



Radio Klub

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

Di-Dah-Dit

Communications Act Rewrite, Will It Affect Our Hobby?

Ask Ma Bell or TCI their feelings on the rewrite of the communications act and they'll probably have dollar signs in their eyes.

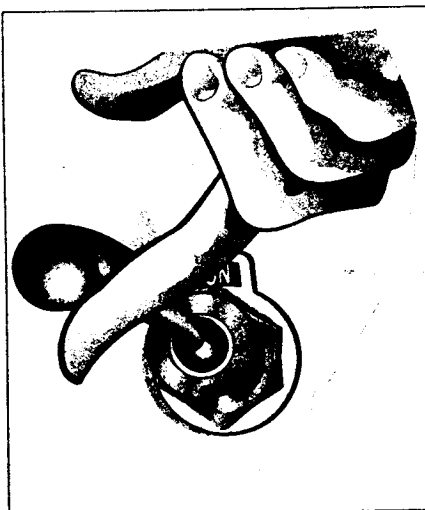
While the appearance of a boom in the telecommunications business appears to be on the horizon—there may be some real problem areas.

Small market radio (that's us) may change forever and major players in broadcasting can own a lot more properties than before. TV stations can now reach more people in a single market than before.

Here is an example of the ownership cap changes. The Communication Act of 1934 only allowed a single company to own 20 AM and 20 FM stations nationwide. It is now the size of the market that dictates the number of stations that a company can own. In other words, in a major market ABC, CBS, NBC, Westinghouse, etc. could own as many as eight stations in one market. The number gets fewer as the size of the market drops. Here in our area it is possible for one

company to own as much as 33 percent of the stations.

The "V-chip" is one positive part of the new act. This little gadget will allow personal censorship of indecent or undesired programming. Perhaps



Congress throws the switch on new act

a "V-chip" for so-called "Liberated Frequencies" [sic] on 75 meters is in order for amateur radio.

Now what about the, "Will it affect my hobby of ham radio question?" Maybe yes, maybe no is the answer (boy, if that isn't a politician's answer, I

don't know what is). And politics is where the problem may be at this time.

Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan) says that free spectrum that's given away for things like digital TV and other services (i.e. *ham radio*?) is corporate welfare. He says, "Let us not start a big giveaway program to some of the of the broadcasters in America who can afford to pay for it." Dole is convinced that billions can be made by auctioning off radio spectrums—and he's right. The Internet and other on-line services would like to be airborne instead of locked to the over crowded and sometimes really slow phone lines they're on now.

Hams have recently seen part of their assigned frequencies taken away for other services—CB, UPS and military services to mention a few.

How can we protect ourselves? In the opinion of this writer—join the ARRL and continue to have a voice in Washington (DC this time not WV).—Editor

President's Corner



Lydia White, AA8UL

Field Day

Field Day? That's months away! You're right—but the Klub is making plans for it now.

The committee to get the single BIGGEST contest of the year underway is working now to get bands assigned and the location determined—will you participate?

The location again this year is at the Ohio Valley College North Campus (*where it was held last year*). The porta-potty will soon be reserved and the menus will be planned. *Perhaps I shouldn't have put those two thoughts together.*

The fun, excitement and operating conditions of FD make an excellent way to introduce someone to ham radio.

When your family and friends see everybody working together to get antennas erected, stations set up and portable power systems operating—it has an appeal that goes beyond the realm of amateur radio.

The mention of work is an issue that needs addressed. Many times, it's only a handful of people who show up for the first day of assignments. This is traditionally Friday afternoon. This is probably the most important point-getter of the weekend—after all if the stations, antennas and power systems are ready—we can operate and gather the points quicker. So this year, when you start hearing people say,

First the Coast Guard, then MARS—are we next?

Dave White, WA8KAN, brought up a concern at the last meeting. He is concerned that CW and or the code requirement may be done away with.

While many people would be in favor of that—others feel it is what separates the hams from the CB'er-types (and if you have never heard some of the vile, profane and utterly sickening gutter language on the 75 meter phone band, be prepared for a shock).

Many hams felt the no-code license was a stepping stone to eliminate the code from ham radio.

Do manufacturers tempt the newly licensed ham who has no HF phone privileges to break the rules when they sell rigs with the HF and VHF bands included in the same radio? Or is this an incentive to upgrade?

What are your feelings? Let us know, we'll publish your thoughts.

Klub Notes

submitted by
Connie, W8DMIO, secretary

Notes from Feb. 96 meeting.

The Klub decided to have classes on an accelerated schedule.

Classes will begin on Apr. 2 at Emmanuel Baptist Church—special thanks to Bill, KB8ZSN for his hospitality and the use of the church.

The Klub voted to buy two towers from Marr, K4BDI—cost about \$500

Connie still needs her antenna fixed and this item will appear in the Klub Notes until that project is completed.

These notes are from memory as the minutes were not submitted prior to preestime.

"Let's get ready for Field Day." Plan on lending a hand.

Station assignments are on a first come, first serve basis according to Roy, N8YYS who chairs the FD committee.

There are needs for novice/tech, YL and all different modes and types of stations.

Catch the excitement of FD early and plan on helping, operating and attending—it's a blast!

VY73,

Lydia, AA8UL

Swap Meet Committee Formed
Curt, K8UC was named chairman of the Swap Meeting committee. Talk about this on-the-air and give us some ideas. The Gallopolis. Oh group last year said they'd like to do a combo hamfest with P.A.R.K.

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, W8DMIO, Sect.
Jane McGuffey, N8MOW, Treas.
Jerry Wharton, KA8NJW, Ed.
Larry Dale, KF8NW, Ed.
Mary Britton, KB8BOA, Printer

"The Antenna

Party"

Most of us have either had an antenna party or been invited to one. This is a reprint of a hilarious story that was printed in *Di-Dah-Di!* a few years ago. With the antenna party season upon us, I thought it would be appropriate to run it again—this item was submitted by Tim, KB8JWF—Irx Tim

A ham radio operator is seated at his desk filling out an insurance claim form and is writing the following note to clarify the claim—

Dear Sirs,

In the V-block of the accident report, I put "poor planning" as the cause of the accident. In your response letter to me you indicated that I needed to explain more fully the details of the accident. I hope the following explanation will suffice:

I am an amateur radio operator. On the date of the accident, I was working alone on the erection of my new 80-foot tower.

When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up and down the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the tools and other materials down by hand, since I was finished with them, I decided to use a small barrel attached to the gin-pole at the top of the tower. This way I could lower all of the tools and materials at once and save myself many trips up and down the tower.

I first secured the rope at the bottom of the tower. Then I went to the top of the tower and loaded the barrel with the items. After this, I went to the bottom of the

and untied the rope. Mind you, I was careful to hold the rope securely to insure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of tools and materials.

You will note in the W-block of the accident report that my weight is 155 pounds.

As I was suddenly jerked off of the ground, I lost my presence of mind and neglected to let go of the rope.

Needless to say, I proceeded up the side of the tower at a rapid rate. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming down—this should clarify why I have a fractured skull and broken collarbone.

The collision slowed me only slightly and I continued up at a rapid rate. I didn't stop until the fingers of my right hand were driven two knuckles deep into the pulley on top of the gin-pole. I had, by this time, gathered my thoughts and didn't let go of the rope—in spite of the pain. However, at the same time I reached the top of the tower the filled barrel hit the ground. I should add that it hit with such force the bottom fell out of the barrel.

The barrel, now being devoid of the 300-pound load of tools weighs about 20 pounds. *(Please refer to my weight in the W-block of the report.)* As you can easily understand, I began an equally rapid descent back down the side of the tower.

Again, at the 40-foot level, I met the barrel—this time it was coming up. This should explain my two broken ankles and the lacerations on my legs and lower body.

The collision with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my

my fall onto the pile of tools and materials at the bottom. I consider myself lucky to have only three cracked vertebrae as a result of the sudden stop.

I am sorry to report though that as I laid there in pain and now unable to stand up—I saw the empty barrel up 80 feet at the top of the tower. In my dazed state it was at that time that I let go of the rope.

Seriously though, folks. An accident at an antenna party is likely. Use safety belts anytime you are on the tower. Never try to do more than you and/or your helpers can handle. Though it's been said many times—always be careful of overhead/nearby electrical wires. Plan your work, then work your plan—safely. And don't forget the treats for your helpers.

Editor

New Test Fee is \$6.05

The ARRL/VEC and the P.A.R.K./VE-team have been given the nod by the FCC to charge \$6.05 as the new 1996 test-session fee.

The Klub and ARRL still do not charge candidates for the novice test (as we consider this to be the entry-level license).

The 610-Vs are available (these are the vanity call sign application forms)—but none of the gates have been officially opened. At the moment P.A.R.K. has applied for a limited stock of these forms—as of this printing they have not been received from the League.

One for the Boys/Girls Over There

AFN Bosnia is there to keep the boys/girls company who are serving with the UN Peace Force.

While ham operators try to sort out all the new call signs coming out of the now fragmented Yugoslavia—the Armed Forces Network (AFN) is there bringing news from home, sports, information and some music. There is a TV and AM and FM station on the air.

The AFN's formula for getting a station on the air would rival any Field Day attempts to get on the air. Realize the set up time was limited.



Here's what happened:
Day one: Peace Agreement is signed.

Day two: Transmitters and equipment arrives in Tuzla.

At 3 p.m. on Day three: AFN Bosnia is on the air. What's there besides the

Radios by Hallicrafters

is the title of a new book about old radios and the company that made them—Hallicrafters. Perhaps you have seen Chuck Dachis' name in want ads for Hallicrafters radios. He is the author of a new 200-page book which features over 600 photos about the classic line of radios for home, business and amateur applications. The book is available by the end of March, 1996. The price for the publication is \$29.95. The publisher is Shiffer Publishing Ltd. 77 Lower Valley Road, Atglen, PA 19310

Trivia Question—Who was Bill Hollican?

Answer—the genius behind Hallicrafters products

How many of you have old Hallicrafters equipment, or other types, that's still being used? Let Larry, KF8NW know—he is planning an article in the future about gear from the past—phone him at 304-863-0073 or contact him on the repeaters.

*KLub/ARES Net on
146.970
Tuesdays at 9 p.m.*

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