

Di-Dah-Dit

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

RAM Cheaps—Lessen Window Pains—Is '97 Year For '95?

A drastic drop in SIMMS prices has made dreams come true for those who have waited to upgrade to Windows 95. But there are some other considerations before making the leap.

Unless you buy a computer with Windows 95 installed you will pay about \$90 for the software package. Microsoft appears to have set the price at that level. Sam's Club has it for \$82.

The buzz on the Internet and from Microsoft is that Windows '95 needs "only" 8MB of RAM. As is the case with any software, its performance is enhanced with more RAM and since it's so cheap now—why not go to 12MB or more? Add to that about 50MB of disk space and you're ready.

Be careful when buying so-called memory extenders or programs that create "virtual RAM." These software programs try to fool other programs into thinking your computer has more RAM than it really does. Dynamic compression is what it really is.

A "virtual memory" program, SoftRam, by Synchronys Softcorp, claims to work with Windows 3.1 and Windows '95. (list price about \$30). One review was not kind to this type of software. The report said



Load up on RAM while it's cheap

the feature that allows a mix of virtual RAM and silicone or hard RAM doesn't work. Files were corrupted and some programs were plagued with crash after crash.

If your computer has a small hard drive you will have to purchase a new drive. The cost

of a 1.2 GB drive is about \$300.

If your computer measures its RAM in Kilo-Bytes when you boot it—you'll need another computer.

Windows '95 has many new features beyond Windows 3.1—a survey of some hams reveals some have opted not to invest in the additional software and hardware needed to make the switch.

Now comes the question—"Do I need Windows '95 on ham radio?" The answer is no (at this time). Most ham radio programs, including logging and contesting programs don't need the power of Windows '95 or Windows 3.1.

Here is another option. If you own a computer with a reasonable hard drive on it—80MB or higher and 8MB of RAM and you have decided that you can't live without Windows '95, try this. Use a tape drive and storage tapes to backup your hard drive (*everybody does backup their hard drive routinely don't they?*) and install Windows '95 and see how you like it.

Buying and Selling on the Packet BBSs

WHAT HAS the thrill of a hamfest, the sales pitches of the Home Shopping Channel, the excitement of bidding at an estate auction and the bargains of a yard sale—all rolled into one?

It's the "SALE" and "WANT" adson your nearest packet BBS.

If you try looking through classified ad newspapers for electronic gadgets and ham gear bargains—you don't know what you're missing on the BBS.

The BBSs referred to in this article are those known as a "full-service BBS." This means the BBS receives and transmits messages from all over the world. The full-service BBS has different headings including such categories as: WANT, SALE, ARRL, DEBATE, MODS (and many others).

It's under the heading WANT and SALE where you can enjoy the thrill of swapping, buying, selling and yes, sometimes even getting items for free. Sound like fun? Go for it!

Buy & Sell tips

1. Keep it ham radio/computer/antenna, etc. related—don't try to sell your Aunt Bertha's Chevy II wagon—most SYSOPs (*the people who operate the BBS*) don't appreciate non-ham item offers/listings—they will reject them.

2. Don't get fancy with your category listing. If you want to sell something list it as SALE @ ALLUS (for towers maybe ALLWV or ALLOH would be better) If you need something list it as, WANT @ ALLUS.

Any other listing style may prevent your ad from being read. In other words if you have a computer for sale don't create a category by using something like PC @ ALLUS or PENTIUM @ ALLUS.

3. Subject your ad to entice the reader. There are a few ways to do this.

Be specific with your subject (i.e. Sell Ten-Tec HF \$200 or Need 6L6 tubes) This type of subject is more effective than—HF For Sale or Need Tubes.

Avoid long subjects (i.e. Wife says I must sell my beautiful and usef . . .) The BBS will only accept so many letters for a subject.

Ads with subjects like, Entire Shack For Sale, Getting out of Ham Radio, Ham Items For Sale, etc. get fewer readers than the specific titles. If you do have a large number of items for sale or if you are getting out of the hobby, make several listings—it works better.

4. List your price as an Asking Price. Prices that say, "Firm" limit your potential buyer. Don't fool with comparative price of new equipment, if new, etc. (unless it is)

Never price things by saying, "Best offer gets it, Reasonable, Cheap, etc. After all, the person was interested enough to read your ad, tell them what you have and how much.

For a WANT item don't even mention what you'll pay—let the seller set the price.

5. Include details. Be honest. If the rig is like new say that. If it's rough, dead, repairable, has the manual/boxes, etc. include all of that. Always give your phone number(s) and hours to call. If you WANT an item state what conditions you expect. Specify who pays shipping and even mode of shipment.

(Next month, some things to watch out for and some personal experiences)

New Extra-Class Question Pool is Implemented

If you are considering an upgrade to Amateur Extra Class—make sure you have the proper question pool.

The American Radio Relay League and other VECs received approval of a new question pool for this class of license and began using it July 1, 1996.

The PARK Klub VE Team will use the new questions on the next National Exam Day, September 28, 1996. The session starts at 9 a.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 23rd and Liberty, Parkersburg. Phone 304-863-0073. Please don't call the church.

Annual Election of Officers Combined With Fall Picnic

All PARK members and their families are invited to Veteran's Park, Route 31, near the Wood County Airport on September 7, at 4 p.m.

The gathering is for the annual Fall Picnic, election of officers and will serve as a substitute for the usual first Saturday breakfast.

Interested persons who desire to be a candidate for office or anyone who wants to submit a name for nomination should contact Lydia, AA8UL on or before September 1, 1996.

Persons attending the picnic need to prepare a covered dish for the meal. (don't forget a lawn chair)

Klub Notes

submitted by
Connie, WD8MIO, secretary

Notes from July '96 meeting.

Klub minutes from June 1996 meeting read and approved
Financial statement as of 07/07/96 is \$1990.

Special thanks expressed to Roy, N8YYS for his help with FD and to John, N8NBL for donation of tent for FD.

The current Klub call is KB8ZVY. Archie, W8GWR is the chair of a committee searching the possibilities of changing that to W8MIT—a call formerly held by Dupey Hefner, SK. Archie will contact Dupey's widow for the approval of the idea.

The need for persons to help with rental of chairs at the P'Burg Homecoming was discussed as well as operators for the marathon race coverage.

Field Day

Field Day? March's newsletter carried the same headline and opening question—but this time Field Day's over and done.

Hi Gang,

Well, summer's in full-swing. The tomatoes are ripening and flowers are in bloom.

Many thanks for those who participated in Field Day. You made it a huge success. Whether you helped set up, operated a station, enjoyed the Saturday meal, sat around and told and re-told old ham stories or helped tear down—there was fun had by all!

Special words of praise are due Roy, N8YYS, for his work as chairman of the FD committee. Tnx to Jerry, KA8NJW, and his wife Mary Wharton for thier work in preparing the meal for Saturday and Sunday—Mmmm, the food was great.

John, N8NBL supplied the tent for shelter and chairs for comfort—good job, John.

What would Field Day be without the annual visit of Santa(?)—No, wait. Wrong get-together—what I meant was,

Field Day would be incomplete without George, The Good Humor Man, K8VAH, delivering the ice cream.

We had more contacts this year than last year. Point total was 3354. Next year, we hope to see some we missed this year. 1997's Field Day can be the best

President's Corner



Lydia White, AA8UL

yet. Attend the PARK Klub meeting August 12 at 6 p.m. for dinner 7 p.m. for business meeting at the Old Country Buffet, Lakeview Plaza, Parkersburg.

Don't forget, Parkersburg Homecoming 1996 is scheduled for August 16-18. We need volunteers for the chair rental concession—our largest fund raising event of the year.

September is election time for PARK officers (see insert story this page). VY 73,

Lydia, AA8UL

Al Rule, WD8PEM, SK

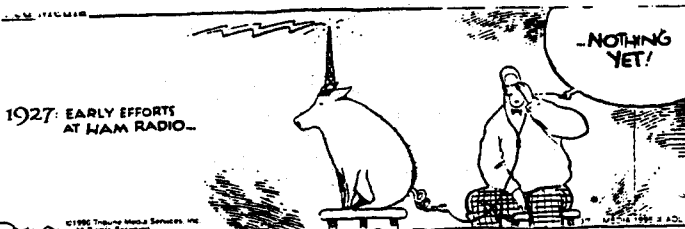
Sympathy is extended to the family of Al Rule, WD8PEM.

Al was a familiar voice on both Klub repeaters and the "52" gab sessions—he will be missed.

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

Look Closely. Do You Really Understand This Cartoon?



This cartoon was submitted by Ray, N8TWF. Little did he know that there was more there than meets the eye.

At first glance, a person may interpret the artist's message as being:

Pig, source of ham.

1927 recognized as period of ham radio's birthday, viz. ARRL.

Operator with headphones.

That in itself is funny.

But the fact that the headphones are attached to the pig's tail (instead of the leg <ham>) is an even deeper message.

In the days of crystal sets the wires to which the phones (no amplifier necessary to hear signals) were attached were known as cat whiskers and—you guessed it—pigtails. By moving the connection to different points on the pigtail the signal could be heard. Radio Shack still sells a crystal radio kit—and they're cheap. (special tnx to Archie, W8GWR for the better insight and meaning of the cartoon—Editor)

**Klub/ARES Net on
146.970
Tuesdays at 3 p.m.**

Dots and Dashes

- Help with Klub chair rentals at Homecoming Aug-16-18
- Also need operators for half-marathon coverage. Call Leo Pabst, WA8BMA

- PARK VE-Team Notice—ARRL VE Test Session September 28, 1996. 9 a.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church. Call Larry, KF8NW 304-863-0073

- ARRL reports response is good to LEO firms' desire to take 2M and 70CM band from hams.
- Kenwood says they will sell ham gear at truck stops to "help" the hobby grow.

- WV ARRL Convention/Ham-fest at 'The Mill' the week-end of August 23-25

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PARKERSBURG

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