

Four States Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Number 2

Published Monthly by FSARC

February 1989

From the President....

By Pat Bell, WA5UAG

1989 is off to a great start for the 4 States Amateur Radio Club. The novice classes, now in progress, are being well attended, the January testing session had one of the largest turnouts that I can recall and the business meeting was well attended. This year has started strong and to finish even stronger is going to require that all the members take an active part. Realizing that not all hams enjoy the same things we have appointed several committee chairmen for various projects and events. The committees are listed in another section of the newsletter. Pick out the events and activities that you would enjoy, call the chairman, and sign up to be an active participant. It is very important that you return the questionnaires that were included in the last newsletter. This is the best way that events and activities can be planned that will interest all of us. We finally have the acceptance from the A.R.R.L. for Affiliated Club Status. The benefits to our club are numerous and are outlined in another section of the newsletter. I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

EDITORS NOTES....

By Travis Bailey, K5AVH

As you know I wasn't planning to publish another newsletter this soon but the questionnaires which I have received so far indicate that you want it monthly, so from now on I will try to have one ready to mail the week after the business meeting each month. I certainly appreciate the information that many of you have sent me which can be used in the newsletter. This input is what will make the letter worthwhile. Please keep sending it. Another suggestion which I received was to accept want ads for a nominal fee. The fee

charged would be used to offset part of the additional mailing cost of the monthly newsletter. I have included a want ad section in this newsletter. Please get your ads to me by the First Saturday of each month and they will be included in that month's issue. For those of you who are interested in computers, I have found a super Desktop Publishing program for IBM compatibles, called PFS-First Publisher. This newsletter is done completely with PFS. It is easy to use and does text, graphics, and page layout all within the program. PFS supports many dot matrix printers and Laser printers, and its reasonably priced. If you are interested in this kind of software, you should take a look at PFS-First Publisher. One last thought... I needed to contact Kenwood the other day to check on a parts order and found that I could not find any telephone numbers in any of their ads or literature. Here are 3 numbers that you might want to keep handy if you need to contact Kenwood. Switchboard (213) 639-9000 Customer Service (213) 639-7140 Parts (213) 639-4200

PACKET TALK.....

By Hal Clark, KF5YD

I am now in the process of trying to get a packet committee organized. If you would like to get involved please contact me. There are a number of projects that we need to start seriously thinking about. One is the existing antenna on the tower at the hospital. The materials have already been purchased to support the mast and secure it better to the tower. All we need now is to find a time when we have good weather and plenty of help. We will also try raising the antenna by another 20 feet or so at that time. Another project will be

to try to find another tower site for a second digi. If we are successful the new site would become the .01 digi and the hospital site would become the .07 digi for local use. If anyone has any ideas on another tower site please let me know. I am also thinking about having regular Packet meetings on a monthly basis. These meetings would be geared to an exchange of information and would offer help for those who are just getting into packet. The first meeting will be on the 3rd Thursday of March at 7pm at the Wadley Hospital cafeteria.

Business Meeting....

The monthly business meeting of the FSARC was held Saturday February 11th at Wadley Hospital. The meeting was called to order by Pat Bell, President and the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Bill reported that the club has \$1345.55 in the bank and that there are currently 44 paid members. Pat then asked each committee head to give a report on recent activities of their committees which were as follows: Cap said that Novice classes were going well and he expected 6 people to finish the class. He also asked for suggestions for programs which could be presented at future meetings. Dick reported that several sites are being considered for field day, but a final decision has not been made yet. Wes said that since we are having increasing numbers of applicants at the VE testing sessions, he is planning some changes to insure that the testing sessions are well organized. He also advised that the coax for the antenna on the Bi-State Justice Building is on site and the building maintenance personnel will run the coax from the antenna site to the basement. The antenna for the building has been selected and will be ordered this week. Dave said that the weekly 2 meter net is going well and he is having an average of 15 checkins each week. He invited all members to check in regularly. Pat announced that the long awaited ARRL approval for club affiliation has been received. He spent a few minutes going over some of the benefits available to FSARC. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Dave Hall Shows Bi-State Communications Center

After the regular club meeting on Saturday, February 11, Dave Hall, Bowie County Emergency Coordinator, invited those members interested in emergency communications to come to the Bi-State Justice Building for a look at the area from which all area-wide communications will be handled in time of emergency. About 8 members attended, and Dave showed and explained some of the things that would be done if an emergency arises. He pointed out the area where the FSARC Club 2 Meter rig is set up, and said that it could play a vital part in the total communications plan in times of emergency or bad weather. He also took the group on a tour of the communications center on the third floor, which is where all communications for the city and county originate. We were shown what happens when a 911 call comes in, how that information gets to the dispatchers, and how it is all finally communicated to the proper police, sheriff, fire or ambulance unit. We were also shown the computer equipment that controls the communications, and recording equipment that monitors all communications. It was a most interesting and informative tour.

VE NOTES.....

The first VE testing session of 1989 was held on January 21. Fourteen tests were given and certificates for the following license or upgrades were issued:

Novice

Brett Bryski
Harold Pearson

Technician

Clayton Friend Jr.
Kenneth Burke

Advanced

Carl Goree
Mike Robinson
Pat Bell

Congratulations to each of the above. Next local VE Testing session will be on March 18.

REDUCING VCR TVI.....

By Chuck W7MAP

Reprinted from SWOT Bulletin #137

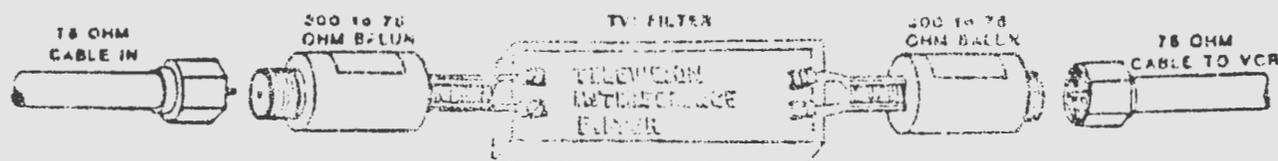
Many of us are concerned about TVI. A particularly troublesome form of TVI is that which finds its way into home VCR's. After three early withdrawals from contests, I resolved to do something about my VCR interference, and hopefully find a solution that would keep both my kids and neighbors happy. After five or six false starts, I discovered that most of the RFI was getting into my VCR from the shield on the 75 ohm coax. Most newer homes are wired for cable (as was mine), and the three or four hundred feet of shielding makes a wonderful antenna. To test for this kind of interference, simply remove the antenna connection from the VCR and (with a tape playing) gradually put more power into your antenna system. In my case, if the cable distribution from my house was connected to the VCR, I had no interference while watching normal TV, but found that the picture was destroyed during record and playback. In my neighbor's case, I destroyed regular TV as well as VCR recording and playback with any power level above 100 watts. I also discovered that if I disconnected the cable system, I could run any power level and watch VCR tapes. I first tried to get the RFI off the shield by using all of the published methods, i.e., ferrite, hi-pass filters, grounding, etc. etc. Nothing worked, until one day I figured that in a BALANCED system, both leads could be filtered. To accomplish this, I used two Radio Shack coax to 300 ohm baluns, and six dollar balanced TVI filter. To use the set-up, simply hook the balun to filter to balun and place it into the line in front of the VCR (see the diagram which follows). The results are very gratifying. ;I can run full legal power and simultaneously playback or record tapes on the VCR, in addition to watching regular TV. Somewhat more gratifying is the fact that my neighbor with the VCR hasn't had ANY interference after installing the same

configuration. TVI can take a lot of the fun out of our hobby and cause a lot of bad publicity. I hope this simple, inexpensive remedy helps some of you put the fun back in contest weekends.

TALE OF THE GHOST KEY.....

Written by Dick Curtis, W5NEU after a recent 80 meter CW QSO with K4KP.

The evening seemed no different than any other as Hack VanHooser, K4KP of Chattanooga slid beneath the bed covers for a restful night's sleep. Many things went through his mind as thoughts of his latest project flashed before him- how he had mounted three of the four prong tube bases on the freshly shellacked wood base with the masonite front panel. and then added the vernier dial, tuning capacitor, and rheostat regeneration control. This was to be his prize-winning 40 meter CW station receiver for the radio club antique show in April. The sound of the crickets and other outdoor murmur of noise lulled him to sleep. It was about 2 am when suddenly Hack sat upright wide awake. It was not a dream. It was the sound of CW coming from the hallway leading to his radio room. How could this be? He distinctly remembered turning off the receiver and transmitter, and yet there it was, "dah dah dah di dah di di". First slowly, then fast as he could Hack sprinted down the hallway. Bursting through the open doorway, he spotted his newly acquired electronic keyer. It was sending CW all by itself as if it were a player piano with a programmed paper roll! He quickly jerked the plug from the AC wall outlet. With this action the keyer became quiet after sending one last "dah". Returning to bed chuckling, Hack remembered how he had attempted to use the keyer on several occasions during the last



month, and after a while of sending CW, the thing would make dots and dashes not ordered by his finger action. Becoming frustrated, Hack had put the keyer back on the shelf each time. This evening, however, he had decided to give it another try. Several days later, after removing the bottom cover plate from the keyer, Hack could see a loose wire and a glob of solder near a terminal strip. Ah Ha! After the necessary repairs were made, Hack is back on the CW bands using his bug, handkey, and maybe even a sideswiper, but NEVER the Ghost Keyer.

FSARC Can Earn Dollars When you Join ARRL or Renew Your Membership

As you probably know by now, FSARC is an ARRL Affiliated Club. One of the first benefits that the club can derive from this affiliation is a commission that ARRL will pay our club for all new ARRL members and all ARRL membership renewals. Here is how it works. For those of you who are already members of ARRL, when you receive your renewal notice, make your check payable to Four States Amateur Radio Club instead of the ARRL and send your renewal notice and check to Bill Miller at the address listed at the end of this letter. He will process these renewals for the club and forward them to the ARRL. If you are not presently an ARRL member and desire to join ARRL, please ask Pat, Travis or Bill for an ARRL membership application. This application has a place for us to put in our club number so that we can receive the commission. You should send your new member application along with your check directly to ARRL. ARRL will pay us \$2.00 for each renewal and \$5.00 for each new member. This is a great benefit for the club, so please remember to join ARRL or renew your membership through FSARC.

For Sale: CM5 Tandy Color Monitor, like new in box, \$175.00. Bearcat Automatic Scanner \$70.00. Malcolm, KF5JX 773-9130

This space will be available each month for want ads. The deadline for ads will be the first Saturday of each month and cost is \$1.00 per ad. Send all ads to Travis Bailey, 1206 Canadian, Texarkana, Tx 75503.

Who to Contact...

Official Club Business

Pat Bell, WA5UAG 793-3677
4102 Potomac Texarkana, Tx 75503

Skywarn

Al Parsons, KA5LPJ 832-2421
14 Pinewood Drive Texarkana, Tx 75501

Flea Market

Malcolm Bussey, KF5JX 773-9130
Rt 10 Box 327A Texarkana, Ar 75502

Packet

Hal Clark, KF5YO 772-8742
Rt 10 Box 407 Texarkana, Ar 75502

Newsletter

Travis Bailey K5AVH 792-2080
1206 Canadian Texarkana, Tx 75503

Instructional Classes

Richard Capplinger, WA5APY 832-1410
24 Tulip Drive Texarkana, Tx 75501

Field Day

Dick Curtis, W5NEU 838-6028
127 Lakeshore Dr. Texarkana, Tx 75501

Activities

Don Lynch, N5DZ 838-4155
2802 Chelf Road Texarkana, Tx 75501

VE Testing

Wes Bolin, WV5I 838-0568
3210 Pleasant Grove Rd. Texarkana, Tx

Dues, Address Changes, ARRL Renewals

Bill Miller, WDSHJF 772-2412
18 Highland Hills Texarkana, Ar 75502



FSARC Net Meets each Tuesday at 8 pm on 146.62 Everyone is invited to check in. Net control is **DAYE NSMTO**.

FSARC Traders Net meets right after the Regular net on Tuesday nights. Net Control is **"CAP" WA5APY**. This net is for buying, selling, or trading amateur or computer related equipment and /or parts. All check in's are welcome.

FSARC Club Meetings are Held **each Saturday morning at 9am** in the rear of the Cafeteria at Wadley hospital. Members and vistors are welcome. **Business meetings** are held on the **2nd Saturday** of each month.

Packet Meetings will be held on the **Third Thursday of each month** at 7pm in the cafeteria at Wadley Hospital. Those interested in Packet are urged to attend.

VE Test will be given on **Saturday March 18 at 9am**. Meet in the Cafeteria at Wadley Hospital to find out which class room will be used. All tests Novice thru Extra will be given.

Skywarn Personal for February and March are:

	Primary	Alternate
February	WD5HJF	KASIQB
March	NSMTO	WSNEU

FSARC CLUB DUES are now payable for 1989.

Basic Membership	\$ 5.00
Basic Membership & Repeater Support	\$15.00
Basic Membership/Repeater/Digipeater	\$20.00

Newsletter Want Ad Rates are \$1.00 per ad. No limit on words. Deadline for current months issue is the 1st Saturday of each month. Make all checks payable to FSARC.

