

Di-Dah-Dit

Radio Klub THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PARKERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO KLUB
P.O. Box 2112, Parkersburg, WV 26101

The personal is Bob— with one “O”

Bob Lyons is a person who gets involved. If you visit his house in Vienna you will find him involved in some major remodeling projects. On the job, Bob is so involved in his work he's won awards for his job performance. He involves himself with people who would be considered less fortunate. As an officer in the Klub and an officer in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), Bob is involved with *one* of his hobbies—ham radio.

Bob's landlord likes it when Bob says he's going to remodel the house. The landlord's satisfaction is in knowing that the job Bob does will be done right with particular attention given to detail and quality.



On the air, KB8EFB, Bob operates his Kenwood 7400 and Braille writer when running the Tuesday night PARK/ARES net at 9 p.m.

paint from the woodwork in my house,” Bob says. “When I’m finished, I’ll have re-done the walls and several other

As a production worker at SW Resources, Inc, he works with companies like GE, DuPont, Corning, Ames and Walker. “I assemble Eagle brand garden tools and package a lot of small parts for things like Walker metal buildings,”

Bob says. One of the companies he works *with* is a company he worked *for*. “I worked for Best Photo/Nashua for 16 years. And now I help assemble direct mail for them.”

**“Sometimes, people say things like:
‘Did you see that?’ ‘Or. ‘Hindsight is 20/20.’
Right off, they feel uncomfortable. But, I try to
make them feel at ease—and add some humor.”**

Bob Lyons regarding sighted people

“Right now, I am removing about six to eight layers of old

projects inside the house.”

Bob also enjoys his career.

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President's Corner



Curt Fouse, K8UC

Upgrade for you? Out-the-door for me, maybe!

My wife and I return from a lovely vacation in the Pocono Mountains in western Pa. and the first thing I hear from WD8LKT, John, is that during the July meeting, a committee was created to get rid of me!

On the other hand, there is good news for those who upgrade. The FCC says the license processing time will be cut from six to thirteen weeks down to seven days, when their electronic filing system goes on line.

Do you have plans to upgrade or know others who need to be tested? Let me or any member of the Klub's VE team know what your needs

are and we'll schedule a test session.

Now, back to the search for new officers and Klub leadership positions. Perhaps you have some new ideas for the Klub's direction. You're the perfect candidate for an office. Don't think because you're a new ham or the fact that you've never held Klub office before, that it is a closed shop, so to speak. New blood is what is needed to keep our purpose and needs fresh. If you don't think newcomers can accomplish great things, you should have seen how KB8NRB, Larry, handled his first Field Day director's position—great job Larry.

Now, I have been asked to yield the mic to KF8NW, Larry. Take it away, Larry!

Thank you Curt. As many of you know, Curt is a somewhat humble guy, HI. I don't think he would bring this up in his comments, so I will.

Curt, you have been doing a fine job this year as PREZ.

And there is another need the nominating committee will not address—so, again, I will.

The Klub's newsletter is looking for a new editor. The obvious choice would be my assistant KA8NJW, Jerry, as the chief editor. A good choice for one assistant would be N8FID, Russ. There is also room for another associate editor position or two. Why don't you think about it? Remember, we all should be contributing editors

by submitting items for the newsletter.

One more thing Curt, I don't think there is a bylaw that says you can't be nominated for your present office again. Maybe you can comment on that at the next meeting.

Back to you, Curt!

I knew I shouldn't let that loud mouth have the mic in this column. Oh well!

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

VY 73 de K8UC, Curt

Klub Notes

submitted by
Rory, KB8MDN, secretary

Klub will rent chairs at Homecoming. Nomination committee named to appoint new officers. K8BOT, JEP gave preliminary report on Field Day results. N8UXF, Mike won the 50/50 drawing. Was decided to thank Vienna officials for use of wildlife park during Field Day.

Appreciation expressed to all who helped with Field Day.

Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub 1992-1993 Officers and staff

Curt Fouse, K8UC, President
Earl Hulce, KB8HRG, VP
John McGuffey, N8NBL, VP
Bob Lyons, KB8EFB, VP
Rory Hughes, KB8MDN, Sect.
Jane McGuffey, N8MOW, Treas.
Jerry Wharton, KA8NJW, Ed.
Larry Dale, KF8NW, Ed.

One "O" from page one

There's another side of Bob which you don't hear about and one he doesn't advertise a lot. He says, "I enjoy repairing small appliances, toasters, sweepers—things like that. And I do a lot of it for people that most would consider poor or less fortunate. I don't charge them for the repairs. I have even bought the parts for them." Bob says he doesn't advertise his services to people who could afford to pay him because of the work load he already has. He says, "It's sort of my way of giving back to others. I know what it's like when people give to you—many people have helped me in the past."

When it comes to hobbies, Bob has several. "I work with wood a lot in my shop," he says. "I have a Shopsmith, power saws and other power tools I use to make things for me and as gifts for others."

Bob has played music professionally and enjoys playing the guitar. "I played in the Inspiration Family, a gospel group, and the Country Friends country and western group back in the '70s," Bob says. He has about 130 CDs of various types of music in his library.

Bob attended PARK amateur radio classes at Parkersburg High School in 1988 and began another hobby—ham radio. He says, "I have a technician-plus license. The station is made up of a Ten-Tec

Omni D and a Kenwood 7400. The antennas include a trap dipole and a 2-meter beam."

There is a special piece of equipment in Bob's house that is not ham radio related and then there is a unit connected to his ham gear. In the house there's a white cane. And on the Ten-Tec there's a voice synthesizer which speaks and tells Bob the operating frequency of the rig. There is also a Braille writer in the shack.

You see—Bob is blind. At birth Bob was diagnosed with congenital myopia. "By age six I had lost my sight in my right eye," he says. "By age 12 I was totally blind."

"I think 57 check-ins was the biggest net I have ever run."

Bob Lyons, NCS

Bob has, as most blind people do, adapted well. He says, "Sometimes people say things like: 'Did you see that?' 'Or, Hindsight is 20/20.' Right off, they feel uncomfortable. But, I try to make them feel at ease—and add some humor." That is one virtue Bob exposes on the air and in person—his sense of humor.

Now, just how does a blind man run one of the area's largest nets on 2-meters? "Mostly by memory," he says. "I use my Braille writer to keep the check-ins in order, but I usually have them written before

the person is finished speaking. I recognize their voice and know their calls. Usually, I don't write the prefix down, just the suffix." Weekly, Bob handles about 30 check-ins. "I think 57 check-ins was the biggest net I have ever run," he says.

Without going into detail about how a Braille writer works, let it suffice to say that it uses shortcuts and abbreviated words and word groups similar to CW shortcuts and abbreviations.

Besides his Braille writer and other special pieces of equipment, Bob has manufactured some of his own. "I needed a yard stick I could use, so I made one," he says. "I label all my canned goods and have made myself a phonebook and address catalog."

Each Tuesday evening at 9 p.m., you hear, "This is KB8EFB opening the Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub/ARES net. The personal on this end is Bravo—Oscar—Bravo. That's Bob, with one 'O'."

Bob has anchored the Klub's net for three years. However, he encourages others to be the NCS on the net. As a matter of fact, he admits it's nice to have a break from being the NCS.

Bob, thanks for the interview and your commitment to the Klub.

VY73 de KF8NW, Larry

147.390 +, the Klub's best kept secret

and least used resource



"I use it a lot." WD8CYV, Dave.

It's there. Waiting. It's always listening and it's ready. No, it's not a great white shark lurking in the still waters of the deep. It's the least used resource of the Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub—the 39-machine.

A recent survey of some hams in the area revealed that many of them know nothing about this service of the Klub.

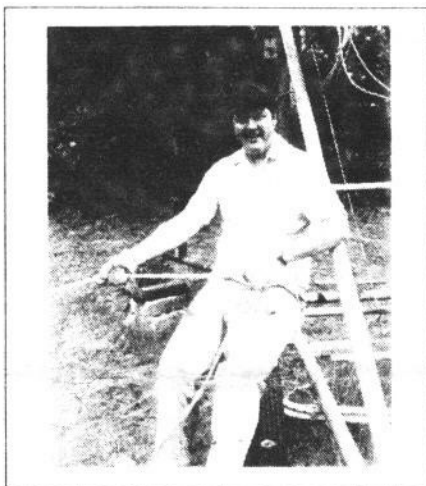
**Klub/ARES Net on
146.970**

Tuesdays at 9 p.m.

&

**Valley Girls Net on
146.970**

Thursdays at 9 p.m.



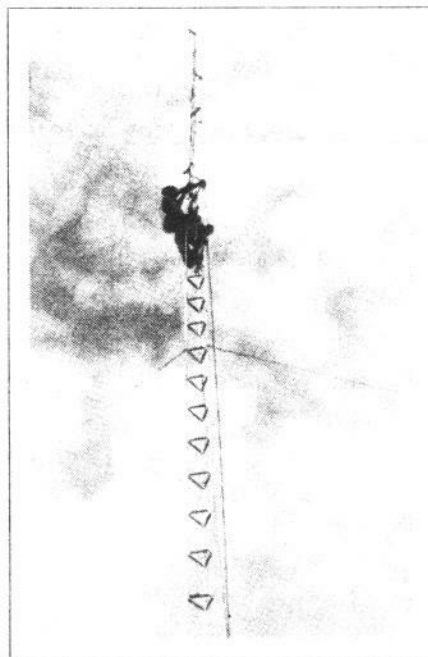
Guy wire guy. KA8NJW, Jerry.

WD8CYV, Dave says, "Linda (N8LDM) and I use it a lot. It's a good way for me to get in touch with her when she's getting off work."

The 39-machine serves the downtown and south Parkersburg area well. While coverage in the outback may be limited—it's still a good unit to use when the "other" machine is busy.

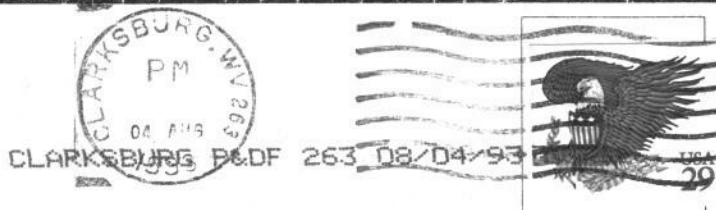
The latest *plus* for this plus machine (remember the offset is plus 600 KHz) is a higher antenna and new tower.

It's there, alright. Now, use it!



KB8HRG, Earl, risks life and limb atop the new "39" tower.

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