



Newsletter

January 2012

Volume 2 Number 1

Call To Action

William Harding, KE7DEM
President Mercury Northwest

By the time you read this edition of the MNW Newsletter, Christmas and the 2012 New Year will be here. I hope the all is well and the new year brings all that is good to you. And may I say that I hope you got for Christmas whatever HAM gear that was on your wish list.

Also for the New Year, my comments are a Call to Action. In a previous MNW Newsletter a couple of years ago, there was a very fine article about STP (the Same Ten People). The idea is that most of the action and work done in any organization seems to be done by the Same Ten People. Amateur Radio and the Mercury Northwest Organization (and associated Chapters) are no exception.

First of all, Thank You many times, to those who are serving and working to keep Mercury Northwest alive and functioning. I wish I could make a list of all who are working so diligently (and maybe I should, even at the risk of missing someone). Subject for a later Newsletter for the 2012 new year. Please keep up the good work.

Now for a thought, what if we could add to the existing ten people, another ten people. Here are four examples.

1.- Mercury Northwest Elections for 2012. By this time we should have the 2012 elections over and a new board in place and ready to go. However, at the time of this writing in mid December, I had only received three nominations, and as you saw when the election ballot was sent out, the people who had been nominated were mostly the same as last year. It would have been nice to see even five more names of people willing to serve.

2.- Chapter meetings: I am sure your local MNW Chapter meetings are working and worth the time and effort to plan and attend them. But what if we could get 10 more people involved (even five more). What a difference it would make in every way.

3.-Our various nets: Just imagine how much fun you local VHF nets would be if you could increase participation by 10 people. Imagine how much fun our HF Roundtable Nets on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings would be if we could increase participation by 10 people.

4.- I still need photos and short Biographies from people to share our organization. What is on the Web site is all there is and I know there are more out there. Please take a few minutes and send be a paragraph or two and a photo. If nothing else, tell me how and why are got involved with Amateur Radio. And then tell me what you are doing right now using Amateur Radio, even if it is only checking into a net once a week.

Now for my Call to Action:

For the year 2012, as one of the main goals of Mercury Northwest, is to increase our activity by at least 5 people. This includes all activities from our radio nets, to chapter meetings, to the annual conference, to our gathering at the Puyallup HAM Fest in March. Please help make this an organization goal. And for the sake of discussion, please respond to me via email any ideas you have to help us meet this goal over the course of the next year. Email me with:

- If you are not participating, why not, and one thing that would help you become involved.
- If you are one of the 10 people in your area, Thanks again, and let me know any ideas you have to help others become involved.
- Email me with Ideas for Chapter meetings. We will share these with the entire organization.
- Email me with ideas (and material) for our Newsletter.
- Email me with photos and Bios.
- Email me with what you did at your last chapter meeting.
- Email me with other ideas that you would like to know about our membership which is scattered across Four States and two Canadian Providences.

Finally, May the best of the New Year be yours,
Be Safe, Be Prepared, Play Radio

How I Got Involved in Ham Radio

By Creed Lombard WA7KPK



Why did you get involved in Amateur Radio?

My very favorite Christmas present, ever, was a little yellow five-tube table radio I got in 1963 when I was 8 years old. I still remember the amazing discovery I made as the sun went down that there were

radio stations you could listen to from as far away as San Francisco and - gasp! - CANADA! I ran back and forth up the stairs to tell my parents about each new discovery I made until they finally told me to write them down and tell them in the morning.

That Christmas present started a life-long love affair with radio. Naturally, when I found out that you could actually have your own radio station and talk to people, nothing would do except getting on the air myself. Thus I have been an Old Man since I was 13.

Are those reasons still valid?

I still think there's something magic about the fact that I can sit in my bedroom in my robe and slippers and talk to someone two blocks or an ocean away, with nothing connecting us but an electromagnetic wave and a love of radio.

How much am I involved?

Not as much as I'd like to be. These days I spend all of my hamming time on 2m and 440. I would love to get involved in activities like radiosport (we used to call it contesting), DXing, digital modes like PSK31 and WSJT, Internet/ham projects like ILRP, building some equipment, and heck, just plain old calling CQ and ragchewing with whoever answers. As always, time and money are the constraints, not necessarily in that order.

What has been my most recent project?

It's been a while since I did my last build project, a 30-meter direct conversion receiver built from a kit about 12 years ago. I enjoy building antennas, and had great fun with a 5-element 2-meter quad I built back around 1995. (I was hitting repeaters on Saltspring Island from Crown Hill with a 5-watt HT and once made it into a repeater near Portland.) I'd like to build another one of those. But my next build project will probably be moving my J-pole outside to facilitate my other current project - improving my effectiveness in my newly-minted calling as our state's emergency communications specialist.

What did you learn from doing this?

From the build and antenna projects, I learned that building and putting things together is great fun and I'd love to be able to do more of both. I also learned that building would be easier if I had tools that were more than just barely adequate. Learning about being a Stake EC coordinator is teaching me how much I have yet to learn about radio. But then that's the great thing about it, isn't it?

Important Information

For those of us who make News Years resolutions or feel we have been missing some nets because of bad information here is your answer. This is the latest information direct from our Fearless Leader with all the latest and greats stuff on when to get together around a nice warm circuit. So put up your feet set back and join the fun. Let us know if you find errors or omissions.

LDS Church ERC Nets Last Updated: 6 Apr 2011

Note: All time references are Pacific Time unless otherwise indicated.

Title – Stake - Ward	Day - Time	Frequency
Western Washington Region	Sunday – 19:00	Woodinville Repeater: 147.34 + No Tone Clear View Repeater – 442.975 + 103.5 Without Repeater: 146.42 Simplex
King-Snohomish Region Simplex Net	Sunday – 20:30	146.42 Simplex
Auburn Stake	Sunday – 21:00	147.56 Simplex
Bellevue Stake	Sunday – 20:30	147.50 Simplex
Bellevue South Stake	Sunday – 2030 Except holiday weekends; Stake and General Conference.	PSE Linked Repeaters: Rattlesnake Ridge, North Bend - 441.775 + 103.5 Green Mtn., Bremerton – 441.750 + 103.5 Bt Erie, Anacortes – 441.725 + 103.5 Mt. Baldi, Emumclaw – 441.700 + 103.5 Without Repeater – 147.440 Simplex
Tiger Mt Ward	Sunday – 20:15	146.44 Simplex
Bellingham Stake	Sunday – 21:00	145.78 Simplex See attached chart for individual Ward net Frequencies.
Coeur d’ Alene Stake, ID	Sunday – 19:00	146.58 Simplex
Elma, WA	Sunday - 20:00	Either 146.400 Simplex or 169.900 pl 88.5
Everett Stake	Monday – 20:45	South Whidbey Repeater: 147.22, +, 127.3 Simplex Frequencies: Primary 147.57, Secondary 147.47
Graham, WA	Sunday – 20:00	Use repeater on 1 st , 3 rd , 5 th Sundays, K7EK Repeater located on Graham Hill. 147.140, +, 103.5

Title – Stake - Ward	Day - Time	Frequency
		Simplex 147.56 on 2 nd and 4 th Sundays
Kent Stake Kent Group (Clark Lake, Park Orchard, and Scenic Hill Wards) Covington Group (Crestwood, Lake Meridian, and Lake Sawyer Wards) Individual ward frequencies listed below.	Sunday Both Groups at 21:00	Simplex 146.56 Simplex 146.58
Lacey Stake	Sunday – 20:00	147.42 Simplex
Marysville Stake Arlington 1 st Ward	Sunday – 20:15 Sunday 20:00	145.62 Simplex Repeater 440.40, + Offset, 123.0
Mercury Mount Saint Helens ERC	Sunday – 20:00	Longview Repeater 147.260, + Offset, 114.8
Mt Vernon Stake	Sunday – 20:00	Lyman Hill Repeater 145.19 - 127.3 Simplex Frequencies: 146.46 - 147.40
Olympia Stake	Sunday – 20:30	147.56 MHz Simplex on 1 st , 2 nd , 4 th , and 5 th Sunday 3 rd Sunday – OARS Repeater system 3 band cross-linked. 2 m at 147.36
Oregon City Regional	Sunday – 21:00	Repeater 146.700, -, 100.0
Port Angeles Stake	Sunday – 19:00	Striped Peak Repeater: 146.76, - offset, PI 100.0 Simplex 146.400
Redmond Stake Redmond 3 rd Ward	Sunday – 20:30	147.50 Simplex
Salem, Oregon McMinnville, Salem, Keiser, Corvallis, Lebanon	Sunday – 20:30	Simplex 146.46
Salem, Oregon Region Emergency Operations Net	Sunday – 20:00	443.450
Spokane Storehouse Region ERC Net	Sunday – 19:30	KBARA system on one of the following repeaters: 147.380 MHz, W7OE, Mica Peak, East of Spokane 147.360 MHz, N1NG, Stensgar (Stranger) Mt., North of Spokane near Chewelah, WA 147.280 MHz, KD7DDQ, Pikes Peak, Southeast of Walla Walla, WA 147.020 MHz, N7LVO, Lookout Pass, on the Idaho-

Title – Stake - Ward	Day - Time	Frequency
Spokane Area Stake Nets		Montana border 146.740 MHz, W7HFI, Kamiak Butte, near Colfax and Pullman, WA
Coeur d' Alene	Sunday – 19:00	147.52 MHz Simplex
Colville Stake	Sunday – 19:00	147.42 MHz Simplex
Moscow ID Stake	Sunday – 19:00	147.58 MHz Simplex
Sandpoint ID Stake	Sunday – 20:00	146.96 MHz (-) Repeater
Spokane East Stake	Sunday – 19:00	146.50 MHz Simplex
Spokane Valley Stake	Sunday – 20:45	147.58 MHz Simplex and 146.72 (-) 100 Tone
Spokane Stake	Sunday – 19:00	146.46 MHz Simplex
Spokane West Stake	Sunday – 18:00	146.48 MHz Simplex
Spokane North Stake	Sunday – 19:00	145.43 MHz (-) Repeater
Walla Walla Stake	Sunday – 18:00	144.900 MHz Simplex

HF Nets	Day - Time	Frequency
Church Headquarters to Storehouse Nets. These nets are mainly for Storehouse to HQ testing. The purposes of the ERC headquarters net are: 1. To verify the readiness of communication equipment located in church facilities (Storehouses). 2. To train ECS in contacting church headquarters in an emergency. ECS should become educated in radio propagation and use initiative in finding alternate communication routes between their bishops' storehouse and church headquarters.	Tuesday 15:00 MST/MDT Wednesday UTC (Z) 18:00 PDT = 01:00 Z 19:00 PDT = 02:00 Z 19:45 PDT = 02:45 Z 20:00 PDT = 03:00 Z Tuesday PST = Wednesday UTC (Z) 17:00 PST = 01:00 Z 18:00 PST = 02:00 Z 18:45 PST = 02:45 Z 19:00 PST = 03:00 Z	20 m – 14.244 MHz USB 20 m – 14.244 MHz USB 40 m – 7.180 MHz LSB 80 m CW – 3.573 MHz CW 80 m – 3.878 MHz LSB 20 m – 14.244 MHz USB 40 m – 7.180 MHz LSB 80 m CW – 3.573 MHz CW 80 m – 3.878 MHz LSB
Kent – Hermiston- Lethbridge Storehouse Net	Saturday – 08:00 Pacific time	80 m – 3.937 MHz LSB

Canada

Title – Stake - Ward	Day - Time	Frequency
Wildcard Multi-Stake	Sunday – 21:00	146.610, -, 110.9 Hosted by Verna VE7NM
Victoria Stake	Sunday – 20:15	146.415 Simplex Mt Macdonald Repeater 146.84, -, 100.0

Other Social Nets

Title	Day - Time	Frequency
Snoqualmie Chapter Mercury Northwest VHF Round Table Net	Sunday – 20:45	Woodinville Repeater: 147.34 + No Tone Secondary: 147.44 MHz Simplex
South Sound Chapter Mercury Northwest VHF Net	Sunday – 21:15	147.56 Simplex
Mercury Northwest HF Round Table Net	Saturday – about 08:15 hrs following the Storehouse net Monday – 21:00	80 m – 3.937 MHz LSB 80 m – 3.965 MHz LSB

Stake and Ward Frequency Usage

Bellingham

FRS/GMRS Channel	Call to Use at Base Ward	CB Channel	Amateur Radio Frequency [Simplex]
1	Bell 1	2	145.515MHz
2	Bell 2	3	145.530
3	Bell 3	4	145.545
4	Blaine	5	145.590
5	Everson	6	145.605
6	Fern 1	7	145.735
7	Fern 2	8	145.650
1	Fern 3	10	145.665
2	Lynden Branch	12	145.680
3	Stake	13	145.780 - 146.560 - 147.420
4	Bell 4 (Singles)	14	145.575

Redmond

Ward	Simplex Frequency	FRS/GMRS
Redmond Stake	147.44, 146.85, 445.85	8, 3, 2
Carnation	147.46	13
Duvall	145.61	12
Novelty Hill	147.52	16
Redmond 1	146.40	11
Redmond 2	147.48	14
Redmond 3	147.50	15
Sammamish 1	147.54	17
Sammamish 2	147.56	18

Kent Stake

Ward	Simplex Frequency
Clark Lake	146.56
Crestwood	145.33
Lake Meridian	145.61
Lake Sawyer	146.58
Park Orchard	145.79
Scenic Hill	145.59

Don't Forget to Vote

If you have not voted for the President and The Board you'd better get a wiggle on. After all you can't complain about *THEM* if you don't vote. Here is your ballot if you haven't taken care of it yet.

From: William, KE7DEM, President, Mercury Northwest, 2011

This message is to have you respond with your votes for those folks that will serve as the Board of Directors for 2012. Please vote for one person for President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer, and vote for two people for the Board Members at Large. Also, because of the small number of people who were nominated, write in candidates are accepted this year.

Your votes must be returned to me by **1 January 2012**. I will have them tabulated and the new board members announced by 10 January 2012.

I must make a couple of editorial comments here:

First, I give my hole hearted thanks to the 2011 Board members, others who have served in appointed positions, and all who contributed in anyway. If I have failed to acknowledge someone, I apologize. We had a most successful year. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

Second, I am most grateful to those who have accepted nominations for this year. I would be most proud to serve with you all. Those of you who have been in the Military will understand when I say that by serving with your fellow people, you come to love them to the point of willing to lay down your life for them. Now you know how I feel about all Mercury Northwest Members. What a great, wonderful, unique, (and many more adjectives) group of people. Again, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

Third, there have been some of you who have expressed a desire to be involved. We invite all and if there is something you would like to do, please speak up. Many times we do not know what needs to be done, what should be done, and who can do it, unless someone says something.

Fourth, This is a call to activity. If you are not involved, please find a way to become involved. There is much we can do to server each other.

Official Ballot for Mercury Northwest Board Members for 2012

Return this part of the ballot to William Harding, KE7DEM@hughes.net or KE7DEM@arrl.net by 1 January 2012

Vote for one person for each position, President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer

For President:

- William, KE7DEM
- Write-In _____

For Vice-President:

- Jonathan Cowling, KF7BYT
- Rue Palmer, W7RUE
- Larry Johnson, KK7RG
- Write-In _____

For Secretary-Treasurer:

- Mori Day, K7DAY
- Write-In _____

Vote for two Board Members

Board Members (two positions):

- John Swapp, K7CXJ
- Alan MacAlevy, K7DAP
- Justin Price, VE7JTN, Canadian Rep
- James Hunter, N5XRQ
- Write-In _____
- Write-In _____
- Write-In _____

A Note From The Editor : Forgive my fiddling around with the format of this issue. This seems a little easier to work with and if nobody minds. And thanks again to John Swapp who put up with me (or is that put me up?). John is really impressive guy. He picked me up from the Seattle Bus Station in a white car with a red Coast Guard strip on the side. What was really impressive was the Deck Gun on the hood. No traffic jams for John!! I certainly enjoyed meeting the other MARA folks at the Club Meeting. Great to meet so many Priesthood holders who are also Hams. How good can it get.