



Di-Dah-Dit

Official Newsletter of the
Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub
P. O. Box 2112 Parkersburg, WV 26101

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1994 P.A.R.K. MEETING

ARCHIE (W8GWR) WON THE 50-50 DRAWING, HIS WINNINGS WERE \$13.50.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:15 PM. INTRODUCTIONS WERE GIVEN WITH 33 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE. THE MINUTES AND TREASURES REPORTS WERE READ AND APPROVED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CURT (K8UC) REPORTED THAT TELEPHONING OLD MEMBERS WHICH HAD NOT BEEN PAYING THEIR DUES DID GOOD WITH SOME NONPAYING MEMBERS AND NOT SO GOOD WITH OTHERS. SOME DUES SHOULD BE COMING IN THE MAIL.

LARRY (KF8NW) HAD NOTHING TO REPORT AT THIS TIME ON HIS GETTING INFORMATION ABOUT GETTING THE KLUB A NON-PROFIT STATUS AND ALSO ON INCORPORATING.

TOM (K5IID) REPORTS THE RAFFLE TICKETS ARE READY TO BE SOLD. HE THANKED JERRY (N8HEO) FOR GETTING THEM PRINTED.

EARL (KB8HRG) HAD NOTHING TO REPORT AT THIS TIME ON THE REPEATERS.

QLD BUSINESS

CHRISTMAS PARTY - A TURKEY WILL BE ORDERED FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY TO GO ALONG WITH THE HAM. MEMBERS ARE TO BRING A COVERED DISH. JANE (N8MOW) REPORTED THE P.A.R.K. SINGERS WILL BE ON HAND AGAIN THIS YEAR. ADULTS WILL NOT BE HAVING A GIFT EXCHANGE. SANTA WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PRESENT PRESENTS TO THE CHILDREN.

CHRISTMAS DINNER!

The annual PARK Christmas party/dinner will be held on Dec. 17 at 5:30 at the Washington Community Building. This is located on Rt. 68 south of Dupont on the left side of the road. If in doubt about directions talk to someone on 146.97 for a Talk in. Bring a covered dish of your choice and your place setting. The Klub will be providing the meats and drinks. You may bring a gift for your children for Santa to give out after dinner.

NEW BUSINESS

LARRY (KF8NW) REPORTED THE LICENSE EXAMINATION FEE HAS BEEN RAISED TO \$5.92 AS OF JANUARY 1995. HE ALSO REPORTED 8 OF 13 PASSED ELEMENTS OR UPGRADED AT THE RECENT ARRL TESTING.

1ST READING OF APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - JASON LICHT (KB8LPW).

CURT (K8UC) QUESTIONED WHY TWO READINGS ON APPLICATIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE KLUB MEMBERS. A BRIEF DISCUSSION FOLLOWED CITING SEVERAL REASONS. CURT (K8UC) MADE A MOTION TO CHANGE THE BY-LAWS TO READ TO ONE READING. CONNIE (WD8MIO) SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION WAS PUT IN WRITTING BY CURT TO MAKE THE CHANGE. THE PROPOSED CHANGE WAS READ TO THOSE MEMBERS PRESENT BY ROY (N8YYS). THE MOTION IS TO BE VOTED ON AT THE DECEMBER MEETING.

JEP (K8BOT) MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING AT 8:00 P.M.

Klub Officers for 1993-94

President -	Roy Maull N8YYS
1st. VP	Ray Bodie N8TWV
2nd. VP	John McGuffey N8NBL
3rd. VP	Earl Hulce KB8HRG
Sec.	Larry Deems N8TGI
Tres.	Jane McGuffey N8MOW
Sarg/arms	Bob Lyens KB8EFB
NL Ed.	Jerry Wharton KA8NJW
Production	Mary Britton KB8BOA

FASTER LICENSING

On October 24 the FCC released a 7-page Order amending its amateur rules, effective December 20, 1994, to reflect what the Commission calls "nonsubstantive procedural changes":

A. To permit electronically filed data from VEC's (paper applications will still be accepted);

B. To authorize operation as soon as the new license data appears in the Amateur Licensee database, rather than (as now) when the license document has been delivered (details on how the new licensee can determine his call sign will be announced later);

C. To add a new rules section, "Examinee Conduct," to emphasize that an examinee must comply with the instructions given by the administering VE's

D. To treat "Technician Plus" as a license class;

E. And to provide for a "renewal short form," which the FCC says will be mailed to licensees in advance of their expiration date beginning sometime in 1995. The FCC added that renewals would not be accepted more than 90 days before the expiration date.

Because of the nature of these rule amendments, there is not notice or comment period required by federal law. Again these changes do not take effect until December 20, 1994. (ARRL LETTER 10/17)

FCC sets 2400-MHz date

The FCC has set December 19, 1994, as the comment date for a Notice of Proposed Rule Making to convert a block of spectrum from federal government to commercial use, including two UHF bands shared by Amateur Radio on a secondary basis with the government.

The full text of the NPRM, released by the FCC on November 9, is available from ARRL Headquarters on the HQ BBS, at 203-666-0578, and also from the ARRL Internet InfoServer, infoarrl.org (see October 1994 QST, page 43). The file name is FCC94272.txt.

The proposal would allocate 2390 to 2400, 2402 to 2417 (both shared by amateurs), and 4660 to 4685 MHz to the Fixed and Mobile Services. The FCC is required by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to adopt rules for such a reallocation by February 10, 1995.

The FCC said it received a number of responses to its Notice of Inquiry on the proposed reallocations, including formal comments from "the amateur community" (primarily the ARRL). The reply comment date on the NPRM is January 3, 1995.

More information was in October QST, page 83, and in December QST, page 87.

Amateur to join congress

David Funderburk, K4TPJ, has been elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Funderburk, a Republican, was picked for North Carolina's 2nd District, to fill the seat of a retiring Democrat.

Funderburk, 50, holds a Ph.D. and taught history at several North Carolina colleges before being appointed by President Reagan as U.S. ambassador to Romania in 1986. His expertise is in East European and Russian studies. He was a Fulbright Scholar.

K4TPJ described himself to Roll Call, a newspaper serving Capitol Hill, as an "avid ham radio operator." He holds a General class license.

Funderburk and his wife Betty Jo live in Buies Creek, North Carolina.

Internet / Packet Radio BBS Gateway

Are there any gateways for mail or news between Internet and Amateur Packet radio?

Jim Durham, W2XO, maintains a gateway between Internet and the Packet radio BBS system.

To mail from Internet to Packet:

1. Mail to: "bbs@w2xo.pgh.pa.us"
2. Make the first line of the text a Packet BBS "send" command, ie:
SP TOCALL @ BBSCALL.ROUTING-HINTS <
FROMCALL
3. The "subject" line of the Internet mail becomes the "title" line of the Packet BBS mail.

NOTE: Because of FCC regulations, Jim must hand filter each message sent FROM Internet

TO the Amateur Packet Radio BBS system. Messages should be of minimal length and appropriate content. Read Section 1.9 (Do's and Don'ts: Rules and Regulations) regarding appropriate usage of packet radio for more information. Always include the routing hints with the BBS callsign.

To mail from Packet to Internet:

1. The amateur radio operator must have his callsign registered in the gateway alias list. If you want to mail from packet to a specific amateur on Internet, send mail to 'durham@w2xo.pgh.ps.us' (Internet) or 'W2XO @ W2XO.*WPAPAUSA.NAOM' (Packet BBS mail) with his/her amateur callsign and their Internet address.
2. Once the above is accomplished, packet BBS mail should be sent to 'CALL @ W2XO.*WPAPAUSA.NAOM'. The mail will automatically be forwarded to the Internet address of the amateur with the 'CALL' callsign.

Jim Durham's Internet address is
'durham@w2xo.pgh.ps.us'.

Do's and Don'ts : Rules and Regulations

NOTE: These regulations apply only to amateurs regulated by the FCC (United States), but often are similar to regulations in other countries.

Although there are no specific rules that apply to amateur packet radio, the general amateur radio rules force some restrictions on packet usage.

Can I set up a TNC at home and one at work so I can check my Electronic mail via packet?

This cannot be done without special restrictions. Amateur radio rules prohibit any business. Since you could have mail from your boss (or maybe even someone selling you something over Internet), that would constitute business activity and is specifically prohibited.

Profanity can also be a complication. Since you have no control over the language used in E-mail, proper filtering is required. Since no filter scheme can catch every offense, it is best to say every message must be hand filtered.

I would like to set up a packet radio gateway between a land line computer network and the packet network. Is this possible?

Yes, and there are several such gateways in use, but they must be managed with caution. Electronic mail may be pass FROM the packet network INTO the land line network without intervention. However, mail passed TO packet radio is considered third party traffic (the sender is not an amateur) and these messages must be hand filtered to assure that rules of message content are followed.

It's my license if I send use packet radio illegally anyway, so what does anyone else care!

Packet radio is one of the few NETWORKED systems in amateur radio. Many people have helped develop the network and there are many amateurs who own parts of the packet radio network. Sending packet BBS mail, digipeating, and sharing the channel involves the licenses of MANY people. Because of FCC rules stating that anything to come out of a transmitter (either in automatic mode or via your direct control) is the licensee's responsibility, one illegal message sent over the packet radio network could literally jeopardize the license of thousands of other amateurs.

When in doubt, it is best to check with other amateurs about sending the message before it is sent.

I have some ideas on how to use packet radio in a new way, but I don't know if it is legal. Who could tell me if I can do it legally?

The worst thing you can do is talk to the FCC about such an issue. The FCC rules are written to be general enough to encompass but not restrict new radio activities. In the past, any non-thought-out requests sent to the FCC have meant a reduction of privilege for all amateur radio operators.

The best source for legal assistance is your national amateur radio association. In the United States, that is the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Another good place for such conversations is over Usenet/packet mailing lists, or the amateur radio BBS network.

Actions on digital plan

The ARRL has filed reply comments on FCC PR Docket 94-59, that proposes to allow automatic control of digital stations on the HF bands under certain specific conditions.

The League said that it shared concerns filed by some amateurs, about the possibility of interference to amateurs using other modes, and urged the FCC to adopt its original proposal for specific subbands and other restrictions.

The ARRL made essentially the same recommendation in its comments on the FCC proposal in early October. By that time, the FCC had received comments from 15 parties, eight opposed to automatic HF control, five supporting the League's proposal for specific subbands, and two supporting the ARRL plan but with additional provisions for avoiding interference.

The League said in its reply comments on November 1 that since some parties suggest no restrictions, while others advocate no changes at all at this time, that it, the ARRL, favored a middle course, as it originally had proposed (and was the basis of the Notice of Proposed Rule Making). More information was in August, 1994 QST

TICKET SALES- The sale of \$10.00 chances to win the Alinco 130T are still available and can be obtained up until the drawing at the Christmas Party. If you are a member don't miss your chance to win a nice radio.

FOR SALE

1. C-64 with 1541 disk drive \$65.00
2. For the C-64

A. AEA Morse University code trainer cartridge, The only program for the c-64 that the ARRL recognizes for the c-64 as having the correct speed. \$15.00

B. DR-DX cartridge. A contesting practice program. \$15.00

C. AEA COMPAKRATT/COMFAX for the PK-232 TNC with the following modes:

1. HF/UHF Packet
2. AMTOR
3. BAUDOT (RTTY)
4. MORSE CODE
5. ASCII

ALL manuals and keyboard overlays. (Have done PACTOR but in the very basic.) \$65.00

D. EPO software which includes 16 radio/electronic programs including, contest and dupe, CW tutor, beam headings, antenna design, RTTY, autolog, print QSL cards and much more. \$45.00

3. Van Gorden HI-Q 1:1 balun. (new) \$10.00

4. General class Code tapes. 5-13 wpm.

2 tapes by Gorden West. \$5.00

5. Extra class code tape 13-20 wpm.

1 tape by Gorden West. \$5.00

ALSO DECEMBER ONLY- Color screen saver pictures for your computer. 3 pics for \$20 includes disks and program.

If interested please call Tim Smith
KB8JWF 863-9569

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