least say HI to those there. I'll really really try to be there in April.

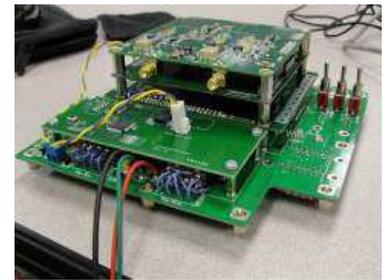
73, John KA7TTY

## ARISSAT-1 Design Review Held in Orlando, February 15-16

Members of the ARISSat team from AMSAT, NASA and Microchip held a Design Review in Orlando, Florida on Monday and Tuesday February 15-16, 2010. There were 23 presentations describing the operation, status and testing of the major areas of the satellite. Many of the members used their holiday and vacation time to participate in a 12 hour session on Monday and 9 hour

session on Tuesday before heading home.

The meeting was very successful in identifying areas that need additional work and definition.



## Field Day Cont.

end in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. Field Day packets are now available for download and include the complete rules (including changes for 2010), as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations, a kit to publicize your event with the local press and more. – ARRL Newsletter, Feb 4, 2010 - S

The major items to work on are the Max Power Point Tracker, the ICB (Interconnect Board), working on making a warmer environment for the battery, power management software and IHU software.

The prototype structure was on display and additional structures are being built. We have nearly all the flight electronics built and checked. The next challenges are developing test plans and coordinating with NASA for thermal, vacuum and vibrations tests. We will not be able to deliver an operational and vetted satellite in

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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**  
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 Issaquah, WA 98027-3909

Material may also be sent via E-Mail at [w7bi@qsl.net](mailto: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.

Original material may be quoted without prior permission provided ISSAQUAH ARC SQUAKBOX is credited.

## ARISSAT Cont.

March and are in discussion about a launch and EVA date later this year.

The presentations in PDF format will shortly be available on the ARISSAT-1 web page under Design Review. – AMSAT WEB Site, Feb. 21, 2010 – S

## – Coming Events –

- **March 3, 2010** - 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.
- **March 6, 2010** - Mike & Key Swap Meet, Puyallup Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall, Puyallup, WA. Info: [dmdink@yahoo.com](mailto:dmdink@yahoo.com) or [n7wa@arrl.net](mailto:n7wa@arrl.net) . <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm> .
- **March 7, 2010** - Burnaby ARC Flea Market. New Westminster, BC [http://rac.eton.ca/events/detail.php?event\\_ID=1333](http://rac.eton.ca/events/detail.php?event_ID=1333) .
- **March 22, 2010** - Issaquah Ham Radio Support Group meeting, Police Station, Issaquah, talk-in 146.56 MHz at 7:00 PM, Meeting at 7:30 PM.
- **April 7, 2010** - Monthly Issaquah ARC meeting. See Mar.3rd for time and location.
- **April 10-11, 2010** – Communications Academy Seattle, WA. <http://www.commacademy.org>
- **April 17, 2010** - Yakima Hamfest. Yakima, Washington. Selah Civic Center, 216 South 1st Street, Selah, WA. For information, contact Lindsay Kooser (509)965-6612 [n7rhw@arrl.net](mailto:n7rhw@arrl.net) . <http://w7aq.org>

## Youth Cont.

VT), David Wu (D-OR-1), C.W. Bill Young (R-FL-10) and Don

Young (R-AK). – ARRL Newsletter, Feb, 11, 2010 – *Ed. Note: But not a single rep from Washington State.* - S

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, Mar. 3, 2010 - 7:30 PM

Talk-in frequency: 146.56 MHz

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL  
 --- FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Issaquah Amateur Radio Club  
 P. O. Box 2171  
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