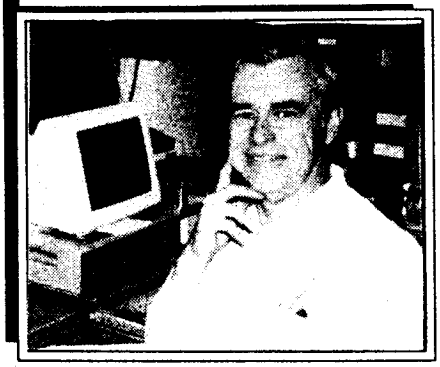
President's Corner



Curt Fouse, K8UC

Think Field Day

Field Day (June26-27) is our best attended event. Year after year, FD proves to be fun, educational and enjoyable for hams and their families.

FD is a good event to work. You can improve your operating proficiency no matter what your mode choice. Do you think it doesn't take skill to operate SSB? Watch someone who's a good contester—they work the stations that you or I may not even be able to hear.

Our personnel needs include: cooks, public relations people, operators, loggers, bull workers, even bull shooters—to keep us company—Hi.

The first FD organizational meeting was help May 25. However there will be another meeting, about a week before FD, and I'd like to see each of you there.

Listen for KB8NRB, Larry or WA8CRW, Tim on the repeater—they should have all of the pertinent information available.

In this issue of *Di-Dah-Dit* we have a profile of an interesting ham. What I'd like to know is—what are you doing with your hobby of ham radio? Is it ATV, moon bounce, antenna design? Let the news editors know about it. *(Attention Jr. ops, get on the air and keep your log current. In the future we'd like to do an article on you and your operating habits.)*

Imitation is the most sincere form of flattery. Realizing that, KB8MH, Mike should really be flattered.

This year at both the Charleston and Wheeling hamfests I noticed, what I thought was, a lot of PARK Klub members in attendance. I saw, again what I thought, were several PARK Klub jackets and T-shirts at the hamfests. Upon closer inspection I discovered the jackets were from the Charleston area. However, the logo was an exact dupe of the one designed by KB8MH. The CW key was exact—right down to the Woof-Hong bearing support *(The little thing that looks like a lopsided "Y" on the key.)*

A final note. Congratulations to the Valley Girls and their net on the 97-machine. You're not only looking good, but sounding good too.

73 CUL—at FD K8UC, Curt

Klub Notes

submitted by
Rory, KB8MDN, secretary

25 members attended the meeting.
Klub moved to purchase ARRL liability insurance plan.
KB8HRG, Earl, gave report on the new voice IDer.
60-feet of tower was approved for purchase and another MICOR for conversion to an indentical repeater for use on the 39-machine.
Get well soon N8UFR, Steve.
N8RNY, Cal, gave a report on MARS activity and is recruiting new ops.

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.

continued from page one
DX and ramps

"... and that dog barking is ten-over!"

DX contact with W8WEJ

now that was exciting to me. I guess he sorta' was my Elmer, in that sense," John says.

There are others who inspire John. "If I think about it, W8GWR, Archie and KD8G, Randy, have been my inspiration with CW. And WA8CRW, Tim and W8VT, Ed, have helped me in many different ways."

John praises his mother, Masil Dobson (deceased), for instilling in him the desire to be the best at what he does.

For example, while in college at Glenville State, John carried a triple major course load. With his sights set on becoming a teacher, as his mother was, he studied social studies, physical science and history.

Another inspiration in John's life is Annie, his girl friend of several years. And lest we forget—Trudy. Trudy is John's live-in companion. Trudy is John's dog and he says she has helped him DX from time to time. "One time I was on SSB with a guy and he gave me a signal report , 'You are S-9, and that dog barking in the background is ten-over.' "

John never became a teacher. Instead he began working for the State of West Virginia 29 years ago. He works in the Child Advocate Bureau in the WV Department of Human Services. His compulsion to be the best at what he does shows in his job. Once he designed a method whereby the state could meet standards set forth by the Federal government and in the process he saved the state nearly a million dollars.

The 1993 Calhoun County ramp dinner. A meal fit for the king of DX in PARK Klub.

John owns a farm in Wirt County and plans to retire there. But, first he needs to get it ready for serious DXing from West Virginia's smallest county. Several antennas are in place at the farm and a new Kenwood TS-50 travels back and forth from town and country. In other words, he's working on it.

Working DX to the degree that John does, you'd think antennas would be a big part of the operation. Not so for John. With just a tri-bander and a dipole strung hither and yon, John again does his best.

Now here's a final "you gotta' be kidding!" How do you put a 160-meter inverted "L" dipole on a 40x110 foot city lot. Will it suffice to say, John did it the best way he knew how?

Stop by 34th Street in Vienna sometime and try to figure it out for yourself.

If you can't find 34th Street, wait 'til next Spring and go to the first ramp feed you come to—John will be there.

VY 73, de KF8NW, Larry

Have you paid your 1993/1994 dues?

We hope you're not waiting for Ed McMahon to deliver your Publisher's Clearing House check for $10 million before you pay your annual PARK Klub dues.

After all, why would you want to fool around with $16 for an individual Klub membership or $24 for a family Klub membership after you got $10 million?

That would only be pocket change to you then.

Why not pay your dues now! By paying now you learn to appreciate a real bargain.

Perhaps you haven't considered lately the real bargain we have with: both Klub repeaters—146.970 mHz and 147.390 mHz; the very publication you're now reading; the Field Day goodies; the annual Family Christmas Party fixin's and many others.

Please pay your dues. *Otherwise, we will be forced to put a lien against your clearing house winnings.*

Send your check or money order to:

PARK Klub
P.O. Box 2112
Parkersburg, WV 26101

BUY SELL & TRADE

KB8HRG, Earl, has a Commodore PC-10 (IBM compat) computer w/ monitor, keyboard and 20mb hard drive for $300.

W8WEJ, John, is looking for a Hallicrafters HT-44. Phone 295-6436.

KF8NW, Larry, is looking for a 6AW8 electron tube. 863-0073.

Volunteers needed for an antenna party scheduled in early July. Suggestions appreciated on antenna design and tower installation. Call KF8NW on 146.970 mHz.
Also looking for used 2-meter beam. 863-0073.

Let *Di-Dah-Dit* help you. Send items to: Buy Sell & Trade
Rt. 3 Box 157
Washington, WV 26181

Klub/ARES Net on 146.970
Tuesdays at 9 p.m.
&
Valley Girls Net on 146.970
Thursdays at 9 p.m.

When all else fails—call a ham

Imagine yourself aboard the U.S. Space Shuttle Columbia.

Now, think of what would happen if a computer at Mission Control gave a false command—and all communication was blacked-out.

What would you do?

This real-life situation occured on day nine of the most recent flight of the Columbia shuttle.

Mission Control was unable to monitor any of the important in-flight functions during the blackout. A lung-monitoring test was rendered useless. An Earth-observing camera and some astronomy instruments missed their viewing opportunities.

Radio voice contact from the ground to the shuttle was also lost for nearly 90-minutes (*Mission Control could hear the seven astronauts*). "We couldn't get in," NASA flight director Lee Briscoe said.

The *boo boo* happened when the computer on the ground attempted to switch from one communication satellite to another. The erroneous command put the shuttle's antenna system in standby and never reactivated it when the switch-over was completed.

Lou McFadin, the ham radio expert at the Johnson Space Center, hastily arranged for an amateur radio operator in Australia to try and contact the shuttle.

All was in place for the contact and then, Murphy's Law took over—communication was restored.

This is a sample of how important our hobby is to the well-being of others—no matter where they may be!

From an AP wire story.
Submitted by WA8IOE, Blaine.

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Ground Rules and Results

by N8FID, Russ

This is the first in a series of articles prepared by N8FID for your safety.

Our suggestion is to use a hole punch and save these pages for a good reference guide or teaching tool.

Russ is an employee of Ohio Bell Company and is a PARK Klub member. He lives with his family near Devola, Ohio.

Thanks to Russ for the time and effort you've put into this work.

This series of articles will attempt to deal with a subject which can be very confusing, grounding and lightning protection. This first article will dip into the medical field and we will discuss electric shock and why we worry about protection.

The term electrical protection refers to methods and devices used to control or mitigate potentials and currents of magnitudes that could possibly constitute a hazard to people and property.

Some sources of hazardous potentials and currents are:

1. Lightning

2. Power Induction

3. Power Contacts

4. Earth Potentials

Most generally voltages of 50 volts ac (rms), 140 vdc or lower are not considered severe shock hazards. However, we will see that they do have some effects, under some conditions.

Current through the body determines electric shock intensity. Voltage is important only because it helps determine the magnitude of current that will flow through the body of a person contacting an energized circuit. In addition to voltage, shock current is a function of the impedance of the circuit contacted plus the body impedance of the victim (much of the body resistance is in the skin. Voltages above 200 to 300 volts show a marked lowering of body resistance. So called body resistance is therefore usually a function of voltage and time.). Under conditions of negligible contact resistance, as could occur from perspiration or from cuts and abrasions, a minimum body impedance of 250 ohms (head to foot, head to hand, hand to foot or hand to hand) might result. Under normal conditions, a minimum impedance in the order of 1500 ohms is more probable. The ladies for some reason, have a lower normal body impedance. Other factors associated with electric shock intensity are as follows:

(A) Current path through body.

(B) Duration

(C) Frequency and waveshape of shock current

(D) Phase of the heart cycle during shock interval

(E) Physical condition of the victim

Current in the body produces different effects depending upon its path. Current flowing in the heart may produce a condition known as ventricular fibrillation, which is a disruption of normal coordinated heart action into an uncoordinated flutter that blocks circulation.

Shock may produce respiratory inhibition not accompanied by fibrillation.

The more hazardous paths through the body are from head to foot, head to hand, and hand to foot. Table 1 gives some of the effects on the average male. Since females have that lower impedance and are more sensitive to current, comparable effects would be produced by currents about 2/3's of those listed.

For effects of direct currents, the values may be multiplied by three to five times, for fibrillation this ratio may only be two or three depending upon the duration of the shock. Burning may be more severe with direct current. Increasingly higher currents are required to produce the same effects as the frequency increases above 400 hertz. At radio frequencies, currents of several amps may be tolerated without muscular or nerve simulation, but these currents can result in RF burning of the skin and flesh and at higher currents may produce burns of fatal consequences.

O.K., so let's do some math, don't worry nothing drastic, just plain old Ohm's Law.

E=IR

OK, let's say you're an average guy (I know, hams aren't average guys), you're working in the your air conditioned shack (not), now your impedance is about 1500 ohms. Next, we'll try for a little pain, you reach into that latest boat anchor you bought at the last hamfest (forgot to unplug it, didn't you). "ZAP!!!!" 10 mA of current only needs 15 volts (remember E=IR or E=.010x1500 or 15 volts) if conditions are right, maybe a good idea to watch those filament pins on that old tube gear.

All right, no tube gear, wouldn't know which end to plug in, sold air to buy latest Tokyo Whiz-bang 100 watt transceiver. Now, let's see,

P=VI
100=12xI
8.33=I

E=IR
12=Ix250
0.048=I

Nothing drastic, but you'll know you stuck your hand where it didn't belong.

Now, that should give you something to think about until next time when we'll get into the big bang of shock, lightning.

TABLE 1

Magnitude of current	Effect
0.3 to 1.7 mA	Threshold of perception
1 to 5 mA	Sensation of shock, not painful; individual can let go because muscular control is not lost.
5 to 15 mA	Painful shock; person can let go, muscular control is not lost, however 8 mA continuous can in some cases can be fatal.
15 to 20 mA	Painful shock; muscle control lost, cannot let go. If sustained respiritory arrest may occur.
20 to 50 mA	Painful, severe muscular contractions. Breathing is difficult.
50 to 100 mA	Range of very painful with some possibility of ventricular fibrillation.
100 to 200 mA	Ventricular Fibrillation (fatal)
200 and over mA	Possible severe burns, severe muscular contractions - so severe that heart stops for duration of shock.

Values apply to currents of 20 to 400 hertz.