



February 1994

Di-Dah-Dit

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

TALK Ham Radio

A Phoenix - based radio talk show called "Ham Radio and More" has gone national after 2-1/2 years of success on station KFNN. The show began broadcasting nationally over more than 80 Talk America Network stations in late November. The weekly program is hosted by Len Winkler, KB7LPW, and features guests, call-ins, give-aways and other news.

"Ham Radio and More" can be picked up in any market by a local talk station. All that is required of the local station is to call The Talk America Network at (508) 460 - 0588. The show can also be picked up on Satcom C-5, Transponder 19, 6.0 audio and Galaxy 2, Transponder 3, Channel 55.4. (I do not know what that means, A8NJW) This show is designed to promote Ham Radio and can be heard on

Personal Communications Service

The FCC has allocated 160MHZ for the new PCS (Personal communications Service) in the 2GHZ band. The decision is supposed to spark heated competition to deliver wireless services.

The FCC plans to use auctions to award PCS licenses. Local telephone companies are seen as the big losers in the decision. The new PCS will compete with the cellular telephone industry and will carry data, video and voice.

What will this mean to ham radio is anyones guess. Some are guessing that PCS will be the cell phone of the 1990's. Your phone number would follow you wherever you went and could be used for all forms of transmission: voice, fax or whatever.

The Clinton Administration hopes to make as much as \$10 Billion from these auctions. By the year 2010 as many as 60 million people could be using the service.

TNX W5YI Report 10/1/93 NOTE- I think the amount of use will be proportional to the cost of the service, much as having computers to national networks varies with the costs involved.

New Klub Officers for 1993-94

Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub

President - Rory Hughes KB8MDN

1st. VP- Roy Mauli N8YYS

2nd. VP- John McGuffey N8NBL

3rd. VP- Earl Hulce KB8HRG

Sec.- Tom Jones N8NMA

Tres.- Jane McGuffey N8MOW

NL Eds- Jerry KA8NJW

Russ N8FID

Production/Mailing - Mary KB8BOA

RADIO TIPS: *An abbreviated Packet-Speak Glossary*

ALIAS: An Alternative method of addressing a packet station. For example, the callsign of my personal packet mailbox is WB8IMY-4, but its alias could be STEVEBOX or whatever. Either the call sign or the alias can be used to establish a connection.

DOWNLOAD: The act of requesting and receiving information (files or messages) from another packet station.

GATEWAY: A node or packet BBS function that allows packet users on different frequencies to communicate with each other. Gateways also make it possible for some packet users to access non-amateur networks, such as Internet.

NODE: A junction point in a packet network where data is relayed to other stations. A node can support more than one user at a time and can operate on several different frequencies simultaneously.

SSID: An abbreviation for Secondary Station Identifier. It's a number used to differentiate between two or more station functions operating under the same call sign. For example, WB8IMY-2 may be a node while WB8IMY-4 is a mailbox.

TERMINAL NODE CONTROLLER (TNC): A device that assembles packets for transmission and decodes received packets for display on a computer or data terminal. The TNC is the nerve of any packet station.

UPLOAD: The act of sending information (files or messages) to another packet station.

For more information on packet operating - including an expanded glossary - see "Your Packet Companion" available from your dealer or directly from the ARRL -- WB8IMY TNX FEB. 1994 QST

January Minutes

The January Meeting of P.A.R.K. was called to order Jan. 10, 1994 at 7:15 P.M. Jim Palmer won the 50/50 raffle. The minutes of the December meeting and the Treasurer's report were read and approved.

Rory - KB8MDN spoke on the Christmas Party and passed his thanks on to all. Earl - KB8HRG gave a report on the state of the repeater and Roy - N8YYS gave a report on Ham Radio Classes starting in January and said that all was ready to go.

We held a discussion about the idea of having the 97 repeater list in the repeater directory as being a Parkersburg Repeater. Earl - KB8HRG and Tom - N8NMA were put in charge of expediting the change.

There was a discussion about making out a net roster for net control of Tuesday night net.

A discussion on cavity problems and the possibility of purchasing new cavities was held. Jim Palmer and Earl Hulce were put on the committee to research the possibilities.

The first reading of the application for membership submitted by James Christy was heard.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Tom Jones - N8NMA

Attention:

We have somehow misplaced or lost the information as to address, call sign, etc., for two of our members. If you know Mike Hupp or Mike Fleak, please call Mary - KB8BOA with this information. Thanks!

Klub/ARES Net on
146.970
Tuesday's at 9 p.m.
Valley Girls Net
146.970
Thursday's at 9 p.m.

BIG FINES!

If you think your last traffic ticket was painful, wait until you see what the FCC has planned for you. Take a look at a few examples from the latest fine schedule.

\$625 - minor violations

\$1,250 - failure to ID

\$5,000 - unauthorized equipment

\$10,000 - excessive power

\$10,000 - out of freq.

\$12,500 - indecent material /words

\$17,500 - malicious interference

\$18,500 - refusing station insp.

\$20,000 - False SOS

The FCC can adjust these fines but these are recommended for --FIRST TIME violations

CLASSIC TRANSMITTERS

THE EASY WAY TO BUILD CLASSIC TRANSMITTERS. If you've ever wanted to build simple, one- or two-tube transmitters like hams did in "the good old days," *Junkbox Projects: Circuits You Can build With Hamfest Parts*, a new book by Robert Null, N4QR, is just what you've been waiting for. The 20-page booklet details 20 simple rigs you can assemble from scavenged flea market parts. Most use tubes, but there are a couple of transistor projects. You'll find everything from crystal sets to three-tube transmitters. Old-timers: Dig out those 6L6 tubes; there's a lot of history in these 20 pages! Prices: \$4 postpaid in the US; \$5 in Canada and Mexico; \$6 elsewhere. Robert Null, N4QR, 501 N 1st Ave, Maiden, NC 28650-1105.

TNX QST FEB, 1994

TIME TO RENEW?

NEW YEAR SEES RETURN TO HAM LICENSE RENEWALS

Have You looked at the expiration date on your FCC license lately? Five years ago the term of an FCC amateur license went from five years to ten. So, for the past five years no licenses have expired. Licenses are now beginning to expire again, which means that it may be time for you to renew.

It's a good idea to renew at least 60 days before the expiration date on your current license. Use an FCC Form 610, available free from ARRL Headquarters. If you submit a timely renewal application, you may continue to operate even if the FCC doesn't act on the application by the expiration date. If your renewal application is late, you must stop operating until your new license arrives.

Licenses that have expired for more than two years may not be renewed, which means you lose your call sign and will have to take the exam again. Don't take a chance - check your license expiration date Now!

KNOWN HAMFESTS

OHIO -Mansfield Feb. 13 Richland County Fairgrounds Talk in 146.34/94 7 AM

WEST VIRGINIA Fayetteville Feb. 27 Fayetteville High School 9AM - 3PM

CALL SIGN UPDATE FOR 8TH CALL AREA

EXTRA AA8NJ

ADVANCED KG8FM

TECH / GEN *****

NOVICE KB8QOW

NOTE - Tech/Gen calls are all used in this call area calls for this class are being given from Novice class group.

FCC BACKLOG

How long must you wait for a new or upgraded license? Not as long as you could under the FCC guidelines. The FCC says it would shoot for a turn-around time of less than 90 days (13 wk). In October 1993 the FCC processed 8548 applications and received 7012 new ones leaving a backlog of 3369. If they keep processing a little more than they take in the wait will be shorter. For local new hams the time seems to be at least 10 weeks.

The FCC is in the process of installing a new automated data processing system. It is hoped this will shorten the turn-around time to less than a month. The FCC is also counting on the new data processing system to enable them to sell *vanity calls* to club stations and individual hams. The price is rumored to be \$7.00 a year or \$70.00 for a 10 year license.

Just a note on *vanity calls*, you will be able to pick any call you want, provided:

- A. It has not been issued
- B. It is your license class or lower
- C. it is not in use, expired or SK (2 yr. waiting period)
- D. It is your call area

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