



Four States Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Number 19

Published Monthly by FSARC

July 21, 1990

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Activities

Camping - Bill Brakeen, WB5CTX

Transmitter Hunts- Bill, WD5HJF

Field Day

Dick Curtis, W5NEU

Instructional Classes

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Newsletter

Travis Bailey, K5AVH

Digital

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VE Testing

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Wimpy Johnson, KG5XF

Flea Market

Wimpy Johnson, KG5XF

R.H. "Cap" Caplinger, KG5ZJ

Nets

.62 Net Dave Woisard, N5MTO

Swap Net Cap Caplinger, KG5ZJ

Digital Hal Clark, KF5YO

Display Booth

Carl Goree, KG5RX

Membership Chairman

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From The President

Pat, KG5SC

Many thanks to all the club members that made the Field Day outing a rousing success. I missed the fish fry but really enjoyed myself once I got there.

I have heard several suggestions concerning next years Field Day that I think will make it even better. One of the suggestions was to limit ourselves to only 1 transmitter and assign 2 man shifts to work it during the whole contest to see what kind of score we could accumulate. By working in shifts we could involve all the club members.

Someone else suggested that we operate on battery power for the 1 station and set the station up far enough away from the other activities that there would not be any interference or social QRM.

These are great suggestions and I would encourage all the members to submit their ideas on how to improve Field Day.

Business Meeting

The FSARC July Business Meeting was held at the Wadley Hospital Cafeteria Saturday July 14.

Pat called the meeting to order at 9am. The minutes from the June meeting were read and approved. The treasurers report showed a balance at the end of June of \$521.19. Bill said there are now 77 paid members. He said that the biggest expense for June was \$194.08 which was for the field day site and food. This was a little less than in past years because of donations that were collected for food on field day. Pat said that the site which we used this year for the Swap Meet has been reserved for next years Swap Meet which is scheduled for March 30, 1991.

Wes said that the next VE test session is scheduled for August 25th.

Pat announced that Robert, N5LTG, has been appointed publicity chairman for the club. He also said that plans are underway for a DX program to be presented by San, K5YY which would include dinner and a slide program presented by San covering one of

his past DX-peditions. The time and place will be announced when plans are completed. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Congratulations
to
Pat, KG5SC
who recently passed his EXTRA Test
We also welcome him as the newest
member of our local VE Team

DX-ing

Pat, KG5SC

The big news for the DX crowd is the possibility of Albania (ZA) being on the air. The pileup would be huge and would really test the metal of the operators. The operation if it comes off is supposed to be in July. The pileup will not be hard to spot. It will sound like a thunderstorm and tornado all rolled into one.

Another real goodie is 2K3EKY, Takelu, who has been heard on 21.212 about 12:30 UTC. Three of us have worked him so far.

The Western Carolines are on thru Annabelle using the call sign AH9A/KC6. This was a new one for me and the only KC6 I have ever heard. She has been checking into the 14.226.5 net most mornings around 10:00 to 11:00 UTC. 9M8MG was worked on 14.205 on June 28 at 13:42 UTC. Mickey, the operator, stated that there are only 4 active hams operating from 9M8.

ZS9A, Walvis Bay, checks into Snookies Net on 21.335 during the day.

Remember to check into 55 when chasing the DX. See you there.

Thanks
to
Dick, W5NEU
for
planning our Field Day 1990
and to
Carl, KG5RX
&
Bill, WD5HJF
for the GREAT Fish Fry

From the Editor

Travis, K5AVH

I received a letter from Don, K7AEJ on July 11. As most of you know, Don has been visiting in Germany and the surrounding countries this summer. In part, here is what he said:

"I had a nice boat ride. Was on the ship for 18 days. The ship sailed from Philadelphia to Copenhagen, Denmark with a load of coal for a steam plant in Copenhagen. The 1st week I was sick and stayed in a small village for 6 days. I got to Frankfurt on the train on the 19th of June. Went to see some German friends and they found me a room in this small village. My baggage was lost in Hamburg. That is where I changed trains from Copenhagen. The railroad finally came thru and located my baggage. The next Monday June 25, I went to Frankfurt and picked up my baggage and rented a VW and toured Southern Germany. Went to all the big cities, Munchen, Ulm, Augsburg.

I got a 30 day German permit to operate DL/K7AEJ. Can't find a place to rent for a couple of months, so the Germans won't give me a German call sign unless I have a permanent address where I can receive mail.

The rig I took, I gave to a German friend.

I'm on my way to France today, July 2. I had to turn in my VW and I rented an Opel. This is the car I am driving to Paris. While in Paris I will renew my FP8DK license for St. Pierre Island. All license in the French overseas islands are issued in Paris. It is good for a year and it costs about \$5.00 US. It will be good until August 1, 1991.

I am on 2 meters here in Germany. While on the boat I made a couple of contacts with Norway. Norway has open repeaters on 2 meters with a 600 Khz split. I made one contact with a Danish station using my handheld while still in international waters.

In Germany, the repeaters are on a 1750 tone bust. A person can get in if some one keys up the repeater first. This is the way I get into the German repeaters. I can operate in France, Luxemburg and several other countries surrounding Germany with my DL/K7AEJ call. France has odd ball repeater splits but there is lots of simplex operation in France as well as Germany.

I will be returning to the states sometime this month and should be back in Texakana about

July 22. I have no place to set up my station here in Germany on HF.

I am having a wonderful time and have taken about 100 slides and photos.

73 from DL land." Don, K7AEJ

Sounds like he should have a lot to show and tell when he gets back. Thanks for the letter Don.

King Hussein, George Bush Intercede for Handicapped

With the help of King Hussein/JY1 of Jordan and President Bush, Johnstown, Pa. amateur Tom McMillen/WB3HGW has obtained a dramatic reversal of FCC policy towards the handicapped. Effective immediately, amateurs with mental or physical handicaps can qualify for a complete waiver of the 13 and 20 wpm Morse code examinations required for upgrade to General, Advanced and Extra Class. Disabled applicants requiring five words-per-minute need only identify certain phrases or characters.

McMillen, a Technician Class license for 15 years, has epilepsy and is paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair. Though he is an active DXer and net control op--recently honored with a plaque for service to his local club (Hilltop Repeater Association)--WB3HGW has been unable to achieve his goal of upgrading to General Class. According to his doctor, McMillen's disability and the effects of medication have prevented him from raising his Morse code speed to the required 13 WPM, even after extended study and practice. In light of this difficulty, he asked the FCC last year to waive the code exam.

The FCC declined McMillen's request, in keeping with its longtime traditional policy that the requirements for amateur licenses are the same for everyone. He told us that at one point a FCC staff member advised him that the "...ARRL was against it," implying that changes in the policy would be hard to obtain. Another FCC official allegedly urged him not to "...rock the boat." The ARRL told McMillen in a letter that he should contact the Handi-Hams organization with assists handicapped amateurs.

Instead he wrote about his situation to Jordan's King Hussein, who holds the JY1 callsign recognized around the world. A Jordanian official replied sympathetically, and wrote that

the king had contacted President George Bush to request intervention on McMillen's behalf.

President Bush then referred Hussein's letter to the State Department, where officials responsible for Jordanian affairs reviewed the case together with members of the National Security Council staff. Last February, King Hussein himself wrote to WB3HGW, stating that Bush had replied that the government would try to help McMillen and others with similar disabilities.

Although Commission staff did not describe to us exactly how McMillen's case was handled, it appears that the State Department, or President Bush's office or both, contacted top leadership at the FCC, who then told Amateur Radio regulators to change their policy right away. On June 13, McMillen received a phone call from the FCC to tell him that his request for waiver of the 13 wpm requirement was granted. A letter of confirmation arrived soon after.

From the W5YI report July 1, 1990.

Lightning Got Me.....

Yes, W5I

We all dread it, and some of us have unfortunately experienced it, the horror of lightning in our shack. I had the second "direct" hit on my tower in 29 years of hamming about two weeks ago. It made a loud bang, and startled both Susan and me in the house. In fact, she saw an arc come out of the outlet next to her desk. We had several pieces of equipment knocked out: TV, copier, uhf rig, two 12vdc power supplies, antenna switch, rotor box, rig, answer machine, and linear amplifier. It didn't discriminate between ham gear and other electronics. I think the lightning hit my tower (80 ft with 20m beam and 90 ft with 10m beam), came down it toward ground, entered the 110vac line, and entered the shop and house wiring into the equipment. what can we do to prevent this loss of equipment operating time? Best thing is to unplug everything- including antenna feedline and ac power cords. Next best is to use protection: I have an Alpha-Delta switch with center ground position and it saved my scope and Omni 5. An ac line protector is a good investment too. At my repeater site with

a 500 ft tall tower, the lightning blew three ac protectors but kept the equipment safe and on the air. The coax line also had a lightning protector, and nothing was hurt on the rf side either. I now have an ac line protector installed on my line going to the ham gear (in case I'm not around when a storm comes up). The next thing I'm going to do is install a coaxial mounted lightning protector, similar to the kind at the repeater site, to protect my rig and accessories when I'm not around. The combined cost for this is about \$185.00, but it should last a very long time and its protecting many hundreds of dollars of equipment. I can recommend some good units to you if you want to do likewise.

It just hit home, the repeater site was protected and I sustained no loss in \$ (the ac protectors have a 2 year replacement

warranty for free), and in the shop I lost over \$3000.00 worth of equipment because of no protection. I do have insurance, but the deductible is out of my pocket, and the aggravation of dealing with everybody and getting beat out by SC and AVH in the pile-ups is enough to encourage me to spend the \$ to minimize the next strike. Incidentally, the first strike in Georgia didn't hurt my ham rig because it was a Hallicrafters SR-400 with vacuum tubes. And, in both cases, the tower was grounded well, an earth ground with multiple ground rods was very near the shack, and all equipment in the shack was bonded together to the earth ground, and all equipment was turned off. Remember, the ac line and antenna line protectors cost less than one insurance deductible, and they will work multiple times for you.

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First Class Mail