



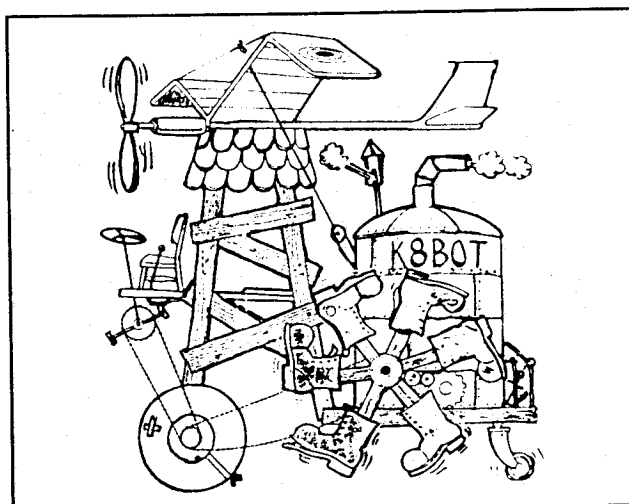
Radio Klub

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

Di-Dah-Dit

Look! Up in the sky! Is it a . . . Ah! . . . What is that thing anyway?

K8BOT may just drop in on you sometime with his new airplane. Next month, he'll drop into the pages of Di-Dah-Dit for an interview and photo session about his plane—which ain't plain. (JEP, I was going to show the real pictures but I lost them. Can I borrow your photos? KF8NW, Larry)



Is this Jim Palmer's airplane we've all heard about? Or is this the latest from Boeing since the defense contracts have been cut and the Cold War is over? Perhaps like the Spruce Goose—this bird will go down in history as JEP's entry into the Birch John Society.

Bunch of folks flyin' high after latest testing—13 pass elements

Results of the VE test session at the American Red Cross, April 6 were a crowd pleaser. A crowd of people passed.

Here's the run down:

KB8NSA, Karen passed 3B
Roy Maull passed 3A, 3B & 4A
N8TGI, Larry Deems upgrades w/ 1B
Daniel L. Campbell passed 3A
Michael Hupp passed 3A
James Snider upgrades w/ 1B
Jay Stowe upgrades w/ 1B & 3B

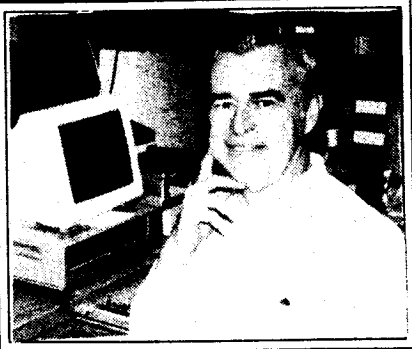
Sandra Minner passed 3A
N8TWV, Ray Bodie upgrades w/ 1A & 3B
Vicki Anderson new novice w/ 1A & 2
N8SCV, Mike Harris upgrades w/ 1A & 3B
Sandra Ellenwood passed 3A
N8LCY, Terry Burner passed 3B

Congratulations to you all.
And thanks to our VE team:
WD8MIO, Connie
WD8LKT, John
KF8NW, Larry

KA8NJW, Jerry
K8OWL, Carl

Another test session is scheduled at the American Red Cross Center, 8th and Market Streets in Parkersburg on Saturday, May 22. Start time is 9 a.m. Walk-ins accepted. ARRL-type testing. Pass this info. on to others you may know who are in need of a test session.

President's Corner



Curt Fouse, K8UC

ARRL & New Hams

Last month in this space I suggested many benefits of ARRL membership—and I'm headed that way again. But, first things, first.

A special welcome to all new hams-to-be who stuck it out and completed the Klub's amateur radio classes. Now the wait for Uncle Sam to send you your license will be a long wait. Believe me though—it will be worth it. You'll make contact with a lot of new friends—I hope I am one of them.

On behalf of the Klub, again a big "THANKS" to

the instructors: K8OWL, Carl Long—KB8JWF, Tim Smith—KB8NRB, Larry Burkhart and KA8NJW, Jerry Wharton.

Now to the ARRL stuff. I couldn't print in this entire newsletter, or many more like them, all that the League has done for ham radio.

But what about the individual ham? There's a lot for you too. Awards and certificates and QSLs from all over the world—all at a bargain price.

Some ARRL sponsored awards include WAS (worked all states), DXCC (the dx awards for working 100 or more countries), VUCC (the award for 100 or more grid squares on the VHF bands). There are other types of wallpaper too—maps and such.

Klub Notes

submitted by
Rory, KB8MDN, secretary

New members Roger Oeltjenbrun & Paul Hickman. The autopatch may soon move to the home of W8GWR. Archie, KB8NRB, Larry appointed as Field Day Committee chairman. The Klub will purchase 40 feet of tower for \$60.

Voice IDer report given by KB8HRG, Earl. YL net moved to 146.970 mhz. Last test sessions 28 elements given. K4BDI, Mark, gave demo of MJF SWR analyzer.

Another one of the popular benefits of ARRL membership is the foreign outgoing QSL service. For \$2 you can mail 150 QSLs to your dx contacts overseas (compare those rates with foreign postal rates—you won't believe the savings). All you need do is put the contact's call sign on the card and then sort all your cards alphabetically by call signs and send them to Columbus, Ohio—volunteers and the league do the rest. The incoming QSL service is open to all hams.

Remember, ARRL membership dues are \$30 individual, \$34 family. QST magazine is also included with the deal.

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Merle Welch, KA8CPL—now a silent key. Merle will be missed by the hams here in the valley.

73 K8UC, Curt

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.

Some "ground" rules about lightning and other things

Just when you thought the worst weather that could ever be (remember the blizzard?) was over—here come the thunder boomers.

How much voltage is in that sudden bright "Zzzzzap" that jumps from cloud-to-cloud and from the ground skyward and then back again?

Estimates agree that it takes about 100 million volts for lightning to step (or jump) within a cloud formation.

With that much voltage it's easy to understand the potential of danger and damage—even though we may not understand all there is to know about lightning.

The ground rule about lightning is—if it's groundable—GROUND IT! That means all your ham equipment, TVs, VCR, towers, rotors and antennas. Nothing is sacred when it comes to lightning damage and surges.

Actually, everything in your house, of electronic variety, should be grounded to protect not only the equipment, but more importantly—you.

N8FID, Russ, will begin a new series of articles next month dealing with the science of grounding—and it is a science. I would suggest a three-ring notebook and a hole punch for this series of articles. Watch for the articles next *Dt-Dah-Dit*.

73, KF8NW, Larry

DX—no matter what the WX

dx 7020 NOAFW/KH5 qsx 7023 "easy"

That was the spot that I put on the N8HTT packet cluster the morning after the Blizzard of '93.

From a blizzard in West Virginia to a Pacific Island, I sat back and had to laugh—country #307 was anything but "easy."

While the blizzard was in full rage on Saturday—Bzzzzpphhwha! That's the sound the amp made when I switched to 15-meters to work KH5.

It was 6:30 p.m. I called W8SCRW, Tim—he was willing to look at the amp. *By the way, this thing weighs 85 pounds.* The Mazda quickly became a bulldozer as I trudged across the tundra.

What if the police stopped me? (You weren't supposed to be out on the roads, remember?) Would I tell them, "It's a new amp."? Or would I explain, "I am handling blizzard health and welfare traffic to Palmyra."? Fortunately, the police had more sense than to be out in the blizzard—as did most EVERYBODY, except me. After all, this was #307.

Four hours of troubleshooting at Tim's revealed a bad 3-500Z (shorted). I remember I have a soft (very) 3-500—where else but at home.

Back out into the snow and wind I go to secure the tube. While I was at home I went ahead and let the dog out—I then headed back to Tim's.

We plug in the tube and it works! I put the amp back together. And oops! There are two screws left over. At first, I thought, I have some screws loose, why shouldn't the amp? After some discussion—no, screams, I put the amp back together with all the hardware accounted for.

At 11:30 p.m. I arrive *near* my house. I said, "near," 20 feet from the steps the Mazda gets stuck in the thigh-deep snow.

I navigate the icy steps, twist my bad knee and then struggle to lift the 85 pound amp to its customary chest-high spot.

I turn on the amp, warm-up from the glow of the soft 3-500, load the amp on 40 and leave it. Every hour I am up listening and

checking the cluster. At 6 a.m. the cluster is rebooted and there are no spots. I listen. There they are!!! I give one call and #307 is in the log.

Easy? No, but after all, **it was a new one.**

Thanks Tim and thanks guys for being there.

de W8WEJ, John

(Editor's note—This is a true story from a genuine dyed-in-the-wool, almost died-in-the-snow, DXer.

Next month, we hope to give you a little insight into the antics, panics and prizes John "CW" Dobson has encountered in chasing rare DX. Also a special thanks for the article, John.

Almost forgot, John is looking for a Hallicrafters HT-44.

Got one? Call him, 295-6436 and leave a message.)

Are you ready for Field Day?

Now that Dayton is a fading memory. And the PARK Klub's amateur radio classes have produced some new hams and operators with expanded privileges.

Now what is there to do?

Field Day, of course! ~~The one~~ weekend a year (June 26-27) when hams everywhere experience the reality of portable and emergency-style field operations, and the excitement of a contest-type operating format.

This year, Larry, KB8NRB is the Field Day Committee chairman. Be ready to say, "Yes" if you're called upon to help in any way.

**Klub/ARES net on
146.970
Tuesdays at 9 p.m.
&
YL/XYL net on
146.970
Thursdays at 9 p.m.**

"But isn't Field Day just for high-speed CW operators?" Absolutely not!

Field Day operations include: a novice category; SSB stations; digital (RTTY, Packet, etc.) stations and satellite stations. And this year, there is a special bonus for a VHF/UHF station—ideal for newly-licensed technician-class operators.

This year too, we'd like to see more YLs and XYLs as operators. Perhaps the VHF/UHF station would be a good place to develop this area of participation.

Field Day is not just a lot of bleary-eyed hams with a bad case of the shakes after consuming a half-gallon of coffee. No sir. It's a good time for the entire family.

Field Day is conducted at the McDonough Wildlife Preserve, just off Rosemar Road, near Jackson Park. Campsites are available, as well as nature trails and jogging and walking paths. Just across the road are ball diamonds and other recreational facilities.

And let's not forget the delicious Potluck dinner—Mmmmmmm Mmmmm.

If you don't plan to stay the weekend, at least make sure you stop by (day or night) to say, "Hello," and start another pot of coffee for the Ops. Hi.

CUL, VY 73 KF8NW, Larry

BUY SELL & TRADE

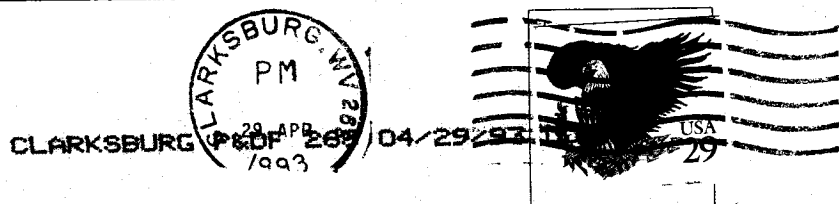
Paul Anderson is looking for tube-type ham gear. Interested in any available. Phone 422-3424

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

KF8NW, Larry, is looking for an older model truck for farm use. 4x4 full size or would consider small pickup. No foreign makes. Phone 863-0073.

**Wanna' get rid of stuff. Wanna' buy stuff—let Di-Dah-Dit help.
Buy Sell & Trade
Rt. 3 Box 157
Washington, WV 26181**

**Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub
P.O. Box 2112
Parkersburg, WV 26101**



93
KABNJW Jerry Wharton
1722 20th St.
Parkersburg WV 26101



Field Day Notice

Now is the time to begin thinking about field day. Do you want to operate? Do you want to help with set-up and/or tear-down? Do you want to help organize meals? Will you be attending the picnic? What band and what mode do you want to operate? Please think about this and attend a preparation meeting at Tim Britton's house on Tuesday, May 25, 1993 at 7:00 pm.