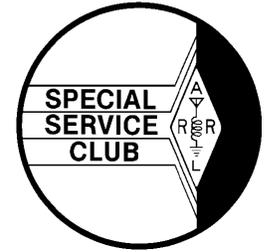




# CVARS



March 2005

Website: [cvars.org](http://cvars.org)

Edited by Bob Willey, KD7OWN

## Official Record

### Executive Board Meeting February 9, 2004

The CVARS Executive Board met on Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at the home of Johnny Jackson, KQ7JJ. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Present were: Bob Willey, KD7OWN, President; Johnny Jackson, KQ7JJ, Vice President; Steve Pack, WB7VAS, Treasurer and Jeff Mayfield, KE7ACE, board member. Al Dittrick, KD7Y was present as a guest.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Steve Pack presented the 2004 year end financial report. The club is doing well and working in the black. He also gave a January treasurer's report. Steve has done a huge amount of work as the treasurer and should be congratulated. 2004 CVARS financial reports are available to any club member by written request to Steve Pack, Treasurer.

Vice President's report: Johnny Jackson reports that HRO's visit as a club program is still up in the air. Family and work problems are making the trip north difficult for Leon but he will keep working to make it happen as soon as possible. At this time, March's CVARS program will be a great sounding program on antique radios by the Tacoma Amateur Radio Club. They have a fun presentation planned.

Old Business: Al Jorgenson's 50<sup>th</sup> year as a ham barbeque and antenna party are still moving ahead as planned for the last Saturday or so in April. Plans for the exact date are being finalized. Steve Pack advised the club license has been renewed for another term. Special event station W7A scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> at Mt. St. Helens is set with information in QST and CQ magazines.

New business: Al Dittrick was present to set up another Technician class radio class and test. The classes are set for March 15-19<sup>th</sup> at the LDS church, 2195 Jackson Hwy, Chehalis. Testing will be at 3 PM Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. For information or to reserve a place, call Al Dittrick at 785-3624 or email him at [dialhome@juno.com](mailto:dialhome@juno.com). One club member requested to work as this year's field day coordinator. Terry Neumann, KQ7K has been so named. Please let Terry know if you are willing to assist with this important project. Thanks, Terry, for stepping up to take on the job. Steve Pack, our website coordinator, says he has made several changes to the club website. Check out the changes and thank Steve.

## Raffle For The Yaesu FT-60R

WOW! You folks really showed you like this kind of raffle. Tickets went like crazy and we'll be selling them again in March and at April's club meeting just before some lucky ham wins what should be my new radio. Just kidding. This little dual band handheld is a beauty. The FT-60R received a great review on page 72 of the February 2005 issue of QST. A "must have" for any active ham. Bring money and buy a few additional tickets in March or April. Where else might you get a brand new handheld for just a few dollars? If the support is there, we'll do this again too.

### But Wait, You Want More?

Greedy? Treasurer Steve Pack is in the giving mood and has decided we will give away something extra for the first place prize winner and a second prize and even a third prize!

The first place prize winner will also receive a "Nifty! Quick Reference Guide" for the Yaesu FT-60R. These cool guides for Kenwood, Icom, Yaesu and other radios are full color, laminated and spiral bound mini manuals specifically designed for your radio.

The second place prize winner will receive a "Nifty! HT Desk Stand" and a "Nifty! Quick Reference Guide" for the radio of their choice. The "Nifty! HT Desk Stand" – is a radio holder that allows your HT to be used as a base station. This stand holds the radio at a comfortable viewing angle while keeping the radio upright and stable. The third place prize winner will receive a "Nifty! Quick Reference Guide" for the radio of their choice and a "Nifty! Quick-Reference HF/VHF/UHF Bands Operating Guide."

For more information about these and other "Nifty!" products, check them out on the web at [N6FN@niftyaccessories.com](mailto:N6FN@niftyaccessories.com). First place, second place or even third place, we've got you covered! Hope you're enjoying this raffle. We are sure having fun now!

## Important Dates To Remember

March 12<sup>th</sup> – Mike & Key Hamfest in Puyallup  
April 2-3<sup>rd</sup> – Communication Academy, Shoreline  
May 14<sup>th</sup> – Lewis County Bike Ride with ARES  
May 18<sup>th</sup> – Special event Mt. St. Helens  
May 21-22<sup>nd</sup> – SAR Conference in Leavenworth  
June 25-26<sup>th</sup> – Field Day

## Too True?

A mild mannered man was tired of being bossed around by his wife so he went to a psychiatrist. The doc said he needed to build his self esteem, so gave him a book to read on his way home. By the time he had arrived at home, he had read the book. He stormed into the house and walked up to his wife. Pointing a finger in her face he said, "from now on, I want you to know I am the man of this house and my word is law. I want you to prepare a gourmet meal and then I want a great dessert and then a bath, and guess who will dress me and comb my hair? The wife, casually turning her back on him said, "I imagine it will be the Undertaker!"

## CVARS "Executive Board" Award

The January USA contest was lots of fun and many of you took part and received the certificate. During the month of March, CVARS will sponsor the "Executive Board" award contest. The rules are easy. The board currently has seven members. Contact at least five of the seven members during the month of March and receive a great certificate. No QSL cards. Just send an email or call Bob Willey, KD7OWN and let him know you have made the contacts. Keep a note of the date of each contact. Executive Board members are encouraged to send you a QSL card so you might even get some great cards! (hint: most of us are on the Sunday night CVARS net. Give us a call). As usual, certificates will be awarded at the next CVARS meeting which would be April 6<sup>th</sup>. Come on, join in the fun!

## Employee Performance Evaluations

Anyone who has ever given or received a performance evaluation will love these "comments"

- Works well under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.
- This employee has delusions of adequacy.
- This employee should go far and the sooner the better.
- When his IQ reaches 50, he should sell.
- If you stand close to him, you can hear the ocean.
- The wheel is turning but the hamster is dead.

## Dog – Extra Class



## Winter DX Doldrums?

By Hillar Raamat, N6HR

Winter Doldrums? Never heard of it. End of January the 160-Meter aficionados were blessed with good conditions on the Top Band in the CQ CW contest. Here in the Northwest we could only drool hearing the east coasters working Europeans contest style, but both mornings we 'got'em' by clambering up on Japanese stations, Australians, New Zealanders, Indonesia and such 'far easterners'. Outside the contest, the 80-meter band has been open most every morning (PST time) to the same geography with Laos, Mongolia, Thailand, Taiwan, and China running in the 579 region, with the Japanese pinning solid 599s. I also heard a couple Prince Edward Island and a FR5 stations with Japanese pileup on them.

But more goodies are coming up! After a story that would qualify for any soap opera, the Peter I DXpedition will be off and sailing by the time this hits print. Seems their original chartered ship is still in the Chilean shipyard with welders galore-but the completion date went down the calendar by 4 months! Bad news! BUT-good news- a new ship has been chartered (this one is already afloat!) and the operating DX crews are ready to go! They will be on all bands and modes and hope to make 100,000 QSO's! Get your antennas ready!

Also-would you believe? 10 Meters has been open! Occasionally, to be sure, but logged here have been the Falkland Islands, South Shetland Islands Antarctic research bases, and lots of South Americans of all nationalities...Ten is NOT dead! Perk up your ears around 28.495 at 2-4 pm PST and you will hear all kinds of Spanish and Portuguese spoken!

Be sure to mark Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for the Mike and Key in Puyallup. Same weekend, March 5-6 is the ARRL Phone DX Contest and March 26-27 is CQ WPX Phone Contest.

The thing to do now is to get out of bed early in the morning and get those 40-meter and 80-meter QSO's into the log! These will get you DX better than your favorite bass lure! Go troll for that DX! 73's Hillar

## Warning! New Scam!

This new scam is pulled mainly on older men. What happens is that when you stop for a red light, a young woman in a bikini comes up and pretends to be washing your windshield. While she is doing this, another person opens your back door and steals anything in the car. They are very good at this.

They got me 7 times Friday and 5 times Saturday. I wasn't able to find them on Sunday.

## Al Jorgensen's 50<sup>th</sup> Year As A Ham

Mark your calendars and keep Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> open. One of these two dates we will be celebrating Al's 50<sup>th</sup> year as a ham with a barbeque at his house and an antenna party to put him back on the air on HF. He'll provide the barbeque and we'll bring some pot-luck. Come help us celebrate half a century calling CQ and have some fun and food too.

## YAM

Girl potato and boy potato had eyes for each other, and finally they got married and had a little sweet potato which they called 'yam'. Of course, they wanted the best for yam.

When it was time, they told her about the facts of life. They warned her about going out and getting half baked so she wouldn't get accidentally mashed, and get a bad name for herself like 'hot potato' and end up with a bunch of tater tots. Yam said not to worry, no spud would get her into the sack and make a rotten potato out of her! But on the other hand she wouldn't stay home and become a couch potato either. She would get plenty of exercise so as not to be a skinny like her shoestrings cousins.

When she went off to Europe, Mr. and Mrs. Potato told Yam to watch out for the hard boiled guys from Ireland. And the greasy guys from France called the French Fries. And when she went out west to watch out for the Indians so she wouldn't get scalloped.

Mr. and Mrs. Potato sent Yam to Idaho P.U. (that's Potato University) so that when she graduated she'd really be in the chips. But in spite of all they did for her, one day Yam called home and announced she was going to marry Tom Brokaw.

Tom Brokaw! Mr. and Mrs. Potato were very upset. They told Yam she couldn't possibly marry Tom Brokaw because he's just..... a retired 'common tater'.

## Know The Origin Of The Term 'Elmer'?

The term 'Elmer' meaning someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would be hams, first appeared in QST in March 1971's "How's DX" column by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD. Newkirk called them "the unsung fathers of Amateur Radio." While he probably was not trying to coin a term at the time, here's how Newkirk introduced "Elmer" in his column and, as it turned out, to the rest of the Amateur Radio world:

"Too frequently one hears a sad story in this little nutshell: 'Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest.'"

Newkirk went on to say, "We need those Elmers. All the Elmers, including the ham who took the most time and trouble to give *you* a push toward your license, are the birds who keep this great game young and fresh." –Rick Lindquist, N1RL.

As you can see the term is not very old. Prior to the first use of Elmer as the one who guided and encouraged us, what were these folks called? I have received a lot of suggestions; teacher, mentor, tutor, guide, helper, sage? All are appropriate but my guess would be that first and foremost they were called friend. (Thanks to Norm Fusaro, W3IZ and the ARRL Website)

## Truth and Consequences

- Accept that some days you're the pigeon and some days you're the statue.
- If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- Never buy a car you can't push.

- A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
- Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

## Note From Bob McDonald, KD7SVK

I received an email the other day from Bob and Carolyn MacDonald. They are in Quartzsite dry camping at the hamfest in the desert. He still has not HF antenna up but is getting closer and we may hear from him soon. Kim Aiken, AC7YY, said he heard from Bob after this email on 80 meters on the net at 7:00 PM local time. Let's keep an ear open and see if Bob or Carolyn are calling.



## 2005 Search And Rescue Conference

The 2005 Search and Rescue Conference will be held this year in Leavenworth, Washington at the National Fish Hatchery over the weekend of May 21-22<sup>nd</sup>. For more information, check out the website at [www.chelansar.org](http://www.chelansar.org). or contact Sgt. Bruce Long at 509-667-6999. Leavenworth is beautiful any time of the year but May is especially nice.



## Mount St Helens

W7A, the special event call sign used during the McKinley Stump special event put on a few years ago by CVARS, will ride again in 2005. May 18<sup>th</sup> will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 'big blow' of Mt. St. Helens. CVARS will be on the mountain for this special event passing out QSO contacts right and left. The information will be in QST and CQ magazines and we'll be giving out a special event QSL card.

It can be cool (read cold) up at 4000' in May so bring your own vehicle to stay warm in, your own radio gear if you can (including antennas) snacks and dress warmly. You should be prepared to send and receive from your own vehicle, when possible as there will be no outside warm tent to snooze in. You might be able to share a car with someone else but you may want to try and make arrangements early. We'll be on the air from 9AM – 4 PM on all available bands. See you there.

## Is This Your Kid?

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?"

One child blurted out, "Aces!"

## Remember...

When you go to court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people that weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty!

## CVARS Website

Have you checked out our club website lately? If it has been a few weeks, dramatic changes have taken place. Steve Pack, WB7VAS, our illustrious treasurer and webmaster, has really been burning the late night oil to make this site special. The web now includes:

- ARES Information
- Amber Alert warnings
- Upcoming classes and testing dates
- A call-sign lookup
- Communications Academy info
- A silent key page
- CVARS contests & QSO party information
- Mt St. Helens special event updates
- CVARS activities page
- CVARS Calendars with current events
- Links to other hot ham radio spots.

Have a suggestion? Let Steve know. He just wants the website to serve your needs. Thanks Steve!

## Dangerous Phrases

Dangerous: What's for dinner?

Safer: Can I help you with dinner?

Safest: Where would you like to go out for dinner?

Ultra Safe: Have some chocolate!

Dangerous: Are you wearing that?

Safer: You look good in brown.

Safest: Wow, look at you!

Ultra Safe: Have some chocolate!

Dangerous: What are you so worked up about?

Safer: Could we be overreacting?

Safest: Here's my paycheck.

Ultra Safe: Have some chocolate!

Dangerous: What did you do all day?

Safer: I hope you didn't over-do it today.

Safest: I've always loved you in that robe!

Ultra Safe: Have some more chocolate!

## On The Air In March

March has some great contests and QSO parties for you on HF. Summer will soon be upon us so grab these events now while they're still available.

- March 5-6: ARRL International DX Contest. (phone) 0000Z Mar 5-2400Z Mar 6. This is a biggie. Don't miss it. See page 104 of the Dec 2004 QST for more information or go to ARRL's website.
- March 12-14: Wisconsin QSO Party, Oklahoma QSO Party. Great opportunity to grab a few new counties or two more states for your Worked All States award.
- March 19-21: Russian DX Contest. 1200Z Mar 19 – 1200Z Mar 20<sup>th</sup>. Those illusive Russian stations will be looking for you!

- March 19-21: 10-10 Mobile Contest. You don't have to be mobile. Just get on 10 meters and say hello. 0000Z-2359Z Mar 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Mar 26-28: CQ WW WPX Contest. Another biggie! CQ Magazine sponsors the World Wide Worked All Prefix Contest. A wonderful place to get some really cool QSL cards and some great DX contacts! 0000Z Mar 26 – 2400Z Mar 27<sup>th</sup>.

## AC7YY's New Echolink Site

Kim Aiken, AC7YY, has been working on a new Echolink site for our area. The frequency is 146.56 simplex with a node number of 235124 and a shortcut code of C7. Kim says the frequency may move in the months to come but for now, give it a try. If you've never tried Echolink, you should. It is easy to do and lots of fun. Call Kim and let him know you appreciate his hard work.

## Peter I Island DXpedition Is Off...Again

The DXpedition team announced February 17<sup>th</sup> that the much awaited Peter I Island event has been called off at the eleventh hour. Hams around the world have been waiting to contact Peter I Island, one of the most coveted DX places on the globe but they will have to wait until 2006 at least. Problems with their chartered vessel and scrounging a replacement helicopter took so long they finally just ran out of time. For more information check their website at [www.peterone.com](http://www.peterone.com). Next year for sure!

## Ronald Reagan Said....

- "The most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help."
- "Of the four wars in my lifetime none came about because the U.S. was too strong."
- "The taxpayer: That's someone who works for the federal government but doesn't have to take the civil service examination."

## CVARS Net Control Operators

### March

March 6<sup>th</sup>: Jeff Mayfield, KE7ACE

March 13<sup>th</sup>: Bob Willey, KD7OWN

March 20<sup>th</sup>: Steve Pack, WB7VAS

March 27<sup>th</sup>: Loyann Munyan, KC7KCJ

### April

April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Johnny Jackson, KQ7JJ

April 10<sup>th</sup>: Bill Harwell, AC7SR

April 17<sup>th</sup>: Loyann Munyan, KC7KCJ

April 24<sup>th</sup>: Nicholas Bratina, KD7YUF

How about checking into the CVARS net this Sunday evening at 8:00 PM? It only takes a few minutes and it is about the easiest way to support your club that there is. Say "hello" next Sunday night. We would really like to hear from you.

See you at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> CVARS club meeting. 73's