



Di-Dah-Dit

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

HAMS HELP IN TRAGEDY'S WAKE

Ham radio operators have had a role in the aftermath of two recent incidents of random violence the Columbine High School killings in Littleton, Colorado, and the shootings in a Salt Lake City, Utah, library where three people died a few days earlier.

Since the mayhem that left 15 people dead April 20 at Columbine High School, Amateur Radio operators have supported Salvation Army canteens set up for law enforcement, the media, and the thousands of other visitors. East Slope Emergency Coordinator Larry Cerney, K0ANI, said Amateur operators provided communication between facilities around Columbine High School, adjacent Clement Park, and the site of a makeshift memorial for the victims. Other operators supported the American Red Cross.

Cerney says he felt a personal involvement in the tragedy. He lives two miles from Columbine High, and many of his fellow workers have children that attend there. "It's still hard to look back over the last week or so," Cerney said. "This tragedy really has broken the hearts of this enlarged community."

Cerney said the support continued throughout last weekend's memorial services attended by Vice President Gore and other VIPs. "It seems

that the local hams just had to help," he said. He said 25 to 30 operators worked three six-hour shifts from 6 AM until midnight, providing what Cerney described as mostly routine, logistical communication.

"I know all disasters are devastating to those involved," he said. Hurricanes and tornadoes may kill people and destroy homes and property, but the killing of kids by kids is something that I just cannot comprehend, no matter how far away or close to home."

Colorado Section Manager Tim Armagost, WB0TUB, expressed similar sentiments. "We Amateur Radio communicators like to believe we are prepared, but no one could be prepared for the tragic events at Columbine High School on April 20," Armagost said. "The Colorado Section Amateur Radio operators join the community in expressing our shock, sorrow, and sympathy for those affected by this tragedy."

In Salt Lake City on April 15, a gunman walked into the Family History Library and started shooting, killing two and wounding five before police shot and killed the gunman. Two building employees and hams Utah Amateur Radio Club member Spencer Wood, KB7KGE, and Davis County resident Dave Oswald, KD7DHO put ham radio to use

to help evacuate the building.

Wood, the assistant emergency coordinator for the library says he and Oswald a floor emergency captain spread the call to clear the building and used an amateur simplex channel to exchange information on the evacuation. After Wood had to leave the building, Wood relayed to police what he was hearing from Oswald inside the building. Wood credits ham radio with helping ensure an orderly evacuation.

The Perfect H-T for Field Day!

Just when you thought modern H-Ts had included just about every feature conceivable, along comes [Alinco](#) with its new DJ-195T that includes get this an experimental "mosquito repel" feature. Alinco USA Branch Manager Katsumi Nakata, KE6RD, says the unit emits an electronic tone to keep the annoying insects away from the vicinity of the radio. "It's a feature we added just for fun," Nakata said. "The mosquito repel feature could make the DJ-195T the first radio capable of de-bugging a Field Day operating position," he added with a smile. (Hmmm. Was that announcement dated April 1?)
VIA ARRL Letter

FIELD DAY 1999

Participants in ARRL Field Day the most popular annual operating event in the US and Canada will encounter one significant change in rules for this year's event, June 26-27. Those using batteries to power their equipment now will be able to charge them while in use. The change affects all entry classes except Class D (home stations using commercial power; home stations using emergency power, including rechargeable batteries, should enter in Class E). In the past, only Class C (mobile) stations could charge batteries while in use. As previously, batteries must be charged from a power source independent of the commercial mains.

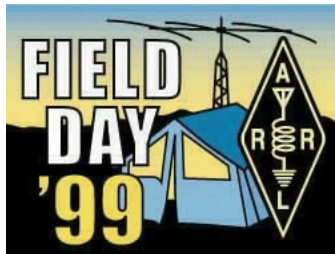
For the first time, the ARRL is making available annual Field Day pins to show your participation in the 1999 event. You don't have to make a minimum number of contacts or achieve a particular score level. You just have to participate!

Pins are \$5 each. Field Day groups are advised to collect the money for the pins and send a single order stating the number of pins needed to ARRL Contest Branch, ATTN: Field Day Pins, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. The League will ship the pins back to the club for distribution. The first "International Field Day" was held June 10-11, 1933, billed as "just a test of portable equipment" for US and Canadian amateurs, according to former ARRL Communications Manager George Hart, W1NJM. Hart says then-Communications Manager Ed Handy, W1BDI, came up with the idea of Field

Day, which now is in its 66th year. It was not until the second annual Field Day, in 1934, that Handy's Field Day write-up in *QST* raised the aspect of emergency preparedness.

Entries for Field Day 1999 must be postmarked by July 27, 1999. No late entries can be accepted. Participants should read the General Rules for ALL ARRL Contests (see <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announce-ments/99/rules-all.html>), which include submission guidelines. All Field Day should include a Summary Sheet and Dupe Sheet as well as supporting information for publicity, bonus point, and other information the rules require.

Field Day groups and participants are invited to submit their entries electronically via e-mail. As the rules state, the subject line should include the call sign used, the contest name and entry class. Send electronic entries to FieldDay@arrl.org. Paper entries go to Field Day Entries, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. For the complete 1999 Field Day rules, visit <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/99/rules-fd.html> or see the May 1999 issue of



Arthur C. Clarke and Y2K

AMSAT member 2001 has a lot to say about Y2K. Arthur C. Clarke, author of "2001: A Space Odyssey," and AMSAT member 2001 feels so strongly about people calling next year a new millennium that he issued a public statement to correct them.

According to Clarke, because the Western calendar starts with Year 1, and not Year Zero, the 21st Century and the Third Millennium do not begin until January 1, 2001.

He says that while some people have great difficulty in grasping this concept, there is a very simple analogy to explain it. He asks if the numbers on your grocer's scale were to begin at 1 instead of 0, would you be happy when he claimed he'd sold you 10 kg of tea?

Clarke says that the same is true regarding what is and is not the real Y2K. He says that we will have had only 99 years of this century by January 1, 2000. We will all have to wait until December 31, 2000 for the full hundred.

(Y2K Science Watch)

VAI ARNewsline

FCC to hams: The Official Observers have power

If you get a letter from an ARRL Official Observer, the FCC says that you had better heed the friendly warning. Otherwise it could cost you your license. CQ VHF Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, has the details on this breaking story.

The FCC is finally giving some recognition and trying to put some teeth in notices from ARRL Official Observers.

In a letter to the Richard Whiten, W2OTK, of Easley, South Carolina FCC Enforcement Chief Riley Hollingsworth says among other things, we also noted, prior to the inspection of your station, that you had apparently ignored notices from Official Observers of the American Radio Relay League or ARRL. Such notices are issued by volunteers working in accordance with an agreement between the commission and the ARRL and in accordance with our statutory authority.

Although the commission considers the Amateur Radio Service largely self-policing, the success of that regulatory approach depends on the adherence to Notices of possible improper operation by other licensed Amateurs who are recognized Official Observers.

Failure to take the notices seriously, and to take corrective action where possible, will not be tolerated by the commission, and such conduct will lead to monetary forfeiture or license revocation."

Reporting from the CQ VHF News Desk, this is Rich Moseson, W2VU.
via ARNEWSLINE

RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH PUTS IN SURPRISE NAB APPEARANCE

Amateur Radio rules enforcer Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, got thunderous applause from those attending an Amateur Radio reception April 21 at the National Association of Broadcasters convention in Las Vegas. The annual get-together for hams drew upwards of 1000 people. Hollingsworth's boss, FCC Compliance and Information Bureau Chief Richard D. Lee, was introduced by Ed Williams, W8APE, after Lee said he wanted to talk to the group. He, in turn, introduced FCC Compliance Division Chief Pamela Hairston and two staffers from the FCC's Los Angeles Field Office. Lee then sprang the surprise. Last year, Lee said, he'd promised the FCC would do Amateur Radio enforcement. This year, the FCC had Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, doing a great job.

"When I turned Riley loose, I said, 'look, you're going to be going all over the place. How can I get in touch with you?'" Lee recalled. "And he said, 'Boss, I'm like Batman, it's real simple. All you have to do is call out K4ZDH, Riley, are you around. and I'll show up, I'll be there.'"

So Lee gave it a try. "K4ZDH, Riley, are you around?" After a pause, from the back of the room Hollingsworth piped up, "Here I am," and came forward to address the gathering. And the crowd, as they say, went wild.

Hollingsworth credited both Lee and Hairston for setting the events in motion to se-

cure better Amateur Radio enforcement. "Pam and Rich went to the chairman [William Kennard] last October and asked for amateur enforcement," he said. "At the time they went and asked for it, they were totally loaded up with pirate broadcaster cases, and the last thing they needed was more work."

But Hollingsworth said Lee, a former Marine, was serious about enforcement and, like the Marines, wants it done right. "They not only want all fronts covered, but they want them at the same time," he said.

As Hollingsworth prepared to leave the podium, Lee got the last laugh by quipping, "So, are we going to take this opportunity to retest everybody?"

The NAB convention wrapped up April 22. *thanks to Brad Wyatt, K6WR, and Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF*
VIA ARRL Letter

What is EAS

To communicators such as hams, GMRS users and the broadcast community, the thought of severe weather brings to mind three letters. They are EAS and they stand for the Emergency Alert System. What is the EAS? With the answer, here is Phil Thomas, W8RMJ of amateur News Weekly:

EAS is what replaced EBS or the Emergency Broadcast System. That annoying tone that used to come over the broadcast radio whenever there was bad weather approaching. The EBS System was originally designed to warn of an impending nuclear attack by Russians.

EAS is nothing more

than an updated version of EBS. Updated and full of problems. The new EAS System uses modem tones to activate special EAS Decoders that have to have a full quieting signal or they don't work.

The new EAS System takes over a broadcast facility. Be it radio, television or cable. And if a release message is not sent from the primary station, it can lock out broadcast audio and or video causing what we call in the business, dead air.

Another problem with the new EAS System is over use. A problem created by the National Weather Service.

What should have streamlined the emergency alerting process over our broadcast airwaves has done just the opposite. And at a federally mandated cost of over \$5,000 per every radio station, TV station and cable facility in the U.S.

So the next time you hear what appears to be the Internet coming online over your broadcast radio, just think, is this better than the old EBS?

While ham radio is included in the overall Emergency Alert System plan, to date few radio amateurs have seen fit to become involved in the program. Unlike broadcasters, hams and ham radio repeaters can use less expensive consumer grade or even home built EAS decoders.
VIA ARNewsline



TENNESSEE TWISTERS!

With January's unusual tornadoes still fresh in their minds, Amateur Radio operators in Tennessee were ready to respond promptly when severe weather hit the Volunteer State May 5. At least four people died and several dozen were injured as a result of the storms. High winds blew down trees and power lines, tore roofs from buildings, and left rubble strewn about. Power was expected to be restored by May 7. Schools in metropolitan Nashville were closed May 6 because of the power outages. A SKYWARN net was activated to provide weather information to the National Weather Service office in Nashville.

Funnel clouds were reported in eight Tennessee counties as two waves of storm activity traversed Middle Tennessee. Amateur Radio reports indicate a tornado may have touched down in Gallatin, damaging an apartment complex and an office building; another reportedly touched down in Stewart County.

The Nashville international Airport was closed for a time as the storms passed through. Some 100 aircraft were reported to have been damaged.

Hams in unaffected counties activated emergency nets just in case. Hams in Montgomery County were asked to have mobile units ready to go to specific areas to check on flooding. In addition, the Red Cross asked hams there to stand by to assist. One operator was deployed to the local emergency operations center and another to the Red Cross. Hank Koebler, N3ORX,

in Montgomery County reports that 49 hams in all participated in the storm response to assist emergency management and the Red Cross.

VIA ARRL Letter



FCC DROPS AMATEUR ENFORCEMENT LINE IN FAVOR OF E-MAIL, US MAIL

The FCC says it now wants Amateur Radio enforcement complaints via e-mail or US mail and has discontinued its Amateur Enforcement Line (202-418-1184). The FCC this week requested that amateur-related complaints be sent via e-mail to fccham@fcc.gov or via the US Postal Service to Compliance & Information Bureau, ATTN Amateur Radio Complaints, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

The FCC instituted the telephone service last fall when it beefed up amateur enforcement under the direction of Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. However, the FCC never intended to maintain the telephone service permanently. The FCC said this week that complaints already filed on the telephone service will be acted upon, and anyone who has left a message will receive a return call from Commission staff.
VIA ARRL Letter

Two things need to be added to this newaletter.

Due to an oversight on my part I failed to put in a notice concerning John Milhoan's passing. John became a silent key on April 2nd. after a long fight with cancer. John will be missed as a friend and a valued member of the P A R Klub. I will always remember John's Field Day efforts to collect those Satellite bonus points.

K8UC and myself are heading up the Field Day effort this year so if you want to work at a station or setup a station please let me or Curt know. Jerry KA8NJW

Thank to Curt for the insert on the other side of this page.

May Minutes

Connie Hamilton, in Jerry's absence, started the meeting at 7:02 PM by having Jane do the raffle. KB8UER, Lisa was the winner and the amount was \$10.50. President Wharton showed up and assumed leadership of the meeting, calling for the treasurer's report. Jane N8MOW read the report and the final balance was \$1976.94. Curt K8UC read the minutes of the previous meeting which were approved after striking out the line about Bill being asleep.

Jerry commented about getting permission to use cartoons in the newsletter that are done by N0UR.

Unfinished Business:

At our test session, there were no units passed.

Field day will be June 26. As usual, we will have a Saturday evening covered dish dinner. Georgia will be recruiting help for this. More expected at the June meeting.

N8MOW will check on getting a tent for the FD shelter.

New Business:

Harold Dooley passed his Advanced test.

Lisa passed her 13 WPM test.

The FCC complaint phone line has now been disconnected.

Connie WD8MIO, is now the Ohio SSB net assistant Manager.

Joe Bolian has a lap-top computer for sale to highest bidder.

Activities: Mountwood bike race. 10k classic, June 12.

Jep made the motion to

Spectrum Protection bill collects cosponsors:

ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, reports that as of May 7, there were 49 cosponsors on HR 783, The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act. Recent cosponsors include Rep Tom Davis of Virginia, the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee chairman. VIA ARRL Letter

FIRST-EVER PSK31 CONTEST SET

The hottest new HF mode, PSK31, now has its own contest, and the sponsor hopes to make it an annual event. The first-ever TARA PSK31 Rumble, sponsored by the Troy Amateur Radio Association, will take place Saturday, April 17, 0000 until 2400 UTC. PSK31 is a keyboard-to-keyboard communication mode that operates in a very narrow bandwidth, so it's very easy to tune past a QSO in progress and never notice. Operationally, it's much like traditional 45-baud RTTY, so you can do everything from just monitoring to getting in a roundtable. PSK31 also has shown itself to be a real trouper in weak-signal situations.

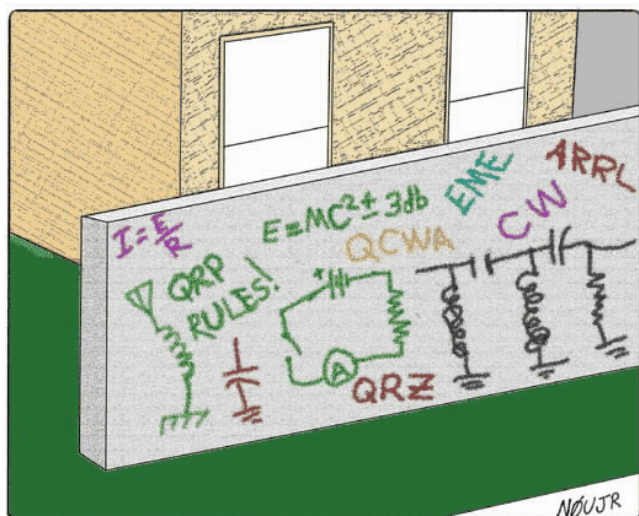
To get up and running on PSK31 you need a PC that runs *Windows* and that is equipped with a sound card, PSK31 software (available via the Web), and a stable HF SSB transceiver. Several versions of PSK31 software are available as zipped files on the Internet. The latest PSK31 software includes a couple of tuning aids that make finding and tuning signals much simpler. The "official" PSK31 Web site is <http://aintel.bi.ehu.es/psk31.html>,

operated by Eduardo Jacob, EA2BAJ.

Participating PSK31 Rumble stations should exchange name and state or province. DX stations should send their DXCC entity prefix. The only entry category is single-transmitter, single-operator. Novice, Technician, and Tech Plus stations should add a "/X" suffix. There are three power categories: Normal (100 W max), Great (20 W max), and Super (5 W max). Frequencies: 3.600-3.675; 7.080-7.100; 14.100-14.150; 21.100-21.150; 28.100-28.300, and 50.100-54.000 MHz. Stations are asked to leave the regular PSK-31 calling frequencies clear for non-contest activity.

Stations may be worked once per band for points. Each QSO counts one point. Novice/Tech stations may multiply QSO points by 5. Multipliers are all DXCC entities and call areas of the US, Canada, Japan and Australia on each band. Category "Great" multiply by 2; category "Super" multiply by 5. Your score is QSO points times multipliers. Participants should post band and number of QSOs for each band plus claimed score via e-mail to psk@n2ty.org by May 1, 1999. Include your category, name, call sign, and comments. Certificates/Awards will be made to the first, second, and third stations in each category as well as the first, second, and third in the Novice/Technician category plus an award for making a clean sweep of US states.

For more information on PSK31, see "PSK31 Has RTTY's Replacement Arrived?" in the May issue of *QST*. VIA ARRL Letter- see *QST* insert this issue. I Know This is Late,



Ham graffiti.



cartoon Fun --

Greg Trook N0UJR has given us permission to use his cartoons in our newsletter. All he asks in return is a mention of his Web Page <http://incolor.inebraska.com/n0ujr>- He has a new book of "toons" for sale. They look like fun. KA8NJW

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