

Di-Dah-Dit

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

ARRL-VEC PROCESSING BOTTLENECK EASES

The ARRL-VEC reports further substantial progress in clearing the logjam of applications resulting from Amateur Radio license restructuring. Most new and upgrade candidates now are waiting four weeks between test session and license grant. The wait could be longer or shorter in some cases, however, depending upon when the VE team's test session paperwork arrived at ARRL-VEC.

As of June 15, the ARRL-VEC was processing applications received May 24. ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, reports that paperwork for another 300 test sessions--with 2350 applications--remains in the queue. He says that represents a potential 500 Tech licenses, 1200 General licenses and 650 Extra licenses.

Once applications are received by the FCC, they generally are processed overnight. Jahnke said the ARRL-VEC expects to cut its backlog to two weeks or less within a week. Last week he reported that the initial surge of applications already had been processed, and fewer applications remained in the pipeline. ARRL-VEC staff members and volunteers have been working nights and weekends to clear the influx of applications. Seven VEC staff members, two temporary employees, and a half-dozen or more HQ staff volunteers from other departments

have been whittling down the stacks.

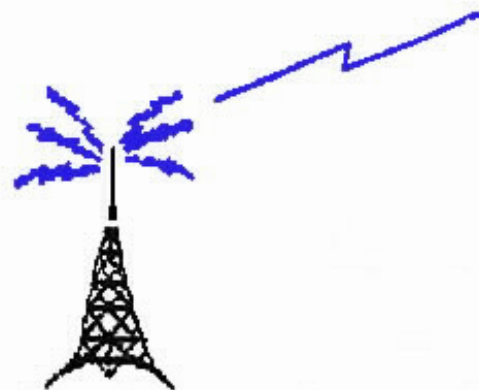
Jahnke reminded applicants that the best license grant information is available from the FCC's Universal Licensing System web site (click on "License Search"). He noted that typical Web call sign servers are at least 24 hours behind the FCC in updating license data.

Test session processing status continues to be available on the ARRL-VEC Web site.

ULS Benefits

ULS registration can protect your license record: Registering now on the FCC's Universal Licensing System can be a big benefit even if you don't have any plans to file an application anytime soon. The FCC's Steve Linn, N4CAK, told those on hand for the Dayton FCC Forum that ULS registration "protects your call sign within the system" and could prevent it from inadvertently being deleted or reissued due to a filing error. He also pointed out that amateurs wishing to make a change of address should file an "administrative update" (AU) and not request a "modifica-

tion." The ULS will not renew an amateur's license unless it is within the 90-day window of expiration (or within the two-year grace period after expiration). The same applies for those upgrading their tickets under restructuring. Linn said the FCC continues to work out the bugs in the ULS. He said that support for the Mac platform and other browsers, such as Internet Explorer, would be coming along soon. The FCC in late April opened the ULS to Web filing. Linn advised filers to use the on-line system whenever possible, since it helps users to avoid errors that will not get trapped when filing on paper and could lead to delays or errors in your FCC record. Visit <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls> for more information or to access the ULS.



RESEARCHER UNDERTAKES STUDY OF RADIO AMATEURS

National Cancer Institute researcher Kenneth Cantor has embarked on an epidemiological study of radio amateurs. Cantor wants to evaluate whether causes of death among amateurs differ from those of the general population. If it turns out that they do differ, he then wants to find out whether the individual's "usual occupation" might explain the differences.

Representatives of the ARRL RF Safety Committee met with Cantor at League Headquarters April 28 to discuss the project. On hand were Committee Chairman Greg Lapin, N9GL, Committee members Robert Gold, WB0KIZ, and Kai Siwiak, KE4PT, and David Sumner, K1ZZ, and Ed Hare, W1RFI, of the ARRL staff.

In addition to identifying ways that the League could assist in improving the study's accuracy, the meeting was aimed, in part, at educating committee members and League staff about the specifics of the proposed study.

Cantor described his investigation as an "inexpensive kind of quick study" that would not yield fine detail. As a result, he told the group, it would be "wrong" to ascribe the deaths to any particular factor.

The session presented an opportunity for Cantor to learn about influences amateurs tend to be exposed to in addition to RF energy. Cantor and the amateurs also were able to gain an appreciation for each other's points of view--Cantor on the public's sensitivity to the words used to explain the results of such an epidemiological study,

and the amateurs on the significance of different types of epidemiological studies.

Some discussion at the session focused on a similar study done 15 years ago by Samuel Milham. Wording in that study's conclusions led many to believe that the Milham study had presented evidence that RF energy caused "an excess of leukemia."

Cantor emphasized that his investigation is a preliminary study, based on a statistical comparison of FCC licensing records and State of California death records. Additional death records might be included as needed. The initial "cohort group" for Cantor's study includes more than 100,000 men and women--seven times larger than the earlier Milham study.

"This type of study can be performed at minimal cost, but it has the potential for misleading results," said Lapin--himself a research professional. Lapin explained that in the event of "apparent associations" in the results of Cantor's study, a follow-up study would be conducted. The followup would involve individual questionnaires and contact with the families of Silent Keys--something the Milham study did not attempt to do.

FCC AFFIRMS \$8000 FINES FOR TWO TEXAS AMATEURS

The FCC has affirmed \$8000 fines levied on two Texas hams for allegedly causing malicious interference with communications on

a local repeater and with failing to identify. General licensee Paul E. Holcombe, K4TOF, and Technician licensee Robert L. Meyers, N5WLY, both of Houston, each received a Forfeiture Order earlier this month from the FCC's Houston office. The fines followed an FCC investigation last year that involved the use of direction-finding equipment.

The FCC has said the interference "was allegedly caused by stations transmitting unidentified tones, inflammatory or derogatory remarks, and unmodulated signals, none of which were identified with an FCC-assigned call sign."

Last year, the FCC had sent first a Notice of Violation and then a Notice of Apparent Liability to each licensee. Each responded both times by denying the allegations. The FCC was unconvinced by their assertions, and said their denials were contradicted by the observations of the FCC agent. The FCC noted that an FCC agent on separate occasions used direction-finding equipment to track interfering signals to Holcombe's and Meyers' vehicles. The agent surreptitiously observed each vehicle while the Memorial Emergency Repeater Association's 145.47 machine in Houston was being interfered with. In its Forfeiture Order to Meyers, the FCC indicated that Holcombe and Meyers had acted in concert to interfere with the MERA repeater.

Both men were given 30 days from the May 3 release of each Order to pay.

PARKERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO KLUB MINUTES OF JUNE 12 MEETING

The meeting was held at the Bonanza Steak House, Pike Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia.

President, Curt Fouse, Conducted the business meeting which was started at 7PM.

Introductions were made by 26 members and guests.

Jane McCuffey conducted the raffle which was won by Judy Peterson.

The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

The secretary's minutes were read and approved.

Jerry Hamilton has been fitted with an air cast on his foot. Connie says the infection looks better.

FIELD DAY COMMITTEES:

Jane McCuffey - Port-a-John
Blame Auville - Tables
Roy Maull and Blame Auville - Publicity
Irene Fouse and Georgia Milhoan - Picnic - The picnic will start at 6PM on Sat. 24th. Bring a covered dish (marked) for 8 people and your dinnerware. The meat and drinks will be furnished by the club.

There will be a meeting Friday 23rd (evening at 6PM) at the FIELD DAY SITE (Ohio Valley College - North) to "set-up" and make plans for field day. All that can please come to help "set-up".

Tim Britton said the repeater site needs mowed. He also needs Members to work on the

repeater. Blame Auville, Curt Fouse and Ray Bodie said they would go and work on the "hayfield" at the repeater site Thursday morning.

New member voted into the club was Steve Mosberg KC8OGU.

The President appointed Jeannia Dooley, Georgia Milhoan and Jane McCuffey to audit the treasurer's books.

The meeting was adjourned into a "ragchew" session at 7:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Georgia M.

2000 Field Day Report

2000 Field day is now History. Many thanks to all who took part in any way. We had fewer operators than in past years, but things went well. Saturday's weather was hot, but there was a good breeze blowing all day.

When we first got to the site Friday evening we realized that we could look to the South and see where the Route 50 cut is being made on Lee's Hill. While we were watching, we saw a lot of dust go up. I thought a big truck had probably stirred it up till the sound of the blast reached us. We had just happened to be watching when they shot another layer of dirt and rock.

Not much was done on Friday except lay out where we would operate from and we did assemble the old tri-bander, and cranked up the

mast to the vertical position. It is old, looks bad, but still seems to work ok with an acceptable SWR. Saturday morning ART W8PBO Showed us his skill at shooting a line over the big trees at one of the field. The CW station was ready to go at the 2:00 PM starting time, but not with the desk top computer. It smoked when we powered it up. Later Bruce Auville or someone, replaced the power supply with one from another computer, but it was still not working. Blaine brought in another monitor, and Jerry W hooked them up and it all worked. It logged all qsos ok but I think a little rf may have been causing some of the windows to do strange things.

Roy N8YYS brought up his big motor home and had two stations set up in it. They mainly worked digital on one and Phone on the other. Something I thought was unusual was the crooked tree limbs that Roy used at the top of the push up masts. His thinking was that they would help space the wire antennas out from the aluminum masts. I hope someone got it on film. I think maybe Jeff N8WQO did. The weather man gave us a slight shower at meal time at 6:00 Saturday evening. It was not a problem, and helped keep it cool.

Many thanks go to Georgia and Irene who Masterminded the food buying and setting up for the meals, and thanks to all who brought in those good plates of food. As usual we did not suffer from hunger.

The Qso numbers for the CW station look like this: 80=158, 40=315, 20=212,

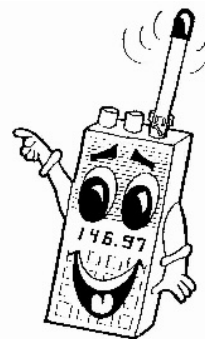
15=30 for a total of 715. This compares with 501 last year. The mostly phone station had 61 qsos and the digital station logged 68 qsos. The 6 meter station logged 31 phone qsos. Most of those were into Florida and the Texas coast area. We had a little rain again on Sunday, but that ground is so dry, it didn't even get muddy on top.

I hate to make a list of those there because I will probably miss someone, but here are the ones I remember seeing: Art Ellis, Jeff Scott, Tim and Mary Britton and Tug. Georgia Milhoan, Blaine, Bruce, and Libby Auville, Roy and Leslie Maul, and Eunice Ash, Curt and Irene Fouse, Archie Carpenter, Dan Betts and his son and daughter, Tiny and Peggy Phillips, Ralph Mitchell, Bob and Mrs. Turnbull, Tim and Jeanna Dooley, Jerry, Mary and Peter Wharton, Jeff Newton, Carroll Ayres, Paul Anderson, Mark Schauwecker, and Carl Long.

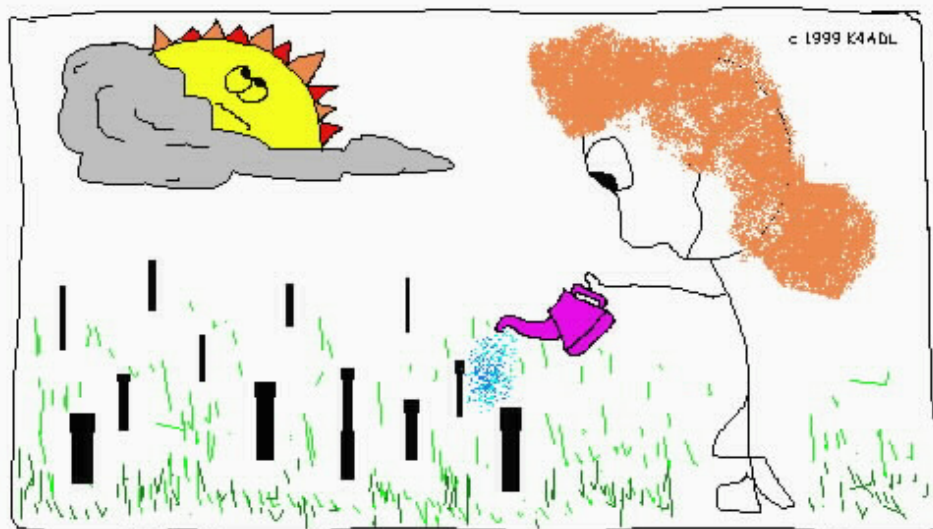
Don't forget, our monthly meetings are on the second Monday of the month at the Bonanza Steak House along Route 14 in south

Parkersburg. The business part starts at 7:00 PM so if you plan on doing a meal be there around 6:00PM. It is about time to start thinking of who you want for officers for the coming year. If you run across anything of interest, send it to Jerry Wharton. for inclusion in the newsletter. He needs your input.

Curt K8UC



Ed. Note --- All material except the cartoon, Field Day Report, and the minutes were obtained via the ARRL Web Site. TNX.



THE RUBBER DUCKIE ANTENNA FARM

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