



Di-Dah-Dit

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

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1995 P.A.R.K. MEETING

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:10 P.M. INTRODUCTIONS WERE GIVEN WITH 35 MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE. THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 1995 MEETING AND TREASURES REPORT WERE READ AND APPROVED. ROY (N8YYS) MADE MENTION THAT A NEW ROSTER IS BEING WORKED ON.

LARRY (KF8NW) REPORTED THAT IT WOULD COST ABOUT \$500.00 TO INCORPORATE THE KLUB. A DISCUSSION OF THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES FOLLOWED. CURT (K8UC) ASKED TO TABLE THE MATTER UNTIL NEXT MONTH.

COMMITTEE REPORT

EARL (KB8HRG) REPORTS THAT THE 146.97 REPEATER WILL HAVE TO BE MOVED FROM ITS PRESENT SITE WITHIN 90 DAYS. EARL (KB8HRG) WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TURN THE KEYS TO THE REPEATER SITES OVER TO SOMEONE ELSE. ROY (N8YYS) SUGGESTED EVERYONE START LOOKING FOR A NEW SITE FOR THE 146.97 MACHINE. SEVERAL AREAS WERE MENTIONED BY KLUB MEMBERS. CURT (K8UC) SUGGESTED UPGRADING THE 147.39 SITE SINCE THE 146.97 SITE WILL BE COMING DOWN. TIM (WA8CRW) NOTED THAT THE 147.39 SITE IS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE AREA TO HAVE A REPEATER.

WAYS AND MEANS REPORT

NOTHING REPORTED
 OLD BUSINESS NOTHING REPORTED

ROY (N8YYS) READ THROUGH THE MAIL. HE READ AN ANONYMOUS LETTER CONCERNING STATION IDENTIFICATION. HE ALSO REMINDED EVERYONE THAT THE KLUB LICENSING CLASSES WILL BEGIN ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1995.

JERRY (KA8NJW) MADE A MOTION TO CONTINUE GETTING THE ARRL NEWSLETTER WHICH HE TAKES INSERTS FROM AND USES IN THE P.A.R.K. NEWSLETTER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CURT (K8UC). THE MOTION WAS VOTED ON BY KLUB MEMBERS AND PASSED.

TIM (WA8CRW), EARL (KB8HRG), ARCHIE (W8GWR), AND CURT (K8UC) WERE APPOINTED TO A COMMITTEE TO PUT A VALUE ON KLUB MATERIAL.

CURT (K8UC) MADE A MOTION THAT THE KLUB PAY THIS YEARS DUES FOR ROY (N8YYS) AND CARL (K8OWL) FOR THEIR TEACHING OF THE P.A.R.K. LICENSING CLASSES. THE MOTION WAS VOTED ON AND APPROVED BY THOSE KLUB MEMBERS PRESENT.

LARRY (KF8NW) MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING AT 8:30 P.M.

Klub Officers for 1995

President -	Roy Maul 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

VANITY CALLS

The FCC has announced its intention to implement a vanity call sign program, and also to resume the issuance of club and military recreation station licenses. On February 1, 1995, the Commission released its Report and Order in PR Docket 93-305, "Amendment of the Amateur Service Rules to Implement a Vanity Call Sign System."

Amateurs will be eligible to apply for a call sign of their choice in four "gates." The first group eligible to apply will be previous holders of a call sign or the close relative of a previous holder of an amateur call sign who is licensed. The second group will be Amateur Extra Class licensees; the third, Advanced; the fourth, all others.

The FCC will announce the date of opening of each "gate" by public notice.

The effective date of the new rules is March 24, 1995. The FCC said that the first gate will open as soon as a new application form, FCC Form 610-V, is available and the Commission's licensing facility is prepared to begin processing the applications—no sooner than April, according to FCC staff.

In the case of applications for the call signs of deceased amateurs, normally the call sign will not be available for two years following the person's death or for two years following the expiration of the license. The exception to this rule is that a relative of the deceased amateur may apply for the call sign without regard to the two-year rule.

Club station call signs will be issued systematically from the two-by-three block, unless under the fourth "gate" the trustee of an existing club station applies for the call sign of a deceased member as a vanity call sign for the club. The trustee's application must be accompanied by the written consent of at least one relative of the deceased club member, and the two-year waiting period noted above is waived.

"Close relative" is defined "spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or in-law" for purposes, of determining eligibility for a deceased amateur's call sign.

A close relative may apply for the call sign of a deceased amateur without regard to license class; that is, a Novice licensee may apply for a call sign otherwise assigned to a higher license class "block."

Club station trustees—but not RACES or military recreation station trustees—will be able to request specific club call signs in the "gate" determined by their own class of operator license. If the trustee is an Amateur Extra Class licensee, he may apply for the same call (provided it's been vacant at least two years) in Gate Two, either for himself or for the club, without asking anyone's permission.

Applications for new club and military recreation station licenses with sequential call signs will be accepted beginning March 24, 1995. A club must have such a license in order to be eligible to apply (later) for a vanity club call.

The fee for the use of vanity call signs will be \$7 per year, or \$70 for a 10-year license term—The FCC said that "because the normal term of an amateur station license is ten years, a fee of \$70.00 will have to be paid when requesting a new or renewed vanity call sign.

"At this time," the FCC said, "under the Communications Act, we cannot provide a one-time fee for processing vanity call sign applications."

Amateurs will be able to list up to 25 call sign choices, from any call area. The ARRL had said it preferred that the traditional call area system be kept intact, and the FCC said it "carefully considered this suggestion."

But, the FCC said it chose not to "impose that limitation," because "otherwise, the applicant's choice of vanity call signs would be reduced to ten percent or less of the call signs that would otherwise be assignable to the station."

"A limitation based on the person's place of residence, moreover, could easily be circumvented by using a mailing address in another call sign region," the FCC said.

The ARRL also had asked that specific call signs in a unique call sign block be made assignable to certain special event stations, and suggested the one-by-one call sign block for such stations. The FCC said that it would set aside that block until it could address the matter later, in a separate proceeding.

More information was in July 1994—QST, page 84; June QST, page 81; and February QST, page 84.
(via ARRL Letter 2/2/95, NJW)

AMATEURS' HELP SOUGHT FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Amateur Radio will play an important role in the 1995 Special Olympic World Games this summer and Amateurs around the world are asked to help.

The World Games, to be held June 28 to July 9 in New Haven, Connecticut, are expected to draw more than 10,000 athletes and their delegations from 140 countries, in addition to 45,000 volunteers, and perhaps hundreds of thousands of spectators and many celebrities.

Brian Battles, WS10, Amateur Radio Liaison for the event, said "This is likely to be one of the largest public service communication support opportunities most US Amateurs will ever see."

Battles said amateurs will help by operating a special-event station, W1SO (Special Olympics), originating free radiogram greeting traffic on behalf of Special athletes and spectators, and in other areas as needed.

All Amateurs in Connecticut and nearby are invited to assist, and hams outside Connecticut are asked to be prepared to relay and deliver National Traffic System Radiograms, and to make contacts with W1SO.

For more information, send mail to Brian Battles, in care of ARRL HQ, via packet to QS1OW1EDH.CT.RSANOAM, or via e-mail to bbattkesarrl.org.



PLEASE DEAR-- JUST ONE MORE RADIO!!!
(Photo VIA 1/94 QST)

SHUTTLE FLIGHT WAS TO BE HAM RADIO FIRST

Shuttle flight STS-63, scheduled for launch February 2, was to be the first "informal" SAREX Mission—Mission Specialist Mike Foale, KB5UAC, hopes to make random QSOs, even though there are no scheduled Amateur Radio contacts with schools during this mission.

The next SAREX flight, STS-67, scheduled for March 2 to 18, will include the usual scheduled radio contacts with schools, random radio contacts with amateurs, and personal contacts with the astronauts' families.

Flying on STS-67 are Stephen S. Oswald, Commander, KB5YSR - Wendy B. Lawrence, Mission Specialist, KC5K11; Ronald A. Parise, Payload Specialist, WA4SIR; and Samuel T. Durrance, Payload Specialist, N3TQA. Two more crew members have passed Technician class exams and await call signs.

Schools expected to participate are located in 17 states, as well as South Africa, India, and Australia.

2300 MHZ BAND RELOCATED

The FCC has voted to allocate spectrum from 2310 to 2360 MHz for satellite digital audio radio services (DARS).

The FCC said the new DARS would allow direct satellite-to-ground radio to areas of the country and to minority and ethnic groups that are inadequately served by traditional, "terrestrial" radio.

The Commission said that service and licensing rules for the new allocation would be addressed in a later rule making. This was action in FCC General Docket 90-357.

PARK/ARES NET
Tuesdays at 9:00 pm
146.970

TEXAS GROUP'S BALLOON WORKS TO PERFECTION

On the second try on February 4, 1995, the North Texas Balloon project, sponsored by the Lockheed Radio Club in Fort Worth, launched its sixth high-altitude balloon experiment carrying Amateur Radio, said Doug Howard, KG50A.

The first attempt was foiled by the balloon tie-off, leading to the launch of a weather balloon with no payload attached. The group then successfully lofted its second balloon. All equipment performed flawlessly throughout the mission, Howard said.

The package reached 93,000 feet, about 4,000 feet higher than expected at launch time.

"The crossband [144 to 445 MHz] repeater was as popular as ever," Howard said, "and sounded like a typical pass of an Oscar satellite over the US. Folks worked through the repeater from Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kansas. The telemetry was copied from the same states and I continue to receive disks and printouts full of flight data.

"The ATV video was nothing short of spectacular," Howard said. "The highlight of the video downlink was the bursting of the balloon, as we

had the camera pointed up to catch the extraordinary event. The skin of the balloon seemed to disintegrate into millions of little pieces and fly away from the center of the balloon as though it was a fireworks display."

During this mission, NTBP gained the active support of another local radio club, the Rockwell ARC, Howard said, thanking them for their contribution to the project. "We look forward to working with the Rockwell ARC on future NTBP missions (via ARRL NL 2/13/95)

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