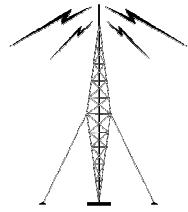




Western Public Service System Newsletter



Election Edition

NOVEMBER 2010



Letter from the President, Ron, N3ETA

Hello everyone

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and are settling into the fall season and getting ready for winter. A great time by the way to renew your relationship with your radio. Try a band you haven't been on in a while or take a shot at some of the new technology that you have yet to explore. Hopefully the band conditions will be on our side.

I'm sure you noticed that this is the yearly election edition of the WPSS newsletter. This is the only newsletter that you will still receive snail mail without requesting it. If you do not have internet access, please contact the editor Genie KM6D or the publisher Mickie KT6U for a basic version of the on-line newsletter.

Enclosed with this newsletter is your ballot and a return envelope. Our Treasurer Fred (K6RAU) must receive your completed ballot by December 15th. We thank all of the members who have stepped up and thrown their hats into the ring. We have 9 members running for Directors positions and 1 for President. Hopefully Toby W6PXD and Fred K6RAU are willing to remain in their positions for a while longer. I must admit, it would be very refreshing to see a full slate of nominees every year. We'll have to keep working on that one.

Since your ballot is being sent to Fred (our Treasurer) via the enclosed return ballot envelope, this would be an excellent time to renew your membership. Please, Please, Please folks! If you're going to renew your membership, don't wait until it's expired. Every year we have 2 to 3 dozen members who renew late. You can't believe the amount of added work created for over a dozen volunteers (not paid officials of some utility or business). In addition to adding to the workload of some fellow members, you also lose your accumulated time of membership. Please! Try to get your renewals in on time.

I'm also deeply saddened to have to inform any of you who had not already heard but...we lost Jerry (WA6ZZK) to a heart attack on October 12 of this year. Jerry was not only a life member of almost 30 years, he also served in almost every position you can as a member of The Western Public Service System. Jerry will be missed and our best go out to his family and friends.

Enjoy your fall and the holidays.

Thanks
Ron Genovesi
N3ETA

WESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE SYSTEM INC.
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MONTH-END
[August 2010]

/// Beginning Bank Balance (July 27, 2010): \$ 10745.64

\|\| July Deposits & Interest: + \$ 2530.00
+ 162.00 (dues) / July 28
+ 135.00 (picnic-rt.) / July 30
+ 1077.00 (picnic-rt&dues / Aug 13
+ 1156.00 (picnic-receipts / Aug 13

\|\| August Expenses & Debits: - \$ 2071.72
- 508.86 / Sharon L (KI6FKX) / picnic ladies prizes / v 523 / Aug 5
- 1562.86 / Peninsula Comm / picnic expenses / v 524 / Aug 12

/// Ending Bank Balance (August 25, 2010): \$ 11203.92

Fred B. Silveira, K6RAU
WPSS Treasurer – 2010

WESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE SYSTEM INC.
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MONTH-END
[September 2010]

/// Beginning Bank Balance (Aug 25, 2010): \$ 11203.92

\|\| July Deposits & Interest: + \$ 212.00
+ 72.00 (dues) / Aug 26
+ 140.00 (dues) / Sept 23

\|\| August Expenses & Debits: - \$ 0000.00
- 00.00

/// Ending Bank Balance (Sept 27, 2010): \$ 11415.92

Fred B. Silveira, K6RAU
WPSS Treasurer – 2010

***** NO BOARD MEETINGS WERE HELD *****



UPCOMING EVENTS 2010

Dec 15 Fred K6RAU Treasurer must receive WPSS Election Ballot by today.

Just a reminder -

It is just about time to renew your membership for 2011, dues are \$8.00 if your membership is current. You can renew or rejoin now by sending your dues to the Treasurer K6RAU Fred.

E-mail: k6rau@arrl.net

Send membership renewal dues to:

Fred Silveira – K6RAU
Treasurer
1611 Evette Court
Merced, CA 95340-1609

**Make Checks payable to:
Western Public Service System**

****Note: Printable renewal form on last page of newsletter**

Member News

UPDATE ON THE WPSS ARCHIVES

Bob W6ZAP has informed us that as of right now he is starting to get everything organized in a chronological, subject and type order as time permits. As the weather changes he will be spending more time inside and getting more done. He is planning on purchasing a production scanner (Epson Workforce GT-1500), which will increase the scanning productivity by a whole bunch. He states that his plan is to be finished by late spring next year and done for the 2011 picnic. Thank you Bob for volunteering your time and efforts in getting this done it is greatly appreciated.

LEARN OR REFRESH MORSE CODE

Do you or someone you know want to learn Morse code? If so the K6RAU Code Course is now available on the internet. This is **actual** code instruction, not code practice as one does not need to know a "dit" from a "dah" to learn. Simply with paper and pencil in hand follow the voice instruction. The narrator is Fred K6DUU (now a SK), father of K6RAU Fred our Treasurer. The course was first broadcast on 160 meters to local Merced/Modesto area boy scouts listening on converted music radios. In the 1970's through mid 90's it was transmitted on 75 meters by K6RAU. To download the course, three websites are available:

www.pdarrl.org/k6rau, <http://kd7mek.spruz.com/> or, <http://www.kj6art.com/>

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS / BERING SEA SCIENCE CRUISE 2010

Contributed by Ken W7KJ

My name is Ken W7KJ and I retired about 5 years ago from CSU, Long Beach where I was a Captain running research a vessel. The work is interesting so I do relief jobs from time to time, this is one of those jobs sailing as a Mate on this trip.

June 7th left Fox Island, Washington flying down to San Jose, California to board the research vessel Point Sur at the Monterey Bay Aquarium docks in Moss Landing, California. The Point Sur is a 135-ft research vessel owned by the National Science Foundation and operated by Moss Landing Marine Laboratory/San Jose State University. For those interested you can visit the UNOLS website for all the vessels and institutions.

June 8th about 09:00 hours, we are underway headed up the coast to the Columbia River and Astoria, Oregon to take on fuel where it is cheaper than California and Alaska, something to keep in mind when you need over 15,000 gallons. It takes 4+ hours to do the fuel then back out the river and north bound.

The weather got us off the Washington coast with 25 -35 knot winds and 8-12 foot seas slowing our progress for about 13 hours. Finally arriving off Cape Flattery, the most northwestern point in the lower 48, and marks the entrance to the Strait of Juan De Fuca which we use to start the run on the Inside Passage.

To take the Inside Passage to Alaska is a way to avoid most of the nasty weather that could come your way. It is a series of glacier cut channels that allows you to keep big chunks of land between you and the weather except for a couple of spots. A very scenic route with lots of wildlife and a big part of why I was doing the trip, I wanted to see that country one more time and it had been 25 years since my last trip through there.

June 18th and we are moored to the Seward Marine Science Center dock to load more gear and most of the science party. We will be here for 4 days so there will be time to get off and stretch the legs a little. Seward is a nice little town, good fishing and mile 0 for the Iditarod Sled Dog Race.

Member News

- continued -

June 23rd finds us underway to Dutch Harbor where we are supposed to pick up the last people and gear for this first trip.

June 26th, and with good weather we are in Dutch Harbor where the last two science people are waiting not only for us but the gear and clothes they checked that failed to catch up to them until we got to Adak Island.

The first leg is a dive survey on various islands of the Aleutian Chain with Dr. Brenda Konar and her dive crew from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. At their established dive sites they count, collect, photograph and other things to see what changes are going on in the food chain. This is part of a larger study looking at the crash in the Fur Seal and Stellar Sea Lion populations that are a major food source for Orcas. The idea is that with the decline in seals and sea lions the Orcas have turned to Sea Otters, add in the fact that to equal one seal or sea lion many otters need to be consumed due to otters having fur to stay warm instead of blubber.

There is a lot of history along the Aleutian Chain. Japan invaded during WWII, with the leftover debris still evident on some of the islands and the beaches. Amchitka Island was the site of underground nuclear testing from 1965 - 71 including the largest ever set off a 4.2 - 5 megaton bomb.

We had great weather until we reached Massacre Bay on Attu Island, site of the only land battle on American soil during WWII.

Since the dive stations were in the bay, we were already in what passes for 'protected anchorage' when it started to blow, so time to hunker down. The Point Sur's ground tackle (anchor, chain and cable) leaves a bit to be desired. In that even with a 500# anchor and 90 feet of big chain it tends to drag in any wind over 25 knots no matter how much cable is let out unless you are very lucky. The wind was pretty solid at 35 - 40 knots with gusts over 50, so we drug anchor and with Murphy's Law stating that if you are going to drag anchor it will always be in the middle of the night, it gets interesting.

It took three times of pulling and dropping the anchor before we hooked into something that would hold us for the next 30 hours. When it is time to go and the little voice in the back of your head says, '*if this held this long with the conditions we had this will not be just a pull it and go operation*', so in go the divers with their camera. Imagine one BIG long chunk of Navy anchor chain stretching out of sight in both directions and our anchor had caught it perfectly on its flukes, we are lifting it 8 - 10 feet off the bottom on surges. We had to send the divers back down again with another line to shackle into the backside of the anchor to pull it up backwards, not fun. After Attu it was again great weather.

July 18th we are back in Dutch Harbor, Unalaska Island where we will off load this group.

July 21st we have loaded Dr Tom Weingartner U of A Fairbanks and are headed up to the NE Bering Sea. This leg is all about the climate change causing major ice melt, run off from glaciers, the ice fields and what effect this has on the Bering Sea and the critters there in. I am sure there is more to it but I am not a scientist.

The Bering Sea is made up of the Aleutian Basin from around the Pribilof Islands and SW with depths to 4000 meters and the Bering Shelf north and east of the Pribilos with a depth to about 90 meters. We will be working in 30 - 60 meters of water on the Shelf recovering nine Doppler current meters that record velocity and water flow direction. Along with lots of Hydro Cast which allows the capture of water samples at particular depths with an instrument package to see real time measurements of salinity, pH, temperature, etc. It also has a package for detecting particulate in the water. We recovered eight of the current meter pods, the ninth it seems was buried.

While working in the Bering Sea we were never closer than about 12 nautical miles to land so in that respect not much to see but it is a rich environment for marine animals.

In the weather department we again were extremely lucky for a couple of days until it again blew more than 20 knots with 6 foot seas.

August 2nd we are once again dockside in Dutch Harbor to off load people and gear then a three day run back to Seward. I will have traveled close to 9000 miles.

August 8th I will fly home.

Member News

- *continued* -

BEAUTIFUL PHOTOS OF ALASKA

See beautiful photos of Alaska taken by Ken W7KJ while he was on a research vessel in the Bering Sea. He retired as Captain of a research vessel with CSU Long Beach. He was a Mate on for this trip, if you click on the link you can see photos of the research vessel and great pictures of the Alaskan coast. Just think he got to go and see what we have to pay for, lucky guy.

Read his article below and be sure and go to the website for the photos

<http://picasaweb.google.com/107350790031592405270?authkey=Gv1sRgCLu11dGHoIDW-QE>

Note from the Editor – Genie KM6D, email: km6d@vmail.com

Hi Everyone –

If you have any feedback, comments, news, announcements, photos or events you would like to have in the newsletter contact me by email or on the net. So drop me a note and let me know what's going on, this is your newsletter for and about all of you.

Thank you to Fred K6RAU, Ken W7KJ and Bob W6ZAP for their help and contributions to the newsletter, I really appreciate it.

WPSS Net Monitors

3952 KHz

SUNDAY			
EARLY	KM6GF	BOB	LANCASTER
ROLL CALL	KM6D	GENIE	INDIO
LATE MONITOR	KT6U	MICKIE	UPLAND
MONDAY			
EARLY	K7TFJ	SPEED	PAHRUMP, NV
ROLL CALL	W7HUT	MICHAEL	SANTA BARBARA
LATE MONITOR	W0QNI	BILL	NOVATO
TUESDAY			
EARLY	K6ERQ	BILL	FERNDALE
ROLL CALL	W6PXD	TOBY	HEMET
LATE MONITOR	KG6UGF	KEVIN	SUSANVILLE
WEDNESDAY			
EARLY	KE5JTS	JASON	WOODBRIDGE
ROLL CALL	KG6UCW	CURTIS	MERCED
LATE MONITOR	K6AMU	RICK	EAGLE LAKE
THURSDAY			
EARLY	KE6RJ	HARRY	SUGAR LOAF
ROLL CALL	WA6TVS	SHERMAN	PACOIMA
LATE MONITOR	AL7DM	KELLY	SIMI VALLEY
FRIDAY			
EARLY	KI6COP	STAN	LAKE MATTHEWS
ROLL CALL	KD7MEK	DAN	KINGMAN AZ
LATE MONITOR	KA6ZVR	BOB	WEAVERVILLE
SATURDAY			
EARLY	N6POB	JERRY	YUCAIPA
ROLL CALL	KT6U	MICKIE	UPLAND
LATE MONITOR	KI6YVT	SCOTT	ANDERSON

Western Public Service System Newsletter

Election Edition, November 2010

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120 Keel Ct.
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

N3ETA

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Toby Mort
W6PXD

Secretary

Michael Ditmore
W7HUT

Treasurer

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Merced, CA 95340

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Al Baisch
Bill Brandenburg
Howard Taylor, Jr
WD6CAX
WA6EFT
W0QNI
KD7WIZ

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Steve Bynum
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KD7MEK
W6NFL
K7TFJ

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W6ZAP

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Michael Dobrzensky
WB6NVT

WPSS Picnic Chairman

Jim Lacalamita
WB6YAM

Newsletter Editor

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Health & Welfare

Howard Taylor, Jr
KD7WIZ

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W7HUT

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W6BSW

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WA6BJF

WPSS Prize Chairman

Jim Lacalamita
WB6YAM

Newsletter Publisher

Mickie LoGrasso
KT6U

WPSS Picnic Raffle Tickets

Marge May
KB6HAG

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K6KIH

Claude Owens
WB6MDN

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Wendell Seymour
AA6MI

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Renee Deeter
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KD7EB

Jerry Whitney
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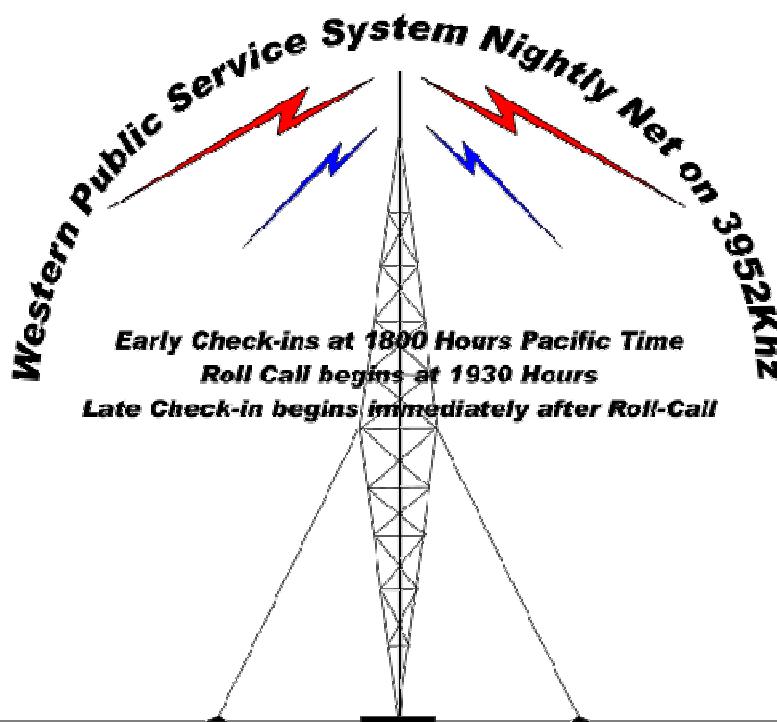
Bill Brandenburg
W0QNI

Renee Deeter
K6FSB

Newsletter Web Publisher

Don McRoberts
W3DRM

Michael Dobrzensky
WB6NVT



Western Public Service System

Membership Dues Renewal Application

Dues are \$10.00 for first year joining and then \$8.00 for any consecutive years you want to pay for, so for 2 years it would be \$18.00. It only becomes \$10.00 when you fail to renew your membership by the due date or are a first time member. By failing to renew on time you also jeopardize your continuous service awards. Associate membership is for spouses, children or military personnel living at the same address as member and is an additional \$4.00 per year.

You can check the By Laws on the website, Article III Membership Sections 1 & 2 and Article IV Dues Sections 1 – 5; if unsure you can check with **Toby W6PXD, WPSS Membership Chairman**.

It is just about time to renew your membership for 2011, dues are \$8.00 if your membership is current. You can renew or rejoin now by sending your dues to the Treasurer Fred K6RAU. If unsure as to your member status you can check the website member listing or you can e-mail Fred k6rau@arrl.net

Make Check payable to: Western Public Service System

Send membership renewal/dues to:

Fred Silveira – K6RAU
Treasurer
1611 Evette Court
Merced, CA 95340-1609

Western Public Service System

Membership Dues Renewal Application

New _____ Renewal _____

Membership Type Regular _____ Associate _____

Name _____ Call Sign _____ License _____
Please Print

Name _____ Call Sign _____ License _____
Associate Member

Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact Phone (is not published)