

**Snohomish County HAMs Club Meeting**  
September 27, 2008

Meeting opened: 8:00 a.m.  
Members in Attendance: 28

The monthly meeting of the Snohomish County HAMs Club was called to order by Grant Hopper. Each member, in turn, gave their call sign, first name, and where they lived. Frank Dolan read the minutes of the last meeting of August 23, 2008 in place of Melisa Nordin, recording secretary, who was on vacation. Several HAMs have passed away in 2008, N7HOP, Bill Call in September of 2008, and Carl Cowell in June of 2008. Bill Painter made the motion to approve the minutes, James Bradshaw seconded, and the membership approved them.

Treasurer's Report

Gary Whiting gave the treasurer's report showing the overall total of money in the Club account at \$3,534.47. Grant had a question on the expendable account, noted that there are now 116 members in the Snohomish County HAMs Club, that the lifetime dues membership was an overall better deal than paying year to year. Lastly, he made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Frank Dolan seconded it, and the membership voted to accept it.

VE Report

Gary Whiting said the latest test was given August 23, 2008 with 5 tested and 5 passed. This included 3 new Technician's licenses, no General's, and 2 Extra Class licenses. This brought in \$70.00 in fees for the ARRL.

Education

Jim Ludden had several dates in late October with the hospital and was asking for instructors to sign up. Contact Grant Hopper (KB7WSD) or Jim Ludden (KD7RHI) if you wish to help out. Grant asked for assistants to aid in classes with regard to antennas, cabling, visual aids, etc. There appears to be plenty of demand for classes and there are 16 individuals interested in taking a Technician's class. Jim asked which format most people would like to take the class in: 1 full weekend starting on Friday and ending on Sunday; or several weeks on a particular weeknight.

Technical Committee

Steve Burling said that, regarding the link receiver, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) would be willing to let us use part of their array rack. Jon Fortier said officially we could use the rack to keep the weather off the receiver.

There have been several complaints against Comcast Broadband because Echo link and Skype are being counted against a user's broadband width use, thus Comcast will close down an account if over allowed amount. Grant discussed Comcast's commercial accounts versus residential accounts, with regard to band width (gigabytes in and out), and that for \$114.00 a month you could get a commercial account.

Rob Salsgiver asked for help for Jon Fortier on the link receiver and help on several other issues.

Web Committee

No business

Old Business

None

New Business

David Cornell offered 3 issues of "QST" magazine for free to hand out, and had a recommendation for attenuators for "Fox Hunts". One could make a quad for as little as \$20.00 according to the schematic offered by Dale Lang (AA1SZ) of Grass Valley Radio Club in Arizona. Grant mentioned an attenuator kit by Charles Charlau NZOI of "Lost Souls".

Grant brought up the RDF demonstration and class for the Boy Scouts of America Troop 43/44 of Marysville, WA and asked for volunteers for same.

The next "Fox Hunt" will be after the October 25, 2008 meeting.

### Announcements

Bill Painter mentioned that Harbour Pointe Tools had measuring tapes on sale that are useful to cut up for a measuring tape beam and that there are several methods of measuring. Paul Erickson added that one could use Radio Shack's AM/FM whip antennas as a measurement tool as well. Loren Postma said these tend to collapse in a moving car.

David Cornell showed his MFJ856VHF Noisemeter with headphones, and 1 vertical, 3 horizontal pieces. This can be aimed to locate any "noise" source (interference).

Frank added that "Dave could rent it out" !

Grant said that the Saturday Morning Swap Net is "dead or dying". A list of gear up for sale or exchange has diminished because of Internet use (eBay, etc.). Maybe we could discuss at the end of every meeting what gear the members have to sell or swap starting with the October meeting.

Keith Jackson mentioned he had a MFJ 949-E 300watt tuner for sale with the possible asking price of \$75.00.

Frank Remington said that sunspots were happening, putting us in a good cycle so that Europe and the East Coast US were coming in good. 15m and 10m bands were opening up. Dave Cornell suggested solarcycle24.com website for sunspots and activity.

Frank Dolan noted that the Jamboree On The Air for Scouts did not include Georgia (E. Europe) on the list of stations.

Grant said that Tad Cook will be giving a "solar report versus propagation" talk next meeting in October. He said this is a "dry" subject but Tad will make it interesting.

Grant called for Elmer volunteers and got the following: David Cornell ((425)771-4745, W9LD), Frank Remington ((425) 335-4480, K7GSE), Keith Jackson ((425) 213-3628, AD7FT), Frank Dolan ((425) 330-2992, N7WUB), and Paul Erickson ((425) 252-3573, KE7EJI).

Needing an Elmer is Keira Earhart ((360) 474-1125, KE7GUB)

Grant made a last call for new business and there was none. At 8:55 a.m., Bill Painter made a motion to adjourn, Bob Huson seconded it, and the membership voted to adjourn.

Special Note: Frank Dolan brought a video of the 1995 US Navy F14 jets and hovercraft "At Sea".