

Four States Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Number 12

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December 16, 1989

Officers

President

Pat Bell, KG5SC

Vice President

Wes Bolin, WV5I

Secretary

Travis Bailey, K5AVH

Treasurer

Bill Miller, WD5HJF

Directors

Wes Bolin, WV5I

Jack Goodson, KA5IQB

Dan Griffin, W5LTQ

Don Lynch, N5DZ

Committees

Activities

Don Lynch, N5DZ 838-4155

Field Day/Flea Market

Dick Curtis, W5NEU 838-6028

Malcolm Bussey, KF5JX 773-9130

Instructional Classes

"Cap"Caplinger, WA5APY 832-1410

Newsletter

Travis Bailey, K5AVH 792-2080

Digital

Hal Clark, KF5YO 772-8742

Skywarn

Al Parsons, KA5LPJ 832-2421

VE Testing

Wes Bolin, WV5I 838-0568

Club meetings are held each Sat. Morning at 9am in the rear of the cafeteria on the 2nd floor of Wadley Hospital. Visitors are welcome.

Business meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the same time and location.

Articles for the newsletter must be submitted to the editor no later than the first Saturday of each month.

From The President

Pat, KG5SC

I want to thank all the club members that helped make 1989 a very good year for the Four States Amateur Radio Club. We had a lot of fun and many new activities.

The planning meeting that was held on December 7 produced a 1990 schedule that can make it the best year ever. These activities will be outlined in the January newsletter.

I encourage each member to look over the planned activities and make plans to join in.

I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Technical Talk

Yes, WV5I

WATCH OUT FOR HIGH VOLTAGE IN YOUR VACUUM TUBE AMPLIFIERS, WHETHER IN THE TRANSCEIVER OR IN THE AMPLIFIER CHASSIS. IT CAN KILL, AND IT MAY NOT GIVE YOU A SECOND CHANCE.

FIRST THING TO DO WHEN WORKING IN A HIGH VOLTAGE SECTION OF ANY EQUIPMENT IS TO READ THE SERVICE MANUAL AND LOOK AT THE SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM. IF YOU CAN'T DO THESE THINGS, ITS BETTER TO STAY OUT OF IT. NOWADAYS MANUFACTURERS ARE CHEAP (PROFIT MOTIVATED) AND THEY CUT CORNERS.

TWO EXAMPLES ARE IN MY USED HALLICRAFTERS LOUDENBOOMER WITH A SINGLE 3-400Z TUBE:

1. THE BLEEDER RESISTORS ARE THE SERIES CAPACITOR VOLTAGE EQUALIZING RESISTORS, AND THEY WERE ONLY TWO WATT UNITS AT 1.5 MEG OHMS EACH. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO DISCHARGE 3000VOLTS INTO $8 \times 150 = 1200$ MEG OHMS?

BY THE WAY, THE DYNAMIC REGULATION WAS

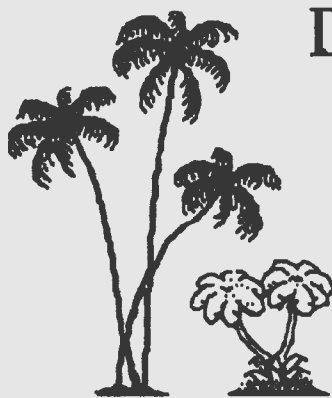
IMPROVED BY USING THE TUBE'S IDLING CURRENT AS THE BLEEDER CURRENT, BUT NORMAL PROCEDURES ARE TO SHUT OFF HIGH VOLTAGE, AND THEN SHUT OFF FILAMENNT VOLTAGE.

2. A FUSE WAS USED IN THE HV LINE TO PROTECT THE TUBE FROM OVERCURRENT, BUT IF THE FUSE BLEW THE VOLTAGE WOULD STILL BE ON THE POWER SUPPLY SIDE OF THE FUSE.

I SHORTED THE HV TO GROUND, AS IS MY HABIT, BEFORE WORKING ON THE SUPPLY. IT BLEW OUT THE FUSE, WHICH I DIDN'T NOTICE, AND STILL LEFT HUNDREDS OF VOLTS ON THE CAPACITORS WITH THEIR INFINITELY SLOW DISCHARGE. WELL, I WAS READY TO FIRE IT BACK UP AND THEN FOUND THE FUSE WAS BAD. SINCE I HAD ALREADY DISCHARGED THE CAPACITORS, I SIMPLY REACHED INSIDE TO REMOVE THE BAD FUSE. POW. A BIG FLASH, AN INVOLUNTARY JERK BACKWARDS OF MY ARM, AND THE SMELL OF BURNED SKIN.

I WAS LUCKY. ONLY THEN DID I TAKE THE TIME TO INSTALL 25K/25W RESISTORS ACROSS EACH CAPACITOR, AND REMEMBER TO DISCHARGE IT ON THE POWER SUPPLY SIDE OF THE FUSE, NOT THE AMPLIFIER SIDE.

BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL OF HOME BREW EQUIPMENT. IF IT IS NOT DOCUMENTED, LOOK AT THE COMPONENT LAYOUT AND MAKE YOUR OWN SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM. YOU JUST CANNOT BE TOO SAFE AND PREPARED.



DXing

Pat, KG5SC

What activity is frustrating, rewarding, irritating, satisfying, humbling, invigorating, maddening and calming all rolled into one.

To my mind it is DXing. I have just discovered DX and I heartedly recommend it. With the

bands being in such good shape I believe you will be amazed at what you can work. I am hearing countries now that I could only dream about in the past.

In future issues I will make a feeble attempt to

pass along some of the information that I have learned to maybe make it a little for the first timers to get started. There are several members of the club that are much better at DXing and I will try to pick their brain when I can.

Until next month, listen around sunset around 28.5 MHz daily. You can work Japan, China, and the far east at that time. Early mornings are good for Europe and the Mediterranean.

Good DX

FSARC Balance Sheet

Receipts	November	Y-T-D
Membership Dues	\$51.00	\$756.75
Donations	-	-
VE Testing	14.25	48.50
Book Sales	57.00	192.00
Field Day	-	-
Chili Supper	-	-
Special Events	-	-
Fund Raising	-	-
ARRL Dues	120.00	411.00
Flower Fund	-	-
Total Receipts:	\$242.25	\$1,445.25

Disbursements	November	Y-T-D
VE Testing	-	-
Books	\$198.50	\$198.50
Office Supplies	-	-
Repeater Maint. .62	-	-
Repeater Maint. .12	-	-
Telephone	19.31	212.00
Field Day Expenses	-	264.72
News Letter	-	190.00
Chili Supper	-	-
Bank Charges	-	-
Flower Fund	-	61.74
Digipeater	-	358.30
ARRL Dues	94.00	343.00
Insurance	-	168.00
Misc.	* 250.00	376.04
Total Disburs.	\$561.81	\$1,796.26

* Radio & Power Supply for BJC Building
 Bank balance as of 10-31-89 \$559.16
 Add Receipts over
 Disbursements-November \$(319.56)
 =====
Ending Balance 11-30-89 \$239.60

Digital Talk

Hal, KF5YO

Looks like Mena is going to again be a dependable digipeater.

The Fort Smith group is planning on putting up two beams back to back facing north and south with donations collected from the Hams in the Texarkana and Shreveport area. If anyone would like to help with this project or future digipeater projects let me know.

Instead of having a digital meeting every third Thursday of the month we will be calling a packet net every Thursday night at 8:30. It was decided that we could get more involvement if everyone turned their tnc's on at 8:30 to see what was going on in the world of packet while in the comfort of their homes. Any major issues will at that time be brought up on the 7.12 machine. For all those that haven't been on packet much, now is your chance to see a lot of activity.

Attention all PK-232 users with the new mailbox update. There has been several reports of the PK-232 locking up while in the mailbox mode. Take time to check it out to make sure yours does not do this.

At this time I am asking for volunteers to be on the digital committee to help with the planning of events throughout the year. Please let me know if you would like to help make 1990 even a better year than 1989 was.

I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of checkins on the screen next Thursday night at 8:30. Happy packeting...

For Sale

RG-213U	Coax	.45/ft
RG-58AU	Coax	.20/ft
8 Wire	Rotor Cable	.20/ft.
1/4 Wave 2m Mobile Antenna		\$22.00
Ves, VV5I 838-0568		

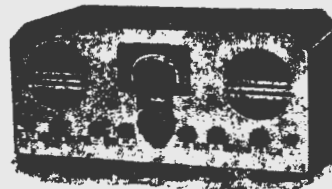
I found this interesting ad in a March 1938 QST which I recently acquired.

MIMS

GIVES

SOUTHERN HAMS
THE SERVICE THEY LIKE

Get Your



ACR-155

New Low Price!

Here is a buy you cannot afford to pass up — 9 tubes, one stage r-f, high-ratio tuning with oversized knob, separate calibration-spread dial, built-in speaker, all controls on front panel, 550-22,000 k.c., two-tone gray cabinet that is easy on the eyes! A real amateur communication receiver at the unbelievable new net cost to you, **\$44.50** ready for operation

All National and RME and other Helicopters receivers also in stock

THORDARSON TRANSFORMERS

Thor. 16P00. 650/500 @ 200 ma.	\$3.88
Thor. 16P01. 1250/1000 @ 300 ma.	7.64
Thor. 16P02. 1250/1000 @ 500 ma.	12.35
Thor. 16F10. 866 Fil. Tr.	1.62
Thor. 16C20. 5/20 hy. ck. 200 ma.	2.20
Thor. 16C21. 5/20 hy. ck. 300 ma.	2.94
Thor. 16C22. 5/20 hy. ck. 500 ma.	5.28
Thor. 16C25. 12 hy. 200 ma.	2.20
Thor. 16C26. 12 hy. 300 ma.	2.94
Thor. 16C27. 12 hy. 500 ma.	5.28

Ask us for the QRA of the nearest SIGNAL SQUIRTER owner — so that you can visit him and see for yourself how to "Put Your Signal Where You Want It When You Want It There."

NEW TAYLOR TUBES!

T40	\$3.50
TZ40	3.50

Also other Taylor Tubes in Stock

We also carry complete line of RCA TUBES, Ward Leonard antenna change-over relays \$5.88, Coto Coils, special crystals complete in holder for \$2.65 for any band down through 40. We have everything for the Southern amateur.

MIMS

RADIO COMPANY

P. O. BOX 504, TEXARKANA, ARK.

Editors Comment

Since this is the last newsletter for 1989 I would like to thank all those who have helped by contributing news and information this year, especially Pat and Hal who have contributed something each month during the year. I know it is hard to come up with something every month but this input is what makes for a well rounded newsletter, so I encourage each of you to get involved and submit items or news whenever possible. I prefer a 5-1/4" IBM compatible disk in ASCII format because it saves lots of retyping and chance of error, but I am also glad to get handwritten, typewritten, or verbal news as well. Also, don't forget to give me any ads for equipment you might want to buy, sell, or trade. Deadline for any of this is the Saturday Business Meeting each month.

I have enjoyed doing the newsletter this year and I welcome your comments and suggestions so that I can try to make it even better in 1990.

One last note, don't forget that it is time to pay your 1990 FSARC dues. The planning board really has a great year planned for 1990 and we need to get dues in early this year if we are to be able to accomplish all our plans for 1990.

Bill is updating the club data base so please fill out the renewal application completely and send it to him, along with your dues as soon as possible. We will publish a new updated roster soon after the first of the year.

Happy Holidays!



FSARC Membership Renewal

Date _____

Call _____ Class of License _____

Name _____

Spouses First Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ Work _____

Your Birth Date _____

Annual Membership Dues

Basic Membership	\$5.00
Basic Plus Repeater Support	\$15.00
Basic /Repeater/Digipeater	\$20.00
Other Licensed Family Members	\$ 1.00

Dues are payable in December and January of each year, or in the case of new members, pro-rated for the year. Make checks payable to: Four States Amateur Radio Club and send to:

Bill Miller, WD5HJF
18 Highland Hills
Texarkana, Ar. 75502

Net Control

Dave, N5MTD

Well, I don't have much to report on as far as NET control report goes, haven't been able to do it lately. That happens from time to time. Thanks go out to KG5ZJ (CAP) for covering for me.

The following is from a regular contact of mine.. Ed Lee of Fresno California. KB6JQK. Enjoy....

WIRE ANTENNA LOVERS EVERYWHERE:
W.A.L.E.S. lives. The natural superiority of simple wire antennae has been common knowledge for decades, dating way back to when Marconi strung the famous aerial at Poldu (he also strung a 'Ben Franklin' kite aerial in New Foundland for receiving the initial signal - he called it the 'Flying Antenna'). Perhaps some of us have never heard of WALES (Wire Antenna Lovers Every-where Society).

There is constant, rapid, grass-roots growth, and a banding together of world-wide WALEers, all gaining ground and flourishing. Quite simply, we are so inundated with wire antennae terminologies that it is little wonder there is so much confusion (hence WALES)- ZEPP, Marconi, doublet, cage, bazooka, windom, folded dipole, inverted 'V', sky wire, Beveridge, G5RV (that one sounds like a 'Star Wars' robot), sloper, etc. But now, thanks to WALES and the dissemination of information, at long last we can all learn the real true inner secrets of wire antennae; find out what really makes them tick; discover their superiority over expensive and superfluous beam elements and directional rotators; learn how to be 'wire-antenna-cheap.'

Yep...thanks to WALES, we can get to the real heart of the matter as seen below (these titles should appeal to the uninitiated and worldly-wise ham op alike):

HOW TO GET MORE FROM YOUR COAT HANGER AND OTHER ASSORTED OBJECTS
THE PASSING (OUT) OF OM ANTENNAE FARMS (planned obsolescence - contact WALES for additional info)

NEIGHBORHOOD COMPATIBILITY WITH BARBED WIRE ANTENNAE

STARTLING WIRE DISCOVERIES THAT WOULD SHOCK BILL ORR

ESPALIERING OPEN WIRE LADDER LINE TO YOUR SHACK WALL WITH THUMB TACKS (WARNING - installing the tacks while transmitting could be injurious to your health)

LESS LOSS WITH LOSS-LESS LINE

WET NOODLE AND DRY MARCONI MIX ON HF
2ND STORY CURTAIN ROD CORONAS vs
SELECTED TYPES OF DRAPE FIRES

(see also new book about to be published entitled "Overloading Apartment-sized Curtain Rods")

Additional titles are available upon request.

Business Meeting

There were 25 members present for the December business meeting which was held on December 9th at Wadley Cafeteria.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as printed in the November newsletter and the treasurer's report was approved.

We announced a December 16 VE Test Session to be held at 9am in the Wadley Hospital Classroom area.

Al said he hoped to get a representative from the National Weather Service in Shreveport for a Skyward Seminar soon.

Hal reported on a new Packet net to be held each Thursday night and said that the Mena Digi would soon be improved by the Ft. Smith Digi group with contributions from Txx and Shv.

Dave said he needs volunteers to help with the Tuesday .62 Net after the first of the year.

Pat reported on the December 7th Board Meeting and Planning session. He briefly told of the dates of the activities planned for 1990 and said that more details will be given at future meetings and in the coming issues of the Newsletter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20.



Four States Amateur Radio Club

Calendar

FSARC 2m Net (146.62)

Lunch

Digital Net (145.01 Packet)

V.E. Testing

Each Tuesday 8pm (Swap Net Follows)

Each Wednesday 12 noon Mr. Gatti's State Line

Each Thursday Night 8:30pm

Saturday December 16 9am Wadley Hospital Cafeteria

Skywarn

December

January

Hal, KF5YO

Wimpy, KG5XF

Wes, WV5I

Al, KA5LPJ

**David, KB5E0Y advises that a new repeater has been activated in El Dorado, Ar.
It is on 145.35-**

Four States Amateur Radio Club
18 Highland Hills
Texarkana, Ar. 75502

First Class Mail

