Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub

Di-Dah-Dit

1995 July ?

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

JUNE 1995 P.A.R.K. (KB8ZVY) MEETING

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. INTRODUCTIONS WERE GIVEN WITH 28 MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE. THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 1995 MEETING AND TREASURES REPORT WERE READ AND APPROVED.

ROY (N8YYS) MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS:

(1) ANNOUNCED TWO UPCOMING HAMFESTS.

(2) READ A LETTER FROM PETE JONES (KS4VZ)

(3) READ A THANK YOU CARD FROM LINDA (KB8YPC) THANKING THOSE WHO HELPED WITH HER ANTENNA WORK.

(4) ANNOUNCED THAT THE JULY 1995 MEETING OF P.A.R.K. WILL BE HELD AT THE RESIDENCE OF LINDA (KB8YPC).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LARRY (N8TGI) REPORTED THE KLUB HAS RECEIVED ITS LICENSED CALL--(KB8ZVY)--

ROY (N8YYS) REPORTS THAT AS OF NOW 3 STATIONS ARE TO BE SET UP FOR FIELD DAY. THE SITE FOR THIS YEARS FIELD DAY WILL BE AT THE NORTH CAMPUS OF OHIO VALLEY COLLEGE.DETAILS OF FIELD DAY WILL BE WORKED OUT AFTER THE KLUB MEETING.

OLD BUSINESS -- NONE REPORTED

NEW BUSINESS

LARRY (N8TGI) QUESTIONED WHY THE VOICE IDer ISN'T BEING USED TO ANNOUNCE NET NIGHT AND KLUB MEETINGS ROY (N8YYS) SAID HE WILL TRY TO REMEMBER TO TURN ON THE IDer TO ANNOUNCE NET AND KLUB MEETING NIGHTS.

LESLIE (KB8ZSI) MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. TIM (KB8SRK) SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MEETING ENDED AT 7:30 P. M.

SILENT KEYS --- KE8CI CRAIG MOORE

Kanawha Elementary School Signs NEW Club Call

KB8ZLQ

Listen for us on VHF Packet
or HF Novice Bands

upcoming operating events:
STS-71 (MIR docking)
JOTA

KRYSTAL
Kanawha Radioamateur Youth
Supporting Technology And Learning
Route 1 Box 38A Davisville,WV 26142

Phone=304.420.9557
EMail=DRSTONE@Delphi.Com

Klub Officers for 1995

President -	Roy Maull N8YYS
1st. VP	Ray Bodie N8TWV
2nd. VP	John McGuffey N8NBL
3rd. VP	Earl Hulce KB8HRG
Sec.	Larry Deems N8TGI
Tres.	Jane McGuffey N8M0W
Sarg/arms	Bob Lyens KB8EFB
NL Ed.	Jerry Wharton KA8NJW
Production	Mary Britton KB8BOA

Subject: ARRL RF Touch Lamps and Dimmers Information Package

TOUCH LAMPS

RF Touch lamps are RF-operated devices that often cause, or are susceptible to, EMI problems. They have a free running oscillator that is very broad and rich in harmonic energy. This oscillator is hooked up to a touch plate that changes the frequency of the oscillator when a hand is placed near the plate. Unfortunately, this plate also acts as an antenna, radiating some of the energy of the oscillator, or picking up nearby radio signals. When the former happens, it can interfere with other services. When the latter happens, the circuitry inside the lamp reacts the same way that it would when the plate is touched — the lamp changes states from "off" to "on".

Although cases of moderate interference can sometimes be cured by using a "brute-force" type AC-line filter and/or a common-mode choke (see the ARRL Book, Radio Frequency Interference — How to Find It and Fix It for more information about AC-line filters and common-mode chokes) most cases will require internal modification to the lamp. For a number of different reasons (you may be blamed if anything EVER goes wrong with the lamp or house wiring) you do not want to perform this modification on equipment that is not your own. Remember — house AC power is dangerous. These modifications must only be performed by qualified service personnel! Here are some reprints from QST "Hints and Kinks":

RFI and Touch-Controlled Lamps.

I have found a simple cure for those touch-controlled lamps that turn themselves on and off during nearby radio transmissions. In my case, 40-meter operation gave the most trouble, with 75-meter operation a close second. Higher frequencies presented no problem. (I use a ground-mounted vertical antenna for 80, 40 and 15 meters, and the lamp is approximately 150 feet from the antenna. An AC-line filter at the lamp did not eliminate the problem.)

A 1k ohm resistor (in series with the signal input lead to the encapsulated circuit that operates the lamp) cured the problem for me. I suppose the required resistor value would vary with the RF-field intensity and frequency. — John M. Adams, W7OTC, Sun City, CA

More on RFI to Touch-Controlled Lamps.

I had the same problems as W7OTC with a touch-controlled lamp switched on and off by my transmissions (100 W to a roof-mounted vertical, with two radials per band). The problem occurred during operation on the 80- through 15-m bands, but 10-m operation had no effect. A 1-k ohm resistor was not a complete cure in my case.

A 3.3k ohm resistor in series with the signal input on the lamp helped on all bands except 80m (an additional 1.8k ohm prevented the lamp from functioning). When the resistor was replaced with an RF choke (100 uH, 139 mA), the problem abated on all bands except for 80 m.

On 80 m, the interfering signal was considerably attenuated by the choke, but the lamp still switched. The choke alone may be en ugh to clear up the problem in some cases.

The final answer turned out to be both the RF choke and a 1.8k ohm resistor in series with the signal-input lead to the touch-control circuit. — Colin Hall, G4JPZ/W6, Marina Del Rey, CA

Touch-Lamp Transceiver.

When my wife told me she had bought a three-way lamp that switched on and off at the touch of any of its metallic parts, I did not realize she had purchased a transceiver. I found that my transmitted signal would cause the lamp to operate exactly as if I had touched its metal parts. Later I discovered a raspy, S8 signal at 1875 kHz — it was coming from the lamp, which was located three rooms away on a different AC circuit. The lamp signal is present from 40 meters down. At frequencies from 20 meters up, my operation is undisturbed.

A box inside the lamp contains a circuit board through which AC line voltage is routed and which has a wire connected to the metal base of the lamp. When the lamp is plugged in, the lamp signal is present at all times, regardless of whether the lamp is on or off. In my attempts to eliminate the interference, I tried a commercial AC filter, coiling the lamp cord on some ferrite material and other such approaches without success.

To make sure the lamp my wife had was not defective, I borrowed a similar lamp from a neighbor to try it. I found it to perform in exactly the same manner except that the frequency of oscillation was somewhat different. There is no manufacturer or distributor name on the lamp or packing container. The lamp was made in Taiwan.

I am writing so that others who may be experiencing similar difficulties may have some idea of the probable source of interference. After I described what I discovered to a ham friend, he realized that such a unit had been causing interference to his station for more than a month. — Cal Enix, W8EN, 209 S Kalamazoo St, White Pigeon, MI 49099

If these cures don't work, it may be possible to shield the electronic switch module, but this must be done safely! You may also want to contact the manufacturer and send a report of your problem to ARRL Headquarters RFI Desk, 225 Main St. Newington CT 06111.

DIMMERS

Light-dimmer Interference Reduction.

Radio Amateurs who've have been cursed with RFI from solid-state light dimmers will be interested to know that at least one domestic manufacturer - Lutron - produces light dimmers that incorporate RFI suppression techniques.

(dimmers Cont.)
The Lutron NOVA series uses toroidal chokes that provide a significant level of RFI suppression.

I bought a Lutron model N-600, which will handle up to 600 watts of incandescent lighting. Temporarily installed in my radio shack, a generic light dimmer produced an S9+ reading at 230 kHz (an arbitrary noisy frequency). The N-600 produced a reading of S3, a difference of about 40 dB. Admittedly, this is not zero, but installing the N-600 some distance away provided a reduction in RFI that is very gratifying. Indeed, I new hear new noise sources, heretofore undetectable through the dimmer din.

You're not likely to find these dimmers at your local discount store, and they are not inexpensive. Check for the availability of these dimmers at a lighting fixture store and expect to pay about $25 apiece for them. — Richard G. Brunner, AA1P, 10 Brookside Dr., Foxboro, MA 02035

If you come up with a better solution for these problem, please write to the RFI Desk with the solution. It sounds like it would be a good candidate for Hints and Kinks!

"73" from ARRL HQ

Subject: Info on Interference From "Hidden Fence"

Several members have reported interference from a new product called the "Hidden Fence." This product uses a VLF transmitter, a large perimeter loop, a receiver on a dog collar and a shock device to help teach a dog to remain within your property lines.

Earlier versions of this were marketed without FCC approval and may generate interference to much of the HF band. The interference is characterized by a pulsing harmonic (like CW dits) every 35 kHz or so. I contacted the Hidden Fence Company and was told that a "suppressor kit" is available free of charge. When you call, it is a good idea to ask for "Cheri" because others may not know about the suppressor kit.

The ARRL RFI desk (that's me!) is looking for any report from someone who can verify that this suppressor kit is effective. Contact me here at HQ by phone, letter or email (ehare@arrl.org).

Hidden Fence Pet Containment, Co.
1725 NW 33rd St
Pompano Beach, FL 33064
(305) 972-6791
(305) 972-9833
(800) 226-4896

An editorial by Ed Hare, KA1CV, ARRL Laboratory Supervisor.

This is entirely Ed's personal opinion.

As I go out into the world to represent ARRL Headquarters at ARRL Conventions, I am often one of the guest speakers at one of the banquets or dinners. In my introduction, it is often pointed out that the League Convention is lucky to have someone from the League present at the dinner. I stand up, say how glad I am to be there, and start to point out that I am not the only one from the League at the dinner — in fact, as I look around the room at the number of League diamonds on all of the name badges, I see that there are LOTS of people from the League there.

The American Radio Relay League is NOT just in Newington, CT! It is a large collection of members, Division Directors, Field appointees and the Headquarters staff. The HQ staff is only a PART of the ARRL, an important part, IMHO, but only a part. The real League is out in the world, on your local repeater, or in a 20-meter pileup trying for a new one. The real League is found at your local club, or on your local traffic net or packet bulletin board.

The true nature of ARRL is not what we (the HQ staff make it), but is what the rest of us (all the people "out there") make it. Its true strengths (and weaknesses) are found in the local programs, clubs, membership activities, traffic nets, publicity events, ham classes, volunteer-examiner teams, and in just plain old operating!

I even find that I sometimes have to remind MYSELF that ARRL is not just to be found in Newington. It is found all over the US (and overseas through associate members and full members with military addresses).

So, in closing, 73 to the ARRL from a member of the ARRL Headquarters staff, Ed — KA1CV

Ed Hare, KA1CV ehare@arrl.org
American Radio Relay League
225 Main St. Newington, CT 06111
(203) 666-1541 - voice
ARRL Laboratory Supervisor
RFI, xmtr and rcvr testing

You will never put the puzzle together
if you keep putting all the pieces
back in the box.

PARK/ARES NET
Tuesdays at 9:00 pm
146.970

AMATEUR RADIO "Q-SIGNALS" FOR CW USE ONLY

QNA Answer in prearranged order.
QNC All net stations copy.
QND Net is directed.
QNE Entire net stand by.
QNF Net is free.
QNG Take over as net control station.
QNI Net stations report in.
QNM You are QRMing the net.
QNN Net control station is [call sign].
QNO Station is leaving the net.
QNP Unable to copy you.
QNS Following stations are in the net.
QNT I request permission to leave the net.
QNU The net has traffic for you.
QNX You are excused from the net
QNY Shift to another frequency.
QNZ Zero beat your signal with mine.
QRG Will you tell me my exact frequency?
QRH Does my frequency vary?
QRJ Are you receiving me badly?
QRK What is the intelligibility of my signals?
QRL Are you busy?
QRM Is my transmission being interfered with?
QRN Are you troubled by static?
QRO Shall I increase power?
QRP Shall I decrease power?
QRQ Shall I send faster?
QRS Shall I send more slowly?
QRT Shall I stop sending?
QRU Have you anything for me?
QRV Are you ready?
QRX When will you call me again?
QRY What is my turn?
QRZ Who is calling me?
QSA What is the strength of my signals?
QSB Are my signals fading?
QSD Is my keying defective?
QSG Shall I send messages?
QSK Can you hear between your signals?
QSL Can you acknowledge receipt?
QSM Shall I repeat the last message?
QSN Did you hear me?
QSO Can you communicate with me?
QSP Will you relay?
QST General call preceding a message.
QSU Shall I send or reply on this frequency?
QSW Will you send on this frequency?
QSX Will you listen?
QSY Shall I change frequency?
QSZ Shall I send each word more than once?
QTA Shall I cancel message?
QTB Do you agree with my counting of words?
QTC How many messages have you to send?
QTH What is your location?
QTR What is the correct time?

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Parkersburg WV 26101