



Di-Dah-Dit

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

SOME MAJOR CHANGES FOR FIELD DAY!

Some new rules go into effect this year for Field Day. The popular summertime operating event takes place each year on the fourth full weekend in June. This year, it will be June 27-28

A major change this year is the elimination of bonus-point credit for packet and VHF/UHF contacts. Field Day stations no longer will be allowed to count contacts via digipeaters, packet nodes, or similar arrangements. Class 2A and higher Field Day stations still may operate a "free" transmitter exclusively for VHF or UHF operation (ie, above 50 MHz) without changing their basic entry classification, but not for bonus points. "It's better than bonus points, and groups are likely to spend

more time on VHF and UHF because of that," predicted ARRL Membership Services Manager Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH. As in the past, cross-band and repeater contacts other than via satellite do not count for Field Day credit.

Field Day stations now can earn point credit for digital (ie, non-CW) contacts on each band. The phone, CW, and non-CW digital segments are considered separate "bands" in the Field Day rules. This means, for example, that you now may work the same station for point credit on 40 meters three times: once on SSB, once on CW, and once on RTTY, packet, or one of the TOR modes. SSB contacts count one point, and CW and non-CW digital contacts count 2 points apiece, so adding non-CW digital

capability presents a real opportunity to rack up substantial additional points! "We're expecting an interesting year because of the digital modes," Hutchinson said.

The complete, official Field Day rules will appear in the May edition of QST. Basic Field Day rules have remained unchanged for several years now. The new rules undoubtedly will generate a flurry of computerized contest logging program revisions as developers scramble to incorporate the changes into their software.



CURTS PROFILES

What's that racket? It sounded the same way when we interviewed K8VAH a few years ago! Roy explains it as the Air Force transcontinental Amtor net. Since it wasn't chirping, I guess it must have been FEC Amtor.

Back when I was the club pres. I insisted on having a news letter since so many of the membership could not or would not attend meetings but should know what is going on with the club. I also wanted profiles on the individual members. It seemed like a way of helping us to know each other a little better, and maybe encouraging some to be more active on the bands. It sure was easy then. I got Larry KF8NW, the news editor, to do the interviews.

Now back to the shack. Roy has not one but two complete HF stations in his shack. This could be explained when you consider that Leslie also has her license, but there is

N8YYS -- ROY MAULL

only one chair at the operating position. Looking at the picture of the shack, the station nearest Roy, which he calls the secondary station, has a nice Icom 735 transceiver and speaker. Right above the 735 is a Hal ST-8000 digital modem. I guess these can just about be considered the Cadillac of digital modems. (Our tax dollars has bought two of these) On the top shelf is a Ten-Tec 2 KW antenna tuner. To help keep the tuner from vibrating off the shelf Roy has a Kenwood TR-9000 all mode 2-meter transceiver sitting on it. Since Roy is a computer minded person, naturally the Secondary station has to have it's own computer. It uses the monitor on the right. If the pictures copy with enough detail, you may notice a hand (CW) key screwed to the leg of the bench. This puzzled me and I had to ask: "What is a key doing in that position?" The answer: "That's my knee switch" He needed a foot switch and not having one used the key instead.

To the left and pretty well out of the picture is the main station. It has a Kenwood FTS-850 which has just returned from the repair shop. It is real pretty rig but the display is a little too small for this OT to read. Hi. The next box up is the second Hal ST-8000, an MFJ 300 watt tuner which probably gets little use since the Kenwood has a built in auto tuner. On the wall is an auto tuner that was used when Roy had a sail boat. He intends to use it with the secondary station, at least until a KW amp comes along. It should be noted that the station is in a temporary (trial) position to see how it works out, before a permanent console is made.

It was a rainy day, so getting a good picture of the antennas was a little tough. On the 25G tower is a home brew (from a CB antenna) 10 meter 5 element yagi with a 2 meter Quagi above that. On the fat military mast is a TH7-DX tri-bander. Roy has constructed a rotor,

MINUTES March 9, 1998

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Bonanza Restaurant. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by the president, Paul KB8QPY. The 50/50 drawing of \$9.00 was won by Jerry KB8PZR. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

OLD BUSINESS:

Report was made on the ham class. One student showed up at the first upgrade class and has not been there since, so the upgrade class was canceled. There have been 8 to 10 attending the Novice/Tech class. Most are also studying CW.

There was no progress reported on the club equipment inventory.

Paul KB8QPY has ordered a form to apply for the club vanity call. John W8WEJ will help him with this application.

Jep K8BOT reported on the .970 repeater. There

have been several repairs and fine tuning done this past month and it is working much better now. There is still some work to be done.

Curt K8UC asked about the status of the 440 repeater project. There was no progress report since Tim KB8EHT was working on it and he is no longer in this area.

NEW BUSINESS:

Curt K8UC moved and John N8NBL seconded that the annual ARRL service report be ignored, since there did not seem to be any purpose in it.

Ryan Sarvis KC8IOG submitted an application for club membership. John W8WEJ moved and Lydia AA8UL seconded that it be accepted. Motion carried.

There was more discussion on the disposition of the "Now You're Talking" books.

Jerry KA8NJW reported that the club copier is broken and the newslet-

ters may be late this month. Also the new-membership rosters can not be run.

John W8WEJ moved and Jep K8BOT seconded that we adjourn at 7:50 pm.

Ray Bodie N8TWW, secretary

VANITY FEE COULD DROP DRASTICALLY

The fee to obtain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign would drop drastically under the FCC's proposed fiscal year 1998 fee schedule. If adopted, the new fee will be \$12.90 for the ten-year term, payable at the time of application for a new, renewal or reinstated license.

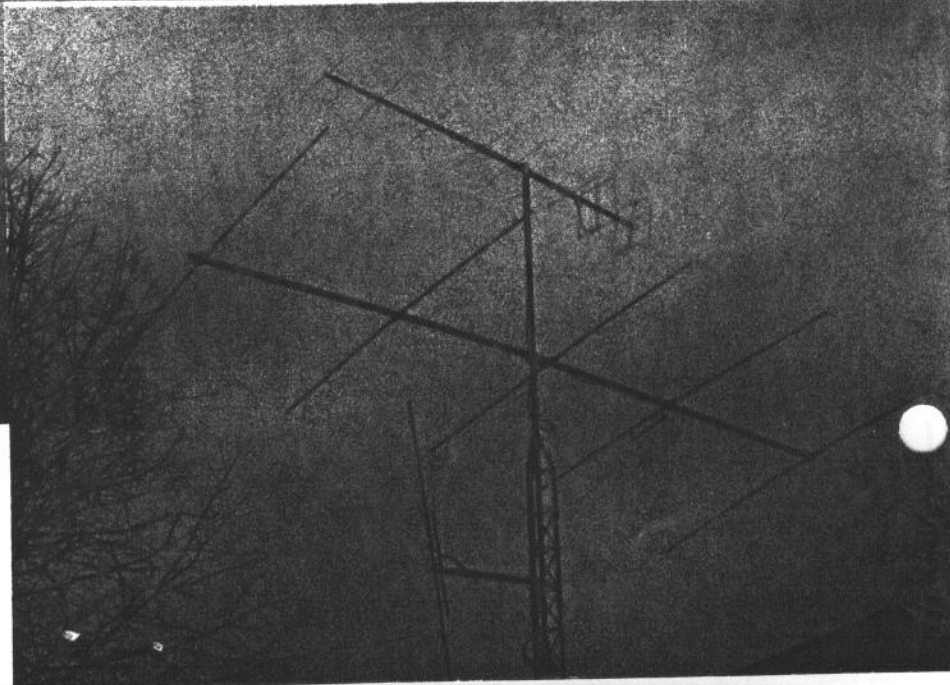
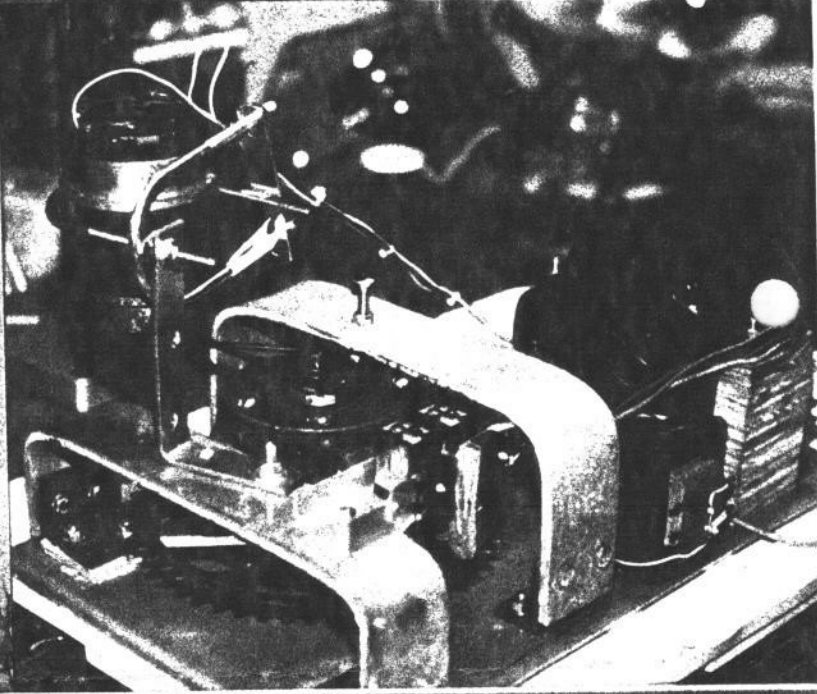
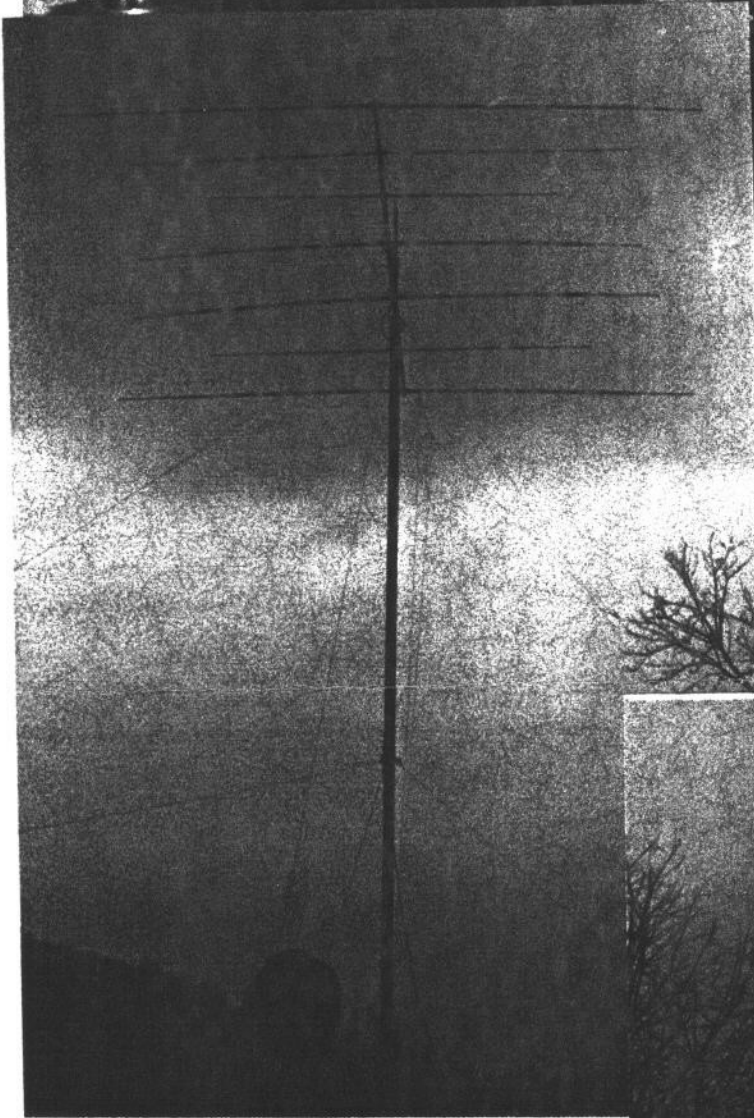
The new fee is contained in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MD Docket 8-36, Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 1998, released March 25.

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← THE SHACK

THE ROTOR ↓



TH7-DX @ 50' ↑

10 AND 2 METERS →

N8YYS continued

pictured, that turns the entire mast. Note, in the picture of the rotor, a surplus military selsyn which drives one in the shack to indicate the direction. Yes, that is a bicycle sprocket which chains to a similar one on the mast, a bread pan lid probably from the kitchen, a gear motor possibly from the washing machine, plus a few parts from someone's Toyota, and a few scraps from Poor John's (McGuffy) Wrecker Service.

I asked Roy when he first got interested in Ham radio. He told about a station that they had in his high school in Missouri and their trials and tribulations. No license was obtained but the interest was kindled. Recently Roy got the hance to get the equipment from the old school station. For years our club has held licensing classes. Roy saw the advertising for the 1993 classes, attended, and got his first license at that time. A lot of good words were said about the fine job K8OWL done teaching the

classes.

Roy's interests include contesting, Mars, DX, etc. and not necessarily in that order. There are pros and cons about contesting, but one thing that I have noticed, hams with more than just a passing interest in contesting are always looking for ways to improve their stations. Some of those who are inclined to bad mouth contesting, a look at their stations will explain why! In my opinion, Roy has the best station in Boaz. I could probably include a lot larger area but at the chance of offending other members. Hi. As you drive South through Boaz on Route 14 look toward where the old grist mill used to be. (The mill was just a little North of the old concrete bridge that has just recently been removed.) Notice what a nice job of assembly was done on the tri-bander.

Keep in mind that Roy is a computer whiz-

bang, and a good resource for us computer illiterates. Also, from listening to 97 I would guess that visitors to the shack are always welcome. If you stop, I bet you enjoy the visit.

Please see the photos this issue. TNX to Curt for a fine job. KA8NJW

FEES Cont. from Pg. 3

The current vanity call sign fee is \$50 for the ten-year term. The FCC says it has no plans to refund the difference between the current fee and the new fee for applicants who submit applications before implementation of the FY 1998 fee schedule.

The FCC has calculated the new fee based on an expected 10,000 applicants during FY 1998. The FCC says it will announce the effective date for the new fee either in the Report and Order that terminates the fee schedule rulemaking proposal or by a public notice.

AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION BILL INTRODUCED!

At the request of the ARRL, a bill has been introduced in Congress to ensure the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. The bill, HR 3572, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998, would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere.

The bill was introduced March 27 by Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida, a Republican, with the cosponsorship of Rep Ron Klink of Pennsylvania, a Democrat. If approved, the measure would amend

Section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934 to preclude reallocation of any primary Amateur Radio allocations or diminution of any secondary allocations, and would block any additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to Amateur Radio, unless the Commission at the same time provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" to the Amateur Service. The bill points out that a basic purpose of Amateur Radio is to provide "voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly emergency communications," and that Amateur Radio has "consistently and reliably"

provided emergency communication during and after disasters. The measure notes that the FCC has "taken actions which have resulted in the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs."

HR 3572 has been referred to the House Commerce Committee. An effort is under way to enlist additional cosponsors for the measure. Amateurs are encouraged to contact their Representatives and urge them to support the bill or to sign on as cosponsors. The full text of the bill is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c105:H.R.3572>:

(articles from ARRL Letter # 12, 14,& 17)

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