



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

Di-Dah-Dit

Mics Were His Business, Ham Radio, His Hobby

Amateur radio is what started S.N. Shure on a career that would last three-quarters of a century. The advancements in audio products is the legacy of this incredible man.

In Chicago, on October 17, 1995, S.N. Shure died at the age of 93. Shure was an innovator in radio broadcast and audio equipment.

He was an early ham radio hobbyist. He started the Shure Radio Company, a wholesale parts company in 1925. The market was those people who were building their own sets at home. Wireless technology was relatively new at this point. Mail-order electronics worldwide was accomplished within the first year of operation after Shure published the first Shure Radio Company Radio catalog.

The chronology of some of the events in the company's history included: The first mic produced in 1932—a two-button carbon microphone; then came a noise blanking mic and a magnetic model.

Crooners, presidents, radio stars and WW-II were heard through Shure microphones. Shure began producing "MILSPEC" mics for the government during the war and developed



S.N. Shure

a slogan that rallied the country—*Microphones are Weapons of War*. After the war years, Shure continued to manufacture mics to MILSPEC—which added to the already strong reputation of the products.

Radio studios and the battlefield weren't the only place

Shure microphones were found.

In the 60s, when music hit the road with live performances—it was Shure mics that set the standards for concert-style presentations.

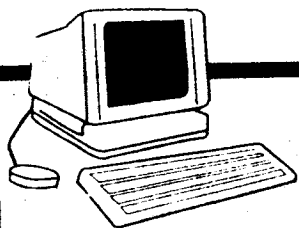
Not only were the hits sung through products made by the Shure Company, but the hits were replayed through Shure phonograph cartridges.

If you bought RCA, Magnavox, Emerson, Admiral, Philco or Motorola players—it had a Shure cartridge on the tone arm. There was a time when you asked for the Shure brand of cartridge when you purchased your stereo equipment.

The next time you pick up a hand mic or see the name Shure on a studio or performer's microphone—remember the heritage and the quality behind the name.

Some information borrowed from Radio World Magazine. Do you have any of the Shure mics you'd like to show off at a Klub meeting or breakfast gathering? I am sure others would like to see the product of the man named Shure.

Editor



"Pooter" Patter

To be MAC/PC or just Dumb?—that is the question

Last month in this column we asked the question, "Is there a computer in your shack's future?"

A surface-level explanation of RAM, ROM, CD and other terminology hopefully sparked some thinking about adding a "Pooter" to your list of equipment in the shack. Assuming this is the case, or the fact that you have a "pooter" but have been thinking about getting another one, we'll conclude this edition of "Pooter Patter."

The term PC (short for personal computer) has evolved into a cover-all term meaning any IBM compatible computer. *Ah! Here lies the rub* (to further our Shakespearean theme). What does IBM compatible mean? For newer computers, anything produced after 1992—it means just that. Most DOS-based software that works on an IBM computer will work on the IBM compatible machine you buy (except for Windows and Windows-95, for these you must have the Windows operating system).

Another term that describes a PC that is IBM compatible is "clone." There are a myriad of clones: Tandy, Packard Bell, Compaq, AT&T, Zenith and on and on. Be careful when buying an older IBM compatible computer—it may only be partially compatible. Even newer

computers may not be compatible with newer software like Windows or Windows-95. PCs use different operating systems. The two most used in ham radio are: DOS (disk operating system, requires exact syntax) and Windows (point and click-method of operation).

Apple Macintosh, or MAC computers have always used the point and click method of operation. Types of MACs to look for include: Macintosh 128, 512, MAC Plus, MAC SE, SE/30, MAC II series, Classic, LC series, Centris, Performa, Quadra, Power MAC and Powerbook (portable model).

To say a computer is MAC compatible is unnecessary. A MAC is a MAC—period!

Now there are operating systems that cross/bridge the gap between these two distinct systems. (more on that later, maybe).

If you are saying, "Can't this be made simple?" The answer is yes—it can even be made Dumb! First be sure your TNC (modem) will operate on a dumb terminal (not all do).

Dumb terminals are usually the peripheral monitors and keyboards from a mainframe computer system—they're usually CHEAP too. No hard drive, no floppy, just the keyboard and a monitor.

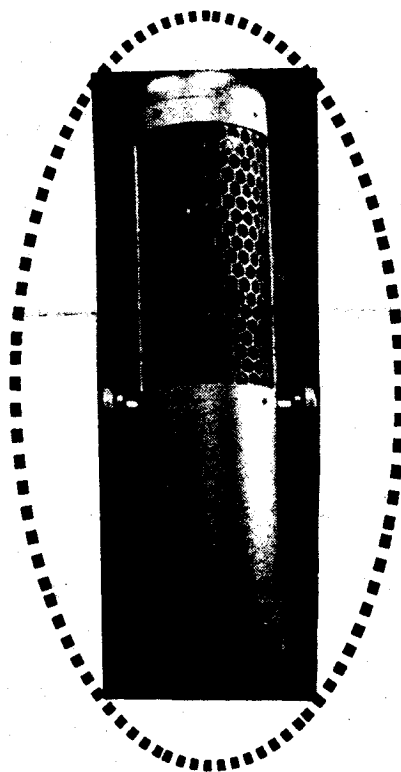
Opinions vary as to which "Pooter" is best—good luck!

Just How Good Could You Sound?

Since our cover story was about S.N. Shure, I thought some other information about other microphones might be of interest to you. I have some classic mics I have collected over the years. My collection includes a pair of Electro-Voice 611s and an AR-57 studio-style mic.

If you want to start a collection of mics—some of the latest lines include: Gefell's M-900 mic (\$995) and the UM92.1S (\$2500). Back down in the "great-deal price range" there is the Russian microphone Oktava MK-219 (\$499).

But just how good could you sound with the Josephson Engineering C700S (\$3800)?



This mic costs \$3800, how many do you want? The Josephson C700S gradient condenser mic.

ATV for Pennies?

Yes, there are still some bargain-level ways of enjoying ham radio.

Tim, KB8JWF has a diagram for a receive only circuit that will permit you to turn your computer into a slow-scan TV station monitor.

"You can get the parts from Radio Shack and put them together in one evening and copy photos over the air," Tim says.

"It's a real charge for me to send and receive pics of ham shacks, outside shots of the area where a ham lives—even pics of the ham and the ham's family."

Archie, W8GWR says, "I put the thing together and I may dedicate an extra computer to ATV only."

Like anything, a few can ruin a good thing. Tim cautions that some hams [sic] are transmitting obscene material.

Klub Notes

submitted by
Connie, WD8MIO, secretary

Notes from Jan. 96 meeting.
These are not the official minutes, none were submitted before press-time (these are done from memory and a bad memory at that!)

The Klub met at the Old "CB" (that's the Country Buffet)

Klub Amateur Radio Class dates have not been set by Roy, N8YYS
Curt, K8UC has agreed to assist Roy with classes (which will allow them to start sooner)

The Christmas party and related expenses was discussed

John Farley was voted in as new member

The antenna innovation "Polyester Porcupine" was the program

Trail Blazers

Are you an Old Buzzard, 60s-Type, Frustrated DJ, Politico or one of the other categories of ham radio operators?

None of these titles are used to imply anything negative. But, they do describe the types of hams you hear on the air.

Now that the disclaimer is out of the way—allow me to talk about one of my favorite categories of hams—The Old Buzzards. For clarification on my part, this would be any ham over 60 years old.

These elders of ham radio have the ability to simplify the technology, terminology and biology of our hobby. These are the hams that re-engineered war-surplus gear to work on the ham bands. All of them used Morse Code (our first "digital" mode)—some as radio operators during WW-II or the Korean War.

You may hear one of them on the air with a clean crisp AM signal. When asked what rig they're running, the OB may say it's a homebrew rig or one with a domestic name that sounds foreign: Johnson, Hamerlund, Drake, Heath, Hallicrafters, National, etc. (You can usually hear some of these folks on 40-meters 7.290-7.295) A word to the wise, don't try to check in with SSB, you may be asked to turn your "Slop-Bucket" off. (AMer's view of SSB signals.)

President's Corner



Lydia White, AA8UL

The OBs you hear on the local repeater or on the HF bands are nothing less than Trail Blazers. We who have come into the hobby recently owe a debt of gratitude to all of the OBs.

Listen to their advice on everything from operating procedure to the likely cause of a radio problem—they're probably correct.

VY73,
Lydia, AA8UL

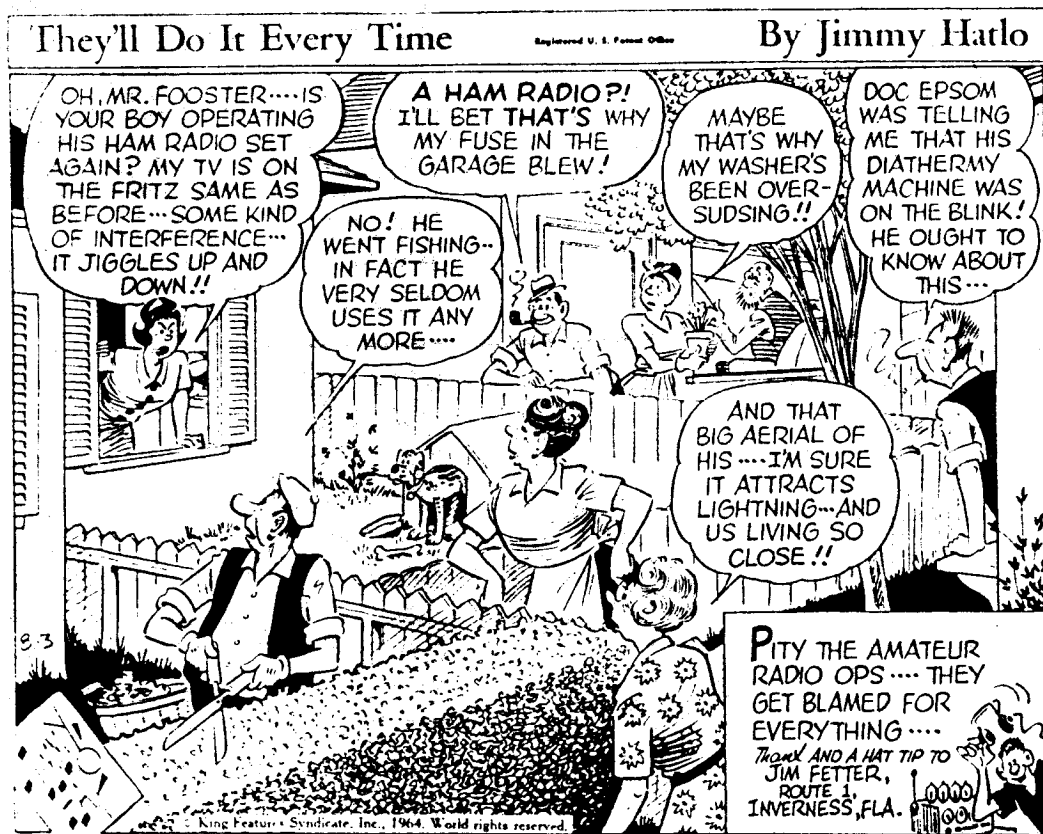
How about a Swap Meeting?

How would you like, or would you participate in a Klub meeting that was really a swap meeting? Talk it up on the repeaters and let's see what happens. *Editor*

Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub 1995-1996 Officers and Staff

Lydia White, AA8UL, President
Earl Hulce, KB8HRG, VP
John McGuffey, N8NBL, VP
Dave Thompson, WD8CYV, VP
Connie Hamilton, WD8MIO, Sect.
Jane McGuffey, N8MOW, Treas.
Jerry Wharton, KA8NJW, Ed.
Larry Dale, KF8NW, Ed.
Mary Britton, KB8BOA, Printer

This cartoon was originally published in September of 1964.
Is it unusual that it is topical in February of 1996? Do we still
have RFI problems—or just the same neighbors?

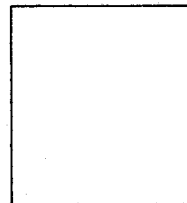


Jimmy Hatlo's comics © King Features
Syndicate, Inc.—special thanks to Curt,
K8UC for pulling it from his archives

Klub/ARES Net on
146.970
Tuesdays at 9 p.m.

// Got an article for Di-Dah-Dit?
Submit items to Larry, KF8NW or Jerry, KA8NJW //

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