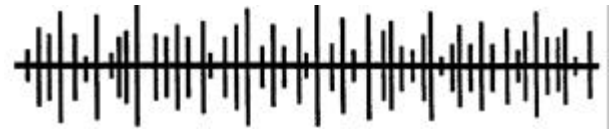


WHITE NOISE



Volume 10, Number 1

January, 98

Facsimile & SSTV History

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Smoke and drum signals are believed to have been the earliest form of getting messages from one place to another. We owe development of FAX to a Scottish inventor, Alexander Bain, who was granted a patent for his creation back in 1843. And even now, after the invention of computers and electronics, Bain's original concept is still the basis for modern facsimile machines.

A FAX machine scans an image, whether it be text or a photo, by reading a very small area of the image at a time. The FAX machine decides whether the area it is reading is light or dark and assigns the area a number such as "0" for white and "1" for dark. Then the FAX transmits the number to a remote facsimile receiver (usually via telephone lines). The receiver makes a mark on paper corresponding to the area on the original image.

This process continues as the transmitting machine scans a series of small areas horizontally across the image, and transmits that information to the remote receiver. The transmitting FAX then scans the next lower line and so on until the entire image has been scanned, digitized, and transmitted.

Facsimile telegraph is one of the oldest telegraph techniques.

1843, 33 years before telephone and morse (CW) was used, Alexander Bain introduced his "Bain's Telegraph".

1848 Frederick Bakewell's shellac conducting roller

1860 the first facsimile between Paris and Lion with Giovanni Caselli's facsimile "Pantelegraphe"

1903 Arthur Korn demonstrates the first photoelectric telephotography

1913 Edouard Belin's Belinograph

1922 the first transatlantic facsimile services was provided by RCA.

1925 AT&T wirephoto

1926 RCA radiophoto

1926 Rudolf Hell introduced the Hellschreiber.

1927 first Siemens-Karolus-Telefunken facsimile between Berlin and other European Cities

1947 Alexander Muirhead's FAX

1958 Copthorn MacDonald (WOORX) introduced SSTV (Slow-Scan Television)

1960 first SSTV test transmissions in the U.S.A.

1971 Ham operators starting with facsimile transmissions in Germany

1972 First SSTV transmissions in Germany

The first users of facsimile were newspapers to transmit and receive photos from around the world. The next user of facsimile were the weather services around the world.

While Queen Victoria never actually said, "I'll drop you a FAX," she might well have done so if the history of telecommunications had taken a slightly different turn. The principle for facsimile transmission over wires was first patented as early as 1843, seven years after the invention of the electric telegraph, by Scottish psychologist Alexander Bain.

Bain himself never performed a FAX transmission, but it is clear from his patent application for "improvements in producing and regulating electric currents and improvements in timepieces and in electric printing and signal telegraphs," that his invention made facsimile transmission entirely feasible.

Bain's invention used two electric pendulums, one at each end of the wire. Each of the pendulums was made to oscillate synchronously over a rotating roll. The sender wrote the text of his message using an electrically conductive material, then wrapped the message round the roll. As the pendulum swung over the paper, the transmitting needle picked up impulses where there was text, but no impulse where there was a gap in the text. At the other end of the line, the receiving needle made marks on photosensitive paper corresponding to the signals from the sending needle, thus reproducing the text being transmitted.

Proof that Bain's principle was sound was eventually provided by Frederick Blakewell, an English physicist, who demonstrated a working facsimile machine at the World Exhibition of 1851, the largest exhibition of new technology ever held. His device was based on the same principle as Bain's design, also using rotating cylinders and stylii for recording and writing. So Queen Victoria could indeed have sent a FAX, had she been so inclined, when she visited the exhibition in the huge Crystal Palace!

Fax machine commercialized

However, it is a far cry from merely demonstrating a device at an exhibition to making it into a

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Boca Raton, Fl. 33429

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Doug Welcker, President
WB4KGY@WB4MOZ
(561) 686-3747

Mike Michaels, Vice-President
K2GPI@WB4MOZ
(561) 976-0478

Bill Rabun, Secretary
KE4GUM@WB4MOZ
(561) 688-2088

Marvin Kaskawits, Treasurer
KD2CK@WB4MOZ
(561) 683-2930

John Green, Director
WB4MOZ@WB4MOZ
(561) 793-6093

Bill Manley, Director
KB4XE@WB4TEM
(954) 752-3908

Terry Taylor, Director
W5JFM@WB4TEM
(954) 942-2390

Joel Yates, Director
N4JOA@WB4MOZ

commercial success. The honor of designing the first FAX service in actual use goes to Giovanni Caselli, an Italian abbot, born in Siena in 1815, who turned his hand to science and was, by 1849, editing a scientific magazine. In 1856 he claimed *White Noise* is published by the Palm Beach Packet Group, Inc.

that he had developed a device, which he called a "pantelegraph," that could send facsimiles of images and text.

Caselli received enthusiastic support from the French emperor, Napoleon III, who personally visited Caselli's workshop in 1860. He ensured that Caselli had access to the telegraph lines he needed, and a commercial FAX service was inaugurated in Paris in 1865. It transmitted pictures and text between major French cities for some five years. A Pantelegraph Society was also founded in order to promote the new invention, which attracted extensive and enthusiastic press coverage at the time. When Caselli succeeded in opening a regularly working FAX connection between Paris and Lyons, he was awarded the Cross of the Legion of Honour by Napoleon III. There still exist fully legible copies of letters sent by facsimile during this period, and a few contemporary facsimile machines are displayed in French museums.

After Caselli's FAX service achieved worldwide renown in the 1860s, he was invited by King Victor Emmanuel of Italy to demonstrate the FAX machine at a world exhibition in Turin. He also made successful experimental FAX transmissions between London and Manchester, and a company was founded to start regular services. However, it was swept away by the bank crisis of 1864.

Success shortlived

Even the Emperor of China heard about the pantelegraph and sent officials to Paris to study the technology. The Chinese realized the advantages of the FAX principle for text written in Chinese, which, with its thousands of ideograms, created insuperable problems for the conventional telegraph. However, the negotiations between Peking and Caselli petered out without yielding fruit.

Sadly enough, Caselli's invention was introduced at a time when the World had started to invest heavily in conventional telegraph services. The French telegraph authorities, for example, apparently disfavoured Caselli's FAX principle and instead promoted development of the already dominant Morse telegraph system.

In the minds of the public, the pantelegraph was associated exclusively with the transmission of images. The advantages of also using it to send text were only dimly perceived in the 1860s.

The Pantelegraph company in Paris did little to improve the situation, making only feeble efforts to promote its services. Convinced of the superiority of its technology, it was content to wait for investors to appear. None did, however, and the Pantelegraph company was eventually squeezed out of the market - an early example of how a new and superior technology failed to gain a foothold because an earlier technology was already established. Caselli's invention subsequently fell into disuse and he died a disappointed man in Florence in 1891.

Modest progress

The FAX made progress nevertheless. Dr Arthur Korn, a German scientist, invented the principle of photoelectric reading in 1902. By 1910 newspapers were regularly sending and receiving pictures between major cities in Europe. In 1922, Dr Korn managed to transmit images between Europe and the U.S. by radio. In the U.S. of the Roaring Twenties, the FAX was expected to become a common household appliance and millions of dollars were spent on developing it. However, the anticipated breakthrough did not occur, and it was not until the 1960s that the FAX machine spread from the offices of the leading newspapers to become a familiar item of equipment in other business sectors.

Electronics companies, meanwhile, were preoccupied with other, seemingly more glamorous, inventions, such as television, and it was some time before FAX machines became mutually compatible and reasonably priced. In 1970, there were no more than 50,000 facsimile machines in the entire USA. But by 1948, the AT&T FAX system could be incorporated in a desktop FAX and transmit a 15 x 20 cm photograph in seven minutes.

Breakthrough at last

The Japanese state telecom was the pioneer in opening its lines to public FAX machines - not surprisingly, considering the advantages that the FAX machine offers for transmitting text in a language with as many letters as Japanese, a nightmare to write on a teleprinter. The Japanese were drawing the practical conclusions of what the Chinese emperor had realized almost a century earlier. This was the start of the brief but intense heyday of the FAX, which has radically changed our ways of communicating, only to be progressively replaced by direct communication between computers.

It is intriguing to speculate about the enormous consequences for business and news services, not to mention homes, that an early breakthrough for Caselli's pantelegraph might have had. With telephone lines already spanning the world, the technology for the FAX revolution was in place one hundred years ago. So it is not too far-fetched, after all, to imagine Queen Victoria FAXing off her order for Scottish salmon!

Sources: Telecommunications Museum, Stockholm; Musée des arts et métiers, Paris. Ericson Connexion

ANALYZE YOUR TELEPHONE LINE FROM THE HUDSON LOOP

-- submitted by George Bowen, W2XBS

(kxkvi@delphi.com)

Are you wondering if your telephone line will accommodate the new 56K modems? Well, US Robotics (actually now called 3COM) has a BBS site where they will analyze your telephone line for 56K compatibility and will give you the results of the analysis almost immediately.

You must use a modem speed of at least v.34 to call toll free 888.877.9248. When asked for first-name/last-name log-in information, respond as follows:

FIRST NAME: LINE
LAST NAME : TEST

The analysis will begin immediately and you may get the response: "This line will support X-2" (which is US Robotics' 56K protocol and which means the line will also support the 56K/Flex protocol) or some similar response, along with additional technical data and graphs regarding your telephone line analysis.

Give it a try -- this free service works very well!

APRS UPDATE Bill Manley KB4XE

Last month *White Noise* carried an article "To QSY Or Not To QSY" addressing the proposed moving the APRS VHF operating frequency as requested by AMSAT. The proposal was championed by Steve Dimse K4HG and endorsed by TAPR.

Since then, in an action of the board of directors, the ARRL has also endorsed the move. The following is quoted from *The ARRL Letter Online Volume 17, Number 4 (January 23, 1998)*: The ARRL has "endorsed the APRS/Manned Space "APRS QSY Activity compromise as a way to share frequencies in the two-meter band to minimize interference between APRS activities and

communication between Earth and manned spacecraft. The League also pledged a donation of up to \$500 to support the APRS QSY initiatives."

In addition the proposal is being openly discussed on the internet with minor dissent. In fact, many sites are ready to QSY now, and some evidently already have.

PALM BEACH PACKET GROUP MEETING JANUARY 7, 1998

OPENING AND REPORTS

PRESIDENT DOUG (WB4KGY) OPENED the meeting @ 21:36 hrs. stating the no smoking policy in county buildings. Introductions of members/guests were made. (More about that later).

Treasure's report was given by MARVIN (KD2CK). The reports was not complete, due to not having complete bank records available. The complete report will appear in future issue of "WHITE NOISE".

Technical Committee report. DOUG (WB4KGY)

1. Switch continues to work well since being converted to FPAC last month.

2. Palm Beach Packet Group has put away another year. A moderately busy year.

A. Early in the year we lost our Treasurer Joe (N4JOA) due to pressing issues in personal business. Marvin (KD2CK) stepped up to the plate and filled in the position.

B. In early August Terry (W5JFM) resigned as editor of WHITE NOISE. More work responsibilities and living in Cincinnati made continuing the position difficult.

C. Our equipment survived the year without lightning damage.

D. Switch equipment was relocated to a new room. Thanks again for all who helped.

E. The club had the best HAMFEST ever!!!!

F. Convert from ROSE code to FPAC in November.

OLD BUSINESS

WHITE NOISE was not mailed till 14th of January due to the holidays.

Three packet books are available for check out from the PBPG library. See KE4GUM.APRS book now available. _____

Thanks to all the outgoing and welcome to all the incoming Officers.

The members are asked to suggest any Alias for the new system.

Handout of:

ROSE switch / NODE'S lists.

ROSE / FPAC users guide.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Directors Meeting this month if possible.

HAMFEST:

Arcadia Jan. 24th.

Miami Feb. 7/8.

Orlando Feb. 14/15

ADJOURN / BREAK /WORKSHOP

Due to inclement weather, our scheduled speaker was unable to make the meeting. Fortunately however we had a distinguished visitor from Port Angeles Washington. One of the most beautiful spot in the world. GIL (W7LG) was visiting in South Florida. He has been an active Amateur Radio Operator for many years. Rumor has it that he may have been one of the first radio operators to have received Marconi's 1st. transoceanic messages. He was a delightful person to visit with and had some great stories from early Radio Daze. He was gentleman in every respect, and gave credibility to the old adage that "The apple doesn't fall far from

the tree". Gil (W7LG) is our president's Doug (WB4KGY) DAD !! And we haven't even met his MOM yet !

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED @ 23:15 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wm. H. Rabun (KE4GUM)

A 9600 baud site will be set up in Vero by Tom. N4LRV, and Bill, N4XEO. another 9600 TNC will go to Okeechobee site, giving us 3 sites to enhance forwarding. The meeting adjourned at 10 AM to visit the site.

Respectfully submitted, Ladd Sajor, W2KGV,
Secretary

TREASURE COAST PACKET GROUP MINUTES

Jan. 10, 1998

The meeting was opened by the Vice President Joe, K1VAO, at 9:32 A.M. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the Secretary, Ladd, W2KGV, and approved on a motion by Andy, W8BIX, and a second by Bill, N4XEO. The Treasurer, Andy, W8BIX, reported of a Balance of \$1399.69 which was accepted on a motion by Bill, N4XEO, and a second by Ladd, W2KGV.

OLD BUSINESS: The secretary read a draft of a letter that will be sent to users of the Stuart Switch, urging them to join, and support TCPG. Joe, K1VAO, assisted by Ladd, W2KGV, will make a list of users for this purpose. This proposed action met with the approval of those present.

TECHNICAL COMM: Bill, N4XEO, reported that since the installation of atone controlled remote switch at the site, he no longer needs to travel some 40 miles round trip to reboot the 2 meter port.

Bill also offered possible explanations for the noise bursts that cause interference to the reception of packets. He also announced the field trip to the switch site after this meeting.

He also explained the proposed FPAC program to be installed at the switch site, which will enhance the system. He expects a computer from the Tampa group after they have configured it, for about \$ 50.

ARTICLES FOR *WHITE NOISE*

The Palm Beach Packet Group accepts articles from other clubs and individuals wishing to have them published in the *White Noise*. This is offered as a gratis service for those not otherwise having publication services at their disposal. Article content should be amateur radio related, including all operating modes, applications including computer, experiences, announcements and reports of meetings. Advertising is not accepted.

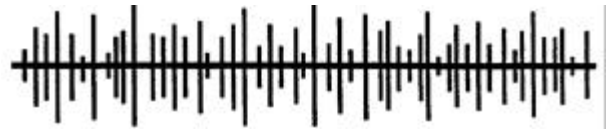
We reserve editorial privileges regarding content, spelling, punctuation and structure as well as the decision to publish or not. Articles can not be returned.

Send your copy to:

bmanley@gate.net

KB4XE @WB4TEM.#BCR.FL.US.NOAM

WHITE NOISE



Volume 10, Number 2

February, 98

AMATEUR RADIO TO BE PRIVATIZED?

Bill Manley KB4XE

There is an enigmatic item included in the recently released FCC 1998 agenda:

"WTB Part 97: Streamline Amateur Radio Service. Seek comment on amending Parts 0, 1, and 97 of FCC Rules to privatize further the administration of the Amateur Radio Services and to simplify the licensing process. "

The following is reprinted with permission from Ham Radio *Online* magazine, available for free on the Internet at <http://www.hamradio-online.com>.

"U.S. Rulemaking Proposals - There are currently several rulemaking proposals before the U.S. government's Federal Communications Commission. Many of these proposals have not received the publicity they deserve. Indeed, the full text of several proposals submitted to the FCC by the ARRL are not, at the time of this writing, provided at the ARRL's own web site. The ARRL is the largest amateur radio organization in the United States."

"Taken together, these proposals have the appearance of turning over management of the Amateur Radio Service to the ARRL. This is an issue that deserves widespread discussion."

"The Amateur Radio Service, in the U.S., has been largely self policing and self regulated under existing laws. This has occurred for many reasons. For one, the FCC has been directed by the U.S. Congress (the elected representatives of the people of the U.S.) to deregulate and introduce competition in to what have historically been highly regulated monopolies. This means that there are very few staff members at the FCC working on Amateur Radio issues at all. Other radio services have grown by orders of magnitude while the Amateur Service grows at a very low rate. The old axiom that the "squeaky wheel gets the grease" implies that other hot spots have diverted attention of the FCC to other radio services and issues (including spectrum auctions). This has left a vacuum, to some degree, regarding exactly who is watching over the interests of Amateur Radio."

"In to this political environment of deregulation and off loading government functions to the private sector (which I generally favor), comes the issue about what to do about Amateur Radio. As previously published here at Ham Radio Online, Canada and now the U.S. are considering moving the administrative functions of Amateur Radio in to private hands. This presents a major transition point in Amateur Radio."

As of the time of writing, the ARRL has been silent on the subject.

ANOTHER NEAT FPAC FUNCTION - ALIAS's

Doug Welcker WB4KGY

No doubt by now you have heard about FPAC and all it's proported great functions. Today I thought we would take a few minutes and review the use of "ALIAS's" in the FPAC domain. As a backdrop to how this all works remember that the packet SWITCH/NODE is now run on a PC and the TNC's are assigned to serial ports which basically operate as RF modems. In the past all smarts of the SWITCH were loaded into the TNC and with it's limitations in processing power, RAM, ROM, and speed, little to no room was left for adding functions or improving performance.

Now with the PC as the brains behind the SWITCH suddenly we have the ability to do all the previous functions the TNC's performed and almost anything else that can be dreamed. Of course this is limited by the time a good programmer has available to put forth. One of the functions is what is called "ALIAS's". Hummmm "ALIAS's" - what does that really mean to me. What has been done with "FPAC" is to give the user the ability to get quickly connected to packet sites that are of interest to a majority of the users. This is done by assigning an "SSID" to the SWITCH callsign. Remember "SSID's"? That's the number that shows after callsign. It was originally conceived to give the packet system the ability to allow more than one station on the same frequency to use the same callsign ie. K4PKT-9 and K4PKT-12 or any number between 0 and 15 (The 0 is automatically assigned but does not display) can use the packet channel without confusion. Now the SSID function has been expanded.

So if it is so easy what do I do? When you are on the LAN frequencies of West Palm Beach (145.030 or 145.630) simply keying in "C K4PKT-2" from the command prompt will connect you to John's (WB4MOZ's) BBS. WOW - was that easy or

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WB4KGY@WB4MOZ
(561) 686-3747

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K2GPI@WB4MOZ
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what! What happened was that PC up at the SWITCH recognized that SSID and from its look-up table it knew you wanted the BBS. Not only that but it took the fastest data rate RF path available which in this case is 9K6. If that wasn't available it would try an alternate path to John's BBS.

But you say "how do I know what ALIAS gets me where"? That's almost as easy. Just connect to the SWITCH and ask it! Connect from the command

prompt with a "C NODE V K4PKT-9" and you will get:

```
*** CONNECTED to NODE via K4PKT-9
connection in progress
Connecte a NODE-0 @ 3100561655
[DWJ-20r-C]
NODE : K4PKT-9
Type i9 <ENTER> for help
K4PKT-9 @ 10:09:14
: (A,B,C,H,HL,I,L,M,R,S,T,U,?) >
```

Send "i9" for help and you get:

Welcome to the Palm Beach Packet Information Center. This FPAC Switch provided as a service by the Palm Beach Packet Group, Inc.

Additional INFO is available by entering one of the following commands:

Info Text.

h Heard Info - Use H1, H2, etc. for station heard on port 1, port 2, etc.

u User and Trunk Status info.

? Node Command Explanations.

i0 General Connecting Information.

i1 Switch Call, Date and Time.

i2 i2 Not assigned at this time.

i3 i3 Not assigned at this time.

i4 i4 Not assigned at this time.

i5 Local BBS serving this area.

i6 Adjoining lans and npannx codes.

i7 Fast Connects available at this Switch.

i8 This Switch Port Assignements.

i9 This Information Menu.

K4PKT-9 @ 10:09:24

: (A,B,C,H,HL,I,L,M,R,S,T,U,?) >

Reviewing what you received you will see that "i7" will provide the information you are looking for. Now send "i7" and you get:

```
K4PKT-1 KB4VOL BBS.
K4PKT-2 WB4MOZ BBS.
K4PKT-3 Tampa Information Server.
K4PKT-4 FTLHHP.
K4PKT-5 WELBBS (WB4MOZ).
K4PKT-6 WELL3.
```

Enter i9 to return to the main menu

K4PKT-9 @ 10:09:55

: (A,B,C,H,HL,I,L,M,R,S,T,U,?) >

Another way to get this information though slightly different send an "A" and you get:

ALIAS's USAGE

To use ALIAS's : C K4PKT-n

n = 1 KB4VOL-0

n = 2 WB4MOZ-0

n = 3 NODE-0

n = 4 FTLHHP-0

n = 5 WELBBS-0

n = 6 WELL3-0

Now you can see the by adding the "ALIAS" of 2 to the switch callsign you get a fast connect to WB4MOZ. You may also notice that an SSID of 5 will get you to the same place.

For those of you outside of the West Palm Beach LAN check with your local LAN administrator and see if they have converted to FPAC. LAN's that I know of in operation include Fort Pierce, Apollo Beach, and Tampa Bay. Others is process include Boca Raton, Hollywood, Stuart, and Vero Beach.

If you have suggestions for more "FAST CONNECTS" please forward your thoughts to John

or myself. Stay tuned for more info and give your local SYSOP and BBS operator a hand - he will appreciate it. Till next time 73 Doug (WB4KGY)

**THE 38th ANNUAL TROPICAL HAMBOREE
and the APRS Meeting**
Bill Manley KB4XE

A few observations about the 1998 Miami Hamboree are in order.

I attended Saturday, arriving about 10:00 AM. There was virtually no traffic but parking was packed right back to the bend in the entrance road off of Coral Way. I thought that it looks like it would be a packed house. There were no lines at the entrance gate. Except for the immediate vicinity of the prize booth the crowd inside was very light. Things picked up on towards noon-time and the people-crunch reminded me of previous Hamborees.

As with previous years, I thought it could as well have been named the "PC/Crafts/Ham-boree". Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu, MFJ, and the ARRL continued their traditional presence in large booths. Swap tables with computer and software vendors occupied two large rooms and a portion of the main exhibition room. The printed program was smaller than what I recall from previous years, evidently lacking space from well-wishers and advertisers. Saturday's scheduled activities, as listed in the program, were about 60% ham related; Sunday's were 50%. The balances on both days were arts-and-crafts related.

I have worked on hamfest committees in the past. I have experienced the effort putting together an affair even an order of magnitude smaller than what the Dade Radio Club accomplishes each year. Theirs is always a stellar performance. Undoubtedly the realities of economics have forced change in the complexion of the Hamboree. Computer and crafts vendors fill the floor space formally occupied by

ham vendors. One concludes that reflects a generally diminishing interest in ham radio. It is inevitable that declining participation by the ham community makes it unprofitable for vendors to support the event. It is to the Dade groups' credit that they expanded their scope by attracting craft and computer interests and hopefully continue to operate a financially solvent event.

Permit me to inject my personal experience into this scenario. My plan in attending the Hamboree was to buy callbook CDROM software, pick up some computer memory chips, and possibly a new antenna. I bought the CD-ROM. The memory chips were over-priced, in my estimation, so I passed on that one. I turned chicken on buying the antenna when I realized that it would cost upwards of \$320. Perhaps I'll wait for the sun spot cycle to mature a bit before I'll consider that again. In total I spent \$45.00.

On a brighter subject, APRS interests were well represented. The APRS-FOR-WINDOWS booth, staffed by both Keith and Mark Sproul and Steve Dimse, gathered a throng. Fortunately the AUTOMATIC PACKET REPORTING SYSTEMS (APRS) forum was scheduled for Saturday, so I got to attend.

Mark emceed the forum, with Steve's assistance. He walked through the existing and planned features of WinAprs for the benefit of the 50 hams attending.

He demonstrated the several ways messages could be initiated and replied by the software.

The ability to send messages to specific hams, through internet links, while using the WinAprs software, is anticipated by either the Dayton Hamfest in May or by the Digital Computer Conference in September. You will be able to click on any ham visible on your screen, invoke your local Internet Provider (IP), and send the message having

it using band-width (repeated) only in the targeted city.

Several Weather Bureau Services have adopted WinAprs for announcing severe weather conditions in targeted areas.

Mark pointed out that the shareware (winaprs211.zip), County (maps.zip) and TIGER map (yourstate.zip, eg FL.zip) information is available on their FTP server as well as from their homepage.

Future releases will include topographical data. This feature is already implemented in the MacIntosh version of the software. It is intended for search-and-rescue operations in mountainous areas. NTS messaging is also planned for implementation. This will be useful during shelter operations following a disaster. The future will also see a watered-down version running on Windows CE for palmtops.

WinAprs has certainly evolved into a powerful ham radio tool since its first release as a converted MacIntosh application. It, together with Steve Dimse's JavaAprs, has truly enlarge the functionality of packet radio well beyond the limits of the VHF horizon. If you have packet and are running Windows, join the excitement and give them a try.

Download the WinAprs files from:
<http://www.rutgers.edu/APRS/>

View JavaAprs at:
<http://www.aprs.net/usa.html>

WinAprs and the Internet
Bill Manley KB4XE

One evening this week I was working APRS using WinAprs software on Win95. The usual interesting screens of SE Florida, USA, and a messaging box were in view. The SE Florida

map showed the 25 to 40 regulars which are seen every evening. Recalling Mark Sproul's forum at the Hamboree, I decided to explore his software.

I clicked on SETTINGS, TCP/IP CONNECTIONS, and then WWW.APRS.NET 10151. This brought up my DIAL-UP ADAPTER and I initiated the connection to my Cybergate IP. To my astonishment the USA map filled with station icons.

Clicking on LISTS, STATION LIST brought up a screen with many pages of heard stations. I selected the entire screen and clicked on EDIT, COPY to insert them to my clipboard.

I then brought up a MS EXCEL spreadsheet and PASTED the clipboard to it. It instantly filled with the contents that had been seen on the STATION LIST screen. EXCEL provided a convenient way to count the heard stations.

THERE WERE
814 APRS STATIONS
ON LINE!

**FROM THE HUDSON LOOP
LETTERS TO THE LOOP -**

Dear Editor:

I recently saw the movie "Titanic" and when the Captain was informed that the ship was going to sink, he went to the radio room and ordered the operator to send a "CQD". Being curious, I did some research and found that CQD was the international distress call and that SOS was just being introduced. The second radio operator (who survived to relate the story) suggested using SOS and one source said the Titanic was *the* first vessel to send SOS and another said it sent the first SOS ever.

Unfortunately, the chief radio operator, who did not survive, has taken much of the blame for what could have been an avoidable incident. He posted the first six ice warnings he received to the bridge but then came within range of Cape Race, Newfoundland (call sign MCE), and started to work traffic. There was much social traffic and well as business traffic both ways. The Titanic (call sign MGY) received many other ice warnings which the chief operator ignored. In fact he told one ship "Shut up, I am working Cape Race. You are interfering." The last ice warning was for a position just 25 miles from their present position (at that time) and he acknowledged it but never posted it to the bridge. The rest, as they say, is history.

Another operator aboard a nearby ship, the California, shut down for the night against the general rule of the sea. He did not hear the Titanic's SOS and they were in visual range of the ship when they saw the distress rockets. By that time, the Titanic had lost power and wasn't able to respond to the Morse lamp.

Very shortly after the Titanic incident, Guglielmo Marconi had much praise heaped upon him for his contribution to wireless communications. They credit him and the wireless with saving the lives of those passengers who were able to escape the ship in lifeboats. They were rescued by the Carpathia, which was the nearest ship to the Titanic that heard the distress calls over the airwaves.

As an amateur radio operator, I am proud to be a part of continuing the work of Marconi and the tradition he initiated. Fortunately, the good deeds of all radio operators, amateur and professional, have been well documented and we can all be proud.

Alan Lovitch, WB2IXS
(alovitch@prodigy.com)

(Alan, the story of the Titanic as it relates to the history of amateur radio is documented in a series

called "The Wayback Machine" written by Bill Continelli, W2XOY. Bill's articles are posted on the Hudson Division homepage, and are GREAT reading for all amateurs! -- Hudson Loop Ed.)

PALM BEACH PACKET GROUP MEETING FEBRUARY 12 1998

OPENING AND REMARKS

Opening remarks and greeting were made by DOUG (WB4KGY) Introduction of members and guest followed.

WORKSHOP

*** Due to commitments our educational program, presented by BILL (KB4XE) was given prior to the Business Meeting.

YOU ARE 59 IN CORAL SPRINGS - If you are trusting your SWR meters to give the right readings, better look again. A lively informative program was presented by KB4XE. Thanks again for a great presentation.

REPORTS

Treasure's report. MARVIN (KD2CK) reported that the money department is in excellent shape and that a full report will appear in the next issue of the WHITE NOISE. Technical committee report. DOUG (WB4KGY) reports that:

1. Conversion to the NEW APRS frequency
 - A. ARRL Board agrees and will contribute up to \$ 500.00.
 - B. New EPROMS are being acquired for PBPG radios.
 - C. Conversion date has not been set.
2. Occasional & random Switch outages still occurring.
3. Tom Ringate, Tampa LAN, has received FPAC code and is updating the software. A new release is in test.

OLD BUSINESS

Get well cards were sent to BOB STAMPER and BURKE GROSSE

FADCA Meeting results:

A. Concurrence with the APRS move to 144.390 Mhz

B. Minor modification to the constitution.

C. Notification of election at Orlando Hamfest for Directors in odd number districts.

Packet books are available for lending. See KE4GUM.

Any Alias suggestions?

Hand out of:

ROSE Switch / NODE'S list.

ROSE user guide.

FPAC reference page.

NEW BUSINESS

We will hold Director's Meeting before next meeting.

Hamfests: ORLANDO / SARASOTA.

PBPG can use your help. Please volunteer !!!!!

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned @ 21:35 hrs.

Respectively Submitted

Wm. H. Rabun (KE4GUM)

Broward Amateur Radio Digital Society**Minutes of November 15th Meeting**

The meeting started in the Motorola Blue Room. There were no new attendees so the usual greetings were dispensed with. The presentation was in two parts, The Digital Communications Conference in Baltimore by Dave, KB0NNZ, and the AMSAT Symposium in Toronto by Bob, N4CU.

Dave started with some information on Spread Spectrum and the Beta test radio boards that were available. Dave had slides from the notes and described the equipment in use. The APRS QSY described below was an topic and Dave discussed some of the issues.

Bob finished up describing the AMSAT symposium. The problems getting Phase 3D in the air included a complete mechanical redesign and an overall cost to AMSAT of over \$200,000. This is due to the data from the crashed 501 launch that showed unsurvivable lateral G forces. The 502 launch did not reach the orbit we will need for AMSAT's projected final orbit. We hope this is fixed by ESA before P3D goes up in about April. Future proposed AMSAT projects were the primary subject of the papers presented. There was an excellent antenna demo which included a novel helical antenna feed. Ray Sofer, W2RS, demonstrated an AO-27 FM 2 way Satellite contact with only a dual band handheld and whip antenna from the hotel parking lot at the symposium

We discussed the usefulness of the TAPR Mic-Encoder for Amateur Radio Positioning/Packet System. Dave and Bob will be testing two Mic-Es.

We discussed the move proposed at the DCC and at the AMSAT Symposium to move APRS from 145.79 to 144.39. There will be donations from AMSAT and TAPR to defray digi operators for expenses to move digis in frequency.

Minutes of December 20th Meeting

The Presentation was by John, KN4HX, on the APRSa program. This is a version of APRS that works with Street Atlas. John had an excellent presentation that switched from using APRSDos and APRSa. The Window version is much superior to the DOS version but requires Windows 95. It makes very good use of the point and click capabilities of a GUI interface. This was BARDS first experience

using a LCD overhead projector panel. After we got the bugs worked out it looks like we have a good platform for more informative presentations.

The next meeting will be at Motorola Jan. 17.
Minutes by N4CU

Broward Amateur Radio Digital Society
January 17, 1998

The meeting started immediately in the "Blue" conference room at Motorola. The program was part 2 of APRSa by John, KN4HX. John gave us a very thorough and informative demonstration of the features of APRSa. There are several users of this program among the attendees and we all gained a lot by the questions and answer period.

The second part of the meeting was a discussion of the frequency change to 144.39. This has become a very hot topic on the TAPR APRS sig. and is a subgroup at this time. There are 5 crystal controlled radios with 145.79 crystals on order. We decided to have the crystal manufacturer notified that we wanted the crystals on .39 and will change in this area when the radios arrive.

Dave, KB0NNZ, volunteered to conduct a survey at the Miami hamfest to see what problems a frequency change may bring. i.e. how many crystal controlled radios are in this area, how aware is the APRS population of the frequency change, and anything else that may affect the frequency change.

Minutes by Bob, N4CU

ARTICLES FOR *WHITE NOISE*

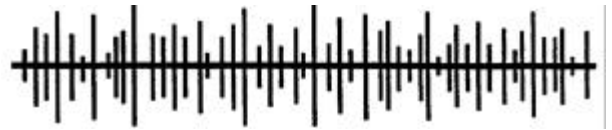
The Palm Beach Packet Group accepts articles from other clubs and individuals wishing to have them published in the *White Noise*. This is offered as a gratis service for those not otherwise having publication services at their disposal. Article content should be amateur radio related, including all operating modes, applications including computer, experiences, announcements and reports of meetings. Advertising is not accepted.

We reserve editorial privileges regarding content, spelling, punctuation and structure as well as the decision to publish or not. Articles can not be returned.

Send your copy to:

bmanley@gate.net
KB4XE @WB4TEM.#BCR.FL.US.NOAM

WHITE NOISE



Volume 10, Number 3

March, 98

TOTO WE'RE NOT IN FLORIDA ANYMORE

by Doug Welcker WB4KGY

Maybe you saw the OSCARS Monday evening also and during the review of the past sixty-nine years of OSCAR winning movies was Judy Garland and that famous quote. Or did she say Kansas? This got me thinking about what a great lead-in for this month's topic.

You may think you are stuck on the local LAN or within the range of a few LAN's connected by local backbone. Well "TOTO" you may be surprised to find, like Dorothy, that there are a lot of wide open spaces at the end of your fingertips. Since the completion of the cross state backbone which allowed access into the Tampa LAN you have access outside the State of Florida. That includes those of you from Broward to Vero, here on the east coast, or just about anywhere else you have ROSE/FPAC access in Florida.

Where can I go you say, or how do I find out where I can go. Well those of us on the West Palm LAN, K4PKT-9, only need to do a Fast Connect, "C K4PKT-5", from the "Cmd:" prompt as discussed in last months "WHITE NOISE" and you're off and running. If you reside in Vero and have access to the ROSE Network, enter "C INFO V W4OT-3, 813555". (Anywhere else substitute your local Switch callsign for "W4OT-3"). This connects you to the information file in Tampa at K0ZXF-9. There you will get a list of other information files available in Florida and other States. After disconnecting, chose the state you want get information from then connect using the proper area/nxx code. What is interesting is that the system is setup something like a tree directory on

your computer. Once you get to one area you will find a whole new set of areas you can get to. For instance, say you connect to the Dallas INFO file, you will find more sites available in Oklahoma, Minnesota, Arkansas, Louisiana, Illinois, and the rest of Texas.

If you want to poke around in one of these areas, connect to HEARD, you will get a current list of stations that are or have recently been using the system. Connect to one of those stations and you may get a BBS but if you keep trying you'll end up with another keyboarder. For those of you familiar with operating in a NODE environment, many of these sites list the local NODE. From there you can continue your search through the unknown.

Who knows, you may end up in Kansas with Toto.

APRS/MIR PACKET TEST

11 March 1998

by Bob Bruninga, WB4APR

On 11 March 1998 a special MIREX/APRS test was conducted via the packet system on the Space Station MIR. The test was to show possible methods for improving the visibility of MIREX communications to students and schools.

APRS/MIR TEST: Since the Mir packet system has been operating well the last few weeks, Dr. Larsen (N6CO) of the MIREX group suggested the APRS/Mir test be conducted as soon as possible since precession was taking Mir passes earlier every day and it would soon be out of view during school hours. He authorized the APRS/MIR test on only

two orbits on the 10th of March. Unfortunately the MIR packet system went off the air on these two orbits, so the test was extended to the next few orbits over the USA. The test was limited to the USA only because it had the largest numbers of existing APRS ground stations ready to test in sufficient numbers to fully load the system. But the delay further complicated matters since the next orbits over the USA were between 0230 AM and 0400 AM local time. As a result, the test was extended for a full 5 orbits to allow testers to choose a pass and still get some sleep.

To make Mir appear to move on all ground station maps, three special tracking-uplink stations beamed the moving position of MIR via the MIR digipeater. One from California using the callsign MIR-6, one from Michigan using MIR-8, and one in Maryland using MIR-3 to match their callsign areas. West coast stations typically saw the moving MIR-6, midwest stations typically saw the incoming MIR-6 change to a MIR-8 and then east coast stations saw the moving ICON on their maps change to a MIR-3.

To inject the downlink from Mir into the Internet, a few of the normal APRS I-Gates tuned their radios from the normal APRS frequency to the Mir downlink frequency. These Mir packets were intermingled with the normal stream of APRS packets into the APRServe Internet system. Although they would be seen on the main www.aprs.net maps they would be hard to distinguish from the usual 1000 to 1200 or more APRS stations on the air. To provide a unique display of the APRS/Mir packets alone, a special WEB page was designated to filter out only the APRS/MIR packets and display them separately to users. During the day of the event there were over 11,000 hits on the server system representing a peak load of 150 simultaneous users and as many as 1000 users.

CONCLUSIONS: The test was completely successful in meeting all of the original objectives.

White Noise is published by the Palm Beach Packet Group, Inc.

The PBPG can be reached by mail at

Palm Beach Packet Group
PO Box 16471
West Palm Beach, Fl. 33416-6471

The officers of the PBPG with their packet address and phone numbers are:

Doug Welcker, President
WB4KGY@WB4MOZ
(561) 686-3747

Mike Michaels, Vice-President
K2GPI@WB4MOZ
73754.3116@compuserve.com
(561) 967-0478

Bill Rabun, Secretary
KE4GUM@WB4MOZ
(561) 688-2088

Marvin Kaskawits, Treasurer
KD2CK@WB4MOZ
kd2ck@ibm.net
(561) 683-2930

John Green, Director
WB4MOZ@WB4MOZ
wb4moz@maco.net
(561) 793-6093

Bill Manley, Director
KB4XE@WB4TEM
bmanley@gate.net
(954) 752-3908

NOTICE

NEW MAILING ADDRESS

**Palm Beach Packet Group
P.O. Box 16471
West Palm Beach, Fl. 33416-6471**

The short notice and early morning hours helped to reduce the number of participants to a nominal 100 stations. We think this number is representative of the nominal number of schools that could be authorized to simultaneously participate in future such Mir experiments. The test demonstrated the value of using a UI frame one-to-all packet protocol to improve the delivery of information to all ground stations. Further, the test demonstrated the value of a few special MIREX ground stations to uplink the moving Mir position reports and to relay real-time MIREX bulletins and announcements that can be received by all stations in the footprint including receive-only school stations. Finally, the test showed the value of multiple internet connected ground stations for not only providing a continuum of data from the downlink across the whole country, but also for providing WEB access to students and schools outside of the footprint or without amateur radio equipment.

All of the APRS stations want to thank the MIREX team and also those normal Mir BBS users who were inconvenienced by this test, for this opportunity to conduct this important experiment.

SOUTH FLORIDA STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SAREX

A Space Amateur Radio Experiment was accomplished March 23, 1998 involving nine fifth grade students from Westchester Elementary School in Coral Springs Florida and the Russian MIR Space Station.

With the help of the Motorola Amateur Radio Club and the Johnson Space Center Amateur Radio Club, the American Astronaut on board MIR, Andy Thomas, spoke over the ham airwaves, while in orbit, directly with groups of students, thus showing teachers, parents and communities how Amateur Radio stimulates the interest of youngsters in science, technology, and learning. NASA makes

astronauts available for SAREX operations in order to involve the largest possible numbers of people, particularly youngsters, in technology and the US space program with the help of Amateur Radio.

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT) co-sponsor these exciting experiments along with NASA. AMSAT heads up the technical operations of SAREX. Hundreds of Amateur Radio operators work behind the scenes, including those from NASA's Amateur Radio clubs at the Johnson Space Center, Goddard Space Flight Center and Marshall Space Flight Center. The ARRL takes the lead with information and educational support.

On November 28, 1983, STS-9 was launched carrying Mission Specialist Owen Garriott, Amateur Radio call sign W5LFL, and the ham radio constructed by the Motorola Amateur Radio Club located in Plantation, FL, into orbit. For ten days the Space Shuttle Columbia circled the globe, and for the last seven of those days, Hams around the world were energized by the sound of Dr. Garriott's voice as it broke through their squelches and called Earth-bound stations. But that was just the beginning. Amateur Radio had entered the frontier of manned spacecraft. This original radio was present at this contact.

Westchester alumna and presently a tenth grade student at J.P. Taravella High School, Diana Siwiak (KE4QXL), facilitated this radio contact through a telebridge connection to the Johnson Space Center Amateur Radio Club Station (W5RRR). Westchester alumnus and current seventh grade student at Sawgrass Springs Middle School, Joseph Siwiak (KF4JAS) acted as liaison between the Westchester Telebridge and NASA-Houston. Diana earned her Amateur Radio license in the spring of 1994. Joseph earned his Amateur Radio license in the spring of 1996 while he was a student in Mrs. Pump's class.

The application for this contact was made in September of 1995, when Joseph was a student in Mrs. Pump's fifth grade class. At that time, Joseph's mother was a VAST (Volunteers Assisting Students and Teachers) parent volunteer who brought the Young Astronaut program into the classroom every week.

MIR Astronaut

Andy Thomas, ROMIR / VK5MIR

AMSAT Mentor

Kai Siwiak, KE4PT

Coordinating Teacher

Juleen Pump

Amateur Radio Coordinators

Ann Siwiak, KE4IEV

Diana Siwiak, KE4QXL (Westchester alumna)

Joseph Siwiak, KF4JAS (Westchester alumnus)

Westchester Principal

Francine Renguso

Motorola Amateur Radio Club

Bruce Burke, W134YUC

James Goldsberry, KD4GR

Harold Sanderson, KT4XK

NASA Johnson Space Center

Matt Bordelon, KC5BTL

NASA Goddard

Frank Bauer, KA3HDO

Will Marchant

Westchester Students

Tami Alfasi

Steven Baer

Alon Brodie

Joel Lewis

Shawnda Lynn Murphy

Alex Newman Jaimee Schulson

Loree Schulson

Erica Turok

Zoe Young

An enormous debt of gratitude is owed to Mrs. Francine Renguso, whose tireless efforts on behalf of the SAREX program made it all possible. From the initial permission to apply for SAREX through

the many details it took to make it happen, including the school facilities that were the crux of this project, we are most appreciative. A sincere thank you is also extended to Dr. Jeanne Korn of University School of Nova Southeastern University, who allowed Ann Siwiak release time to follow through on this commitment and who wholeheartedly encouraged her to do this for the children of our community.

**From ARRL Bulletin 19
(ARLB019) March 20:**

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 (i.e., 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, crossband and repeater contacts other than via satellite do not count for Field Day credit.

Field Day stations now can earn point credit for digital (i.e., 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.

**From ARRL Space Bulletin 6 (ARLS006)
February 27:**

A ham radio package will be aboard the shuttle flight that carries US Senator and astronaut John Glenn into space this fall. Word from NASA this week was that the Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment or SAREX payload would be carried on STS-95 when it flies in October carrying the 77-year-old space pioneer into orbit for the first time since the early 1960s, when Glenn became the first US astronaut to orbit the Earth.

Two hams--US Astronaut Scott Parazynski, KC5RSY, and European Space Agency astronaut Pedro Duque, KC5RGG, of Spain-- will be among an international crew aboard STS-95. The launch date for the only other SAREX mission scheduled for 1998--STS-93--has slipped from August to December. Glenn already has begun his astronaut training, but it's not yet known if he plans to get his ham ticket before his return to space.

IT'S COMING BACK

Bill Manley KB4XE

The new sunspot cycle is gathering steam and it appears that the 10 meter band is coming back. The following CW was heard on 28.220Mhz at Coral Springs on March 10, 1998 at 2035UTC:

W8MI/B 500MW PO BOX 343 MACKINAW
CITY MI 49701

The message repeated continuously. The beacon read S4 on my meter (whatever that means!). There was some QSB.

**FCC CERTIFICATION/AUTHORIZATION
NUMBER DATA ON THE WEB**

The Federal Communications Commission has tied a search engine to its Equipment Authorization Database to produce a very useful tool. According to Don Hobson writing in the CGC Communicator newsletter, you can specify various search parameters and uncover a wealth of information.

The URL is a simple one. Its at:

www.fcc.gov/fcc-bin/ead

(Via CGC Communicator)

FROM THE HUDSON LOOP

The FAA is working on its year-2000 problem, in which a Glitch will cause computers to think it's 1900. "If they don't fix it, however, air traffic controllers will have to start diverting flights to Kitty Hawk." -- Gary Easley

**PALM BEACH PACKET GROUP
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 1998**

The meeting was brought to order by President Doug (WB4KGY) @ 14:15 hrs. Members present were Bill (KB4XE), John (WB4MOZ), Marvin (K2BK), Bill (KE4GUM).

AGENDA ITEMS:

YEARLY TREASURE'S REPORT FOR 1997

Discussion about update and unresolved category of expenses and deposits. (Doug worked with Marvin the next week and resolved the uncategorized items) Also the PBPG accounting matches with the last credit union statement.

USES FOR E-MAIL ADDRESSES.

Meeting notifications:

Should E-MAIL be implemented along with distribution of *WHITE NOISE* / Special updates ?. (note: *WHITE NOISE* can't be distributed on email due to its size and format.)

INTERNET ACCESS:

PBPG will continue to research possibility of establishing a gateway for Packet use on the internet.

HAMWEB by WAOTPV:

Technical committee will investigate possibility if this mode is compatible with local BBS systems.

WHITE NOISE ARTICLES:

PBPG directors will encourage members to submit articles to the editor, for publication. Bill encouraged (Strongly) for other BOARD OF DIRECTORS members to regularly submit articles. They need not be packet related.

LOSS OF BELLE GLADE SITE:

PBPG has lost it's site in Belle Glades. Efforts will be made to obtain another location. Henry Felton

has been contacted and will forward information about availability of sites.

ASSIGNMENT OF PRESENTATIONS:

Directors will attempt to assign Directors topics to be presented to the group meetings. Members will be asked to participate.

WEB SITE:

PBPG needs a Webb Site. We will investigate options. Members are asked to submit ideas that will help in that regard. Bill suggested the PBPG register their Domain Name at \$200. Further investigation in needed before the BOARD OF DIRECTORS decides on registration.

MAIL BOX CHANGES:

We are having problems with the current location of the PO Box as none of the board members live near the location. The BOARD OF DIRECTORS has decided to open a local PB Box for convenience and to be more responsive to the members.

FIELD DAY

The PBPG has been invited by the WPB ARC to participate in this years field day. PBPG accepts this invitation and will assist. Marvin will act as the contact person for the group.

The PBPG wishes to thank MARVIN, for the use of his abode for the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED @ 15:15 hrs.

Wm. H. Rabun KE4GUM.

**PALM BEACH PACKET GROUP MEETING
MARCH 12, 1998**

OPEN REMARKS / REPORTS

The meeting was bought to order @ 17:35 hrs. by Pres. DOUG WELCKER (WB4KGY) There was 14 members and guests. Introductions were made.

Treasurer's Report: Marvin (KD2CK) reviewed the Treasurer's report. The report appeared in the February "THE WHITE NOISE".

The Technical Committee report was given by DOUG (WB4KGY). First item on interest was the conversion of APRS to the new frequency. The PBPG intends to convert to the new frequency before the end of March 1998. Crystals have been ordered for Boca Digi KF4DXY-1. Conversion to the new frequency has taken place in the Tampa/Orlando corridor. Southeast coast areas should be completed by April 1998. Doug(WB4KGY) asked if there were any questions concerning operations of the switch since conversion to FPAC. No questions were forthcoming. There has been no outages at the switch in the last month. Tom Ringate of TAMPA LAN, has written additional code for FPAC. This code is under test @ 813962, with no failures as of this date. The PBPG hopes to install this new code, when available.

OLD BUSINESS

PBPG Board Of Directors meeting was held Feb. 28, 1998.

Topics discussed included:

Yearly Treasurer's Report for 1997, uses for member E-MAIL addresses, Internet access, HAMWEB by WA0TPV, "White Noise" articles, loss of Belle Glade site, assignment of presentations, future PBPG WEB site, PO Box relocation, field day participation.

White Noise was mailed on March 4th. It was delivered next day in Okeechobee and West Palm Beach the next day but it had not been delivered after 4 days to Bill (KB4XE) who lives only a few miles from the mailing office! (*Sometimes delivery has taken as long as 3 weeks! - ed.*) PBPG is changing the PO BOX to West Palm Beach since all officers now live in the West Palm area.

Members are encouraged to submit articles of interest for publication in "White Noise". Send them to Bill (KB4XE) or any board member. We were informed that we will lose the Belle Glade antenna site due the tower being removed. HENRY (W4UJ) will look for a different site. Board Of Directors will be assigned topics to be presented to the membership at future meetings.

Packet books are available from KE4GUM.

Handout of:

ROSE switch and Node's lists

ROSE users guide

FPAC users guide

NEW BUSINESS

=====

PBPG Polo shirts group purchase ? We want to know if you want PBPG Polo shirts. An order form will be inserted in the next issue of "White Noise". If you want serve "YOUR CLUB" we could use your help. Memberships are being accepted by KE4GUM.

Interesting BBS subject of the month "SWL Listening". Do "L> SWL" after connecting to your local BBS for list of messages concerning national and international broadcasting.

ADJOURN / BREAK / WORKSHOP

Next meeting April 9, 1998.

A great program was presented by Terry Redding (W6LMJ). "Self Directed Learning and HAMS" He was assisted by his 2 daughters, ages 10-12, both licensed HAMS.

Meeting was Adjourned @ 21:20 hrs.

Respectfully submitted;

Wm. H. Rabun (KE4GUM)

Broward Amateur Radio Digital Society
February 21, 1998

The meeting was again held in the Motorola "Blue Room". Attendees were Jim Goldsberry, Lou Sposa, John Wilson Jim Dahling, Ford Beach, Joe Loewy, Al White, and Mike Kantor. That's, KD4GR, N4ZXZ, KB4FO, N4BVL, and KD4EMI.

The 144.39 crystals finally arrived. It has been about 6 months. The Receiver crystals are about 10 KHz high and are being returned by Doug, WB4KGY. The transmit crystals were OK.

It looks like the Boca Digi and West Palm Switch will be QSYing to 144.39 in April.

After the meeting John, KN4HX, and Ford, KB4WBY had a Nova installation party. Nova is the satellite tracking software demonstrated at the Miami Hamfest AMSAT Booth.

The March 21 meeting program will be an introduction to the Smith chart using the ARRL MicroSmith program.

Bob,
N4CU@amsat.org

ARTICLES FOR *WHITE NOISE*

The Palm Beach Packet Group accepts articles from other clubs and individuals wishing to have them published in the *White Noise*. This is offered as a gratis service for those not otherwise having publication services at their disposal. Article content should be amateur radio related, including all operating modes, applications including computer, experiences, announcements and reports of meetings. Advertising is not accepted.

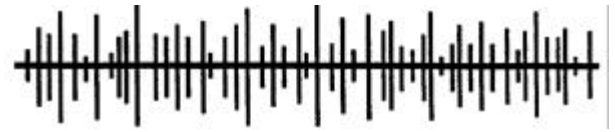
We reserve editorial privileges regarding content, spelling, punctuation and structure as well as the decision to publish or not. Articles can not be returned.

Send your copy to:

bmanley@gate.net

KB4XE @WB4TEM.#BCR.FL.US.NOAM

WHITE NOISE



Volume 10, Number 4

April, 98

I was disappointed at the speed of 1200 baud Packet:

By Marvin Kaskawits KD2CK

Are you being overwhelmed by email and tired of the slow speed of 1200 baud packet? Some people would rather switch than fight.

I chose to stay with packet and change the baud rate to 9600 Baud. At the time I did this, Terry was deep into the problem of disproving Icom's claims of a 9600 Baud ready rig. But as Terry W5JFM so astutely pointed out in his series of articles, it was just not true. I chose a different path, one that required me to have an older commercial Motorola VHF radio modified. The model I acquired was bought at the Palm Beach Hamfest and it is a Mitrek mobile radio. I paid \$35.00 and these units put out anywhere from fifty to a hundred watts. These and other surplus rigs are readily available at most Hamfests. I was extremely fortunate to have had the skills of the Dynamic Duo, John WB4MOZ and Doug WB4KGY offer to come to my rescue. These units require technical skills and test equipment in order to be modified for the ham bands. In addition, they had to have crystals made since they are crystal controlled and two specially cut crystals are required, one for transmit and the other for receive. In summing up the inconvenience of modifying a single band single frequency commercial rig for 9600 baud packet, at the time it was the only show in town and worth it. Now it is much easier to get started, there are several 9600 baud rigs available in the Ham marketplace that are just "plug and play". The major improvement in the readily available rigs now on the market are that not only are they ready to go but they are dual band and synthesized for all

the frequencies and do not require crystals. This is the way to go if a new rig fits into your budget.

In order for me to get started at that time, it was necessary for me to convert my TNC to being 9600 baud from the more common 1200 baud. It may not seem like much of a speed change to those of you that are accustomed to the current Internet modem speeds, but believe me it is. Please do not lose sight of the fact that packet is a text base system and the system is not delayed waiting for graphics. Therefore, you will be impressed with the speed of 9600 baud. At that time, I was in possession of an AEA 232 MBX. I found that it could be upgraded to 9600 but once again it was complicated and needed a lot more time of the "Dynamic Duo" so I swapped with Stu NF2N for his AEA 900 (fathers can do that). The AEA 900 is able to accept a modification board that just plugs into the motherboard and after a quick tune up by John WB4MOZ it was ready to go. I am pretty sure that the modification boards are also available from Time Works Inc. They are the people that bought the digital communications part of AEA. Now they also sell as well as Kantronics and PacComm 9600 baud ready TNC's. These last two companies had a very enlightening display at the Miami Hamfest and showed their new models for 9600.

Now that you are aware of how I got to 9600 baud, please let me indulge in how wonderful it can be. However, before I go any further let me address the skeptics among you that are heavy in to the speeds of Email. I am also on email and they follow two different paths. Packet is informal and enlightening especially when you query the BBS's, it can be used for direct keyboard to keyboard QSO's. It can also be amusing when you just copy the mail. We in

South Florida are fortunate to have an extensive 9600 baud network, which didn't just appear by its self. It is the culmination of extensive efforts of many dedicated hams of both their time and moneys. I would be one of the first to admit that I am not on the skill level of those hams who have made these fantastic networks available to all of us. It is imperative that we do our part to use and extend the valuable mode to others. The Packet Radio Network is there for our enjoyment and as has been said before that, "use it or lose it." Most of all try 9600 you will like it, I most certainly do. Lets get a 9600 baud Rag Chew going keyboard to keyboard. The West Palm 9600 baud packet frequency is 145.63 MHz. Check local BBS's for information on Packet Frequency lists for 9600 baud in other area's.

FPAC SYSTEM INSTALLATION

by Doug Welcker WB4KGY

You have been reading about it for some time now but have you tried using it lately? On Saturday April 18th John (WB4MOZ) and I set out to update the Vero to Stuart backbone to 9K6 and to install FPAC at the Stuart switch. Unfortunately due to problems with the replacement radio, the Vero update was not able to be completed. Moving down US-1 to Stuart we had lunch with Joe (K1VAO) and continued to the ROSE switch location.

As with any major operation a lot of coordination had been accomplished before we arrived. Bill (N4XEO) had acquired a mini-tower 486 from the Tampa group, a four port communications card with high interrupts had been purchased and installed, and various interconnect cables located. John (WB4MOZ) supplied several KISS EPROMS for the TNC's and distributed the updates for SYSOPS to install in their ROSE or FPAC systems if we were successful. Bill (N4XEO) had previously rearranged the cabinet to include the computer but the monitor had to reside on the top of the cabinet. Sounds like

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The PBPG can be reached by mail at

Palm Beach Packet Group
PO Box 16471
West Palm Beach, Fl. 33416-6471

The officers of the PBPG with their packet address and phone numbers are:

Doug Welcker, President
WB4KGY@WB4MOZ
(561) 686-3747

Mike Michaels, Vice-President
K2GPI@WB4MOZ
73754.3116@compuserve.com
(561) 967-0478

Bill Rabun, Secretary
KE4GUM@WB4MOZ
(561) 688-2088

Marvin Kaskawits, Treasurer
KD2CK@WB4MOZ
kd2ck@ibm.net
(561) 683-2930

John Green, Director
WB4MOZ@WB4MOZ
wb4moz@maco.net
(561) 793-6093

Bill Manley, Director
KB4XE@WB4TEM
bmanley@gate.net
(954) 752-3908

everything is done. Just hook up the cables and go home. Never happens.

Included with this change is the conversion to the new LAN frequency, 145.53 Mhz, which involved a radio change to a MAXAR50. Since that was easy we started there. Next one by one the TNC's were converted back to their original configuration and KISS proms installed, assigned serial cables were connected, and deviations and frequencies were

checked and adjusted. The old network cabling was removed and system checkout began. The returned out to be two real problems to overcome.

First, to gain maximum performance from the system the serial ports need to run as fast as possible which means getting the TNCs switch to 19.2k baud. This minimizes the delay in moving the packets between TNCs. With the old system either a diode matrix or a coax LAN connected the serial ports of the TNCs together allowing communications between only two TNCs at a time. As it turned out not all communications ports were running at the proper speed even though the program comments indicated they were. Eventually John had to go into the program to correct the problem. Fortunately, previous experience with this problem saved a lot of time.

The second problem was much more difficult due to brain fade. The last TNC we had to deal with was a new SPIRIT from PacComm which is a DSP design and very versatile. The only trouble is we forgot the BOOK! About this time Bill (N4XEO) stopped by after taking his son to a scouting event. He didn't have a manual either. We sent him home (a forty minute drive to go 9.8 airline miles - don't go to Port St. Lucie/Ft. Pierce/Stuart area and expect to get anywhere in a hurry). Not having anything better to do, we started moving jumpers and hoping for the best. This thing has more jumpers than you have ever seen and of course they are unmarked as to function. After we exhausted most combinations without success Bill called us on the Stuart repeater and after many starts, stops, and retries the TNC came alive.

Finally we had the system running. Now we checked out all the ports with connections to other locations with the help of Bill who by the way is running FPAC at the Ft. Pierce switch. So now what - push all the cables inside the cabinet, close the doors, and run. That only took five hours!

Now for the best part. Its QUICK!!! Its real QUICK. From my QTH in West Palm it is just a tick slower communicating through the Stuart SWITCH than operating through West Palm. Using the Ft. Pierce switch is nearly as good and operational speed is something we never had before even with these SWITCHES connected at 9K6 baud. The conversion from ROSE is not stopping here. John King, Emergency Management Coordinator for Indian River County, has supplied a 486 computer for the VERO SWITCH which John (WB4MOZ) now has on his bench for conversion. Hopefully in the next month plus Vero will be FPAC.

If you haven't connected yet give it a try. Send "C NODE V (your local switch K4PKT-9 for WPB), 561220" then send "I9" for SWITCH information and enjoy.

Spectrum Protection Bill Introduced in the U.S. Congress

From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT March 30, 1998

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.

The full text of the bill is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi/bin/query/z?c105:H.R.3572>.

ELIMINATE FORM 610 PROPOSED

ARRL Bulletin 20 (ARLB020) March 23:

In a sweeping Notice of Proposed Rulemaking the FCC has suggested several rules changes that could affect Amateur Radio, including replacement of the venerable FCC Form 610. NPRM Docket WT 98-20, "To Facilitate the Development and Use of the Universal Licensing System in the Wireless Telecommunications Services," seeks comments on proposals to replace Form 610 with FCC Form 605, to permit automatic reciprocal licensing of foreign hams wishing to operate in the US; to privatize the issuance of club station licenses; and to require applicants and licensees to supply a taxpayer identification number (TIN) and to file electronically. The FCC also plans to consolidate the application procedures for all Wireless Telecommunications Services into a single set of rules. All of these proposals are part of the FCC's

efforts to implement the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Universal Licensing System.

The new Form 605 would apply for Amateur Radio and other services "not presently required to submit extensive technical data to receive a license." The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau is trying to drastically cut down the number of forms for the various services it administers, and to include all of its services under the ULS. The FCC last November began initial collection of licensee data to populate the US. Using the US, applicants and licensees will be able to file, modify, and renew electronically. Ultimately, the FCC intends to require all applicants, as appropriate, to file all applications and notifications electronically.

The FCC says it's tentatively concluded that there is "little or no need to continue issuing the reciprocal permit" (FCC Form 610-AL) for alien amateur licensees because the license from any foreign country with which the US has a reciprocal agreement would stand as the proof that the foreign operator is qualified for the reciprocal operating authority. Reciprocal operation under the new regime would be "by rule," which means no special action is necessary on the applicant's part, and the elimination of Form 610-A.

For club station licenses, the FCC proposes to accept the services of VEC like organizations as volunteer club station call sign administrators. Prospective organizations would have to complete a pilot autogrant batch filing project before being authorized as call sign administrators.

Under the US, applicants or licensees would have to supply a TIN, usually a Social Security number, or "its functional equivalent." The FCC says this is "consistent with the requirements of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996." To allay fears of misuse of TINs, the FCC says the US system would be designed so that TINs will not be

available to the public and "only a small number of Commission employees would have access to TIN information in conjunction with their work." The FCC says a Privacy Act submission would be published in the Federal Register "to obtain the requisite public and Congressional comment and Office of Management and Budget approval prior to implementation of the US system."

A text version of the entire rulemaking proposal is at <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98025.txt> (or see the link from the FCC home page).

The proposal was released March 20. Comments are due to the FCC 30 days after publication in The Federal Register. Reference WT Docket 98-20. The FCC will not accept email comments on Docket WT 98-20.

**Bob Bruninga WB4APR
to Receive the
Hamvention Technical Excellence Award**

The AMSAT NEWS SERVICE (ANS) reports that it has learned the 1998 Dayton Hamvention Technical Excellence Award has been given to Robert E. Bruninga, WB4APR. Bob Bruninga, known as the father of APRS, garnered his award for his work in the creation and development of the automatic packet reporting system used by many amateurs around the county.

WB4APR, an amateur for 36 years, was first interested in the hobby at a very young age when he and a group of neighborhood kids constructed a telegraph system. A retired Navy Communications Electronics Specialist, Bob is now the contractor in charge of the satellite ground station at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

WB4APR says that APRS had an interesting beginning. "We first presented the idea at the Digital Communication Conference in 1992. And one of the first things we did with it was track the running of the Army/Navy game football. They run it for 18 hours, from the Naval Academy in Annapolis to the stadium in Philadelphia, about 150 miles. And so we put a GPS unit in a football helmet, put it on a guys head and we demonstrated with just that one watt transmitter that we could track the runner and the football all the way to Philadelphia. We have now done that every year since. That is a lot of fun. We've also tracked all of the Naval Academy Boats up and down the Atlantic. We track those with APRS via a high frequency setup.

There is also one truck driver, W7LUS, and you will see him on an APRS map every hour of the day and night. He is driving around with an APRS installation in his truck all over the country. He puts his schedule in his beacon text and people can see where he is headed and they will go out and catch up with him at the next truck stop," said WB4APR.

Bruninga will receive his award at a banquet in Dayton the evening of May 16th.

Interested amateurs can learn more about APRS and view an APRS map on the Internet using the following URL:
www.aprs.net

[ANS congratulates Robert E. Bruninga, WB4APR, and thanks Newline for this information]

(The Palm Beach Packet Group joins the AMSAT News Service is extending its

congratulations to Bob Bruninga WB4APR - ed).

GULLIBILITY VIRUS SPREADS

FROM THE HUDSON LOOP

WASHINGTON, DC -- April 1 -- The Institute for the Investigation of Irregular Internet Phenomena announced today that many Internet users are becoming infected by a new virus that causes them to believe without question every groundless story, legend, and dire warning that shows up in their inbox or on their browser. The Gullibility Virus, as it is called, apparently makes people believe and forward copies of silly hoaxes relating to cookie recipes, email viruses, taxes on modems, and get-rich-quick schemes.

"These are not just readers of tabloids or people who buy lottery tickets based on fortune cookie numbers", a spokesman said. "Most are otherwise normal people, who would laugh at the same stories if told to them by a stranger on a street corner". However, once these same people become infected with the Gullibility Virus, they believe anything they read on the Internet.

"My immunity to tall tales and bizarre claims is all gone," reported one weeping victim. "I believe every warning message and sick child story my friends forward to me, even though most of the messages are anonymous."

Another victim, now in remission, added, "When I first heard about Good Times, I just accepted it without question. After all, there were dozens of other recipients on the mail header, so I thought the virus must be true". It was a long time, the victim said, before she could stand up at a Hoaxes Anonymous meeting and state, "My name is Jane, and I've been hoaxed". Now, however, she is spreading the word. "Challenge and check whatever you read," she says.

Internet users are urged to examine themselves for symptoms of the virus, which include the following:

-- The willingness to believe improbable stories without thinking.

-- The urge to forward multiple copies of such stories to others.

-- A lack of desire to take three minutes to check to see if a story is true.

T.C. is an example of someone recently infected. He told one reporter, "I read on the Net that the major ingredient in almost all shampoos makes your hair fall out, so I've stopped using shampoo."

When told about the Gullibility Virus, T.C. said he would stop reading email, so that he would not become infected.

Anyone with symptoms like these is urged to seek help immediately. Experts recommend that at the first feelings of gullibility, Internet users rush to their favorite search engine and look up the item tempting them to thoughtless credence. Most hoaxes, legends, and tall tales have been widely discussed and exposed by the Internet community.

Courses in critical thinking are also widely available, and there is online help from many sources, including:

Department of Energy Computer Incident Advisory Capability at
<http://ciac.llnl.gov/ciac/CIACHoaxes.html>

Symantec Anti Virus Research Center at
<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/index.html>

McAfee Associates Virus Hoax List at
<http://www.mcafee.com/support/hoax.html>

Dr. Solomons Hoax Page at
<http://www.drsolomons.com/vircen/hoax.html>

The Urban Legends Web Site at
<http://www.urbanlegends.com>

Urban Legends Reference Pages at
<http://www.snopes.com>

Datafellows Hoax Warnings at
<http://www.Europe.Datafellows.com/news/hoax.htm>

Those people who are still symptom free can help inoculate themselves against the Gullibility Virus by reading some good material on evaluating sources, such as:

Evaluating Internet Research Sources at
http://www.sccu.edu/faculty/R_Harris/evalu8it.htm

Evaluation of Information Sources at
<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/~agsmith/evaln/evaln.htm>

Bibliography on Evaluating Internet Resources at
<http://refserver.lib.vt.edu/libinst/critTHINK.HTM>

It is possible to design responsible alerts for people to circulate on the Internet. Here is a how-to that draws positive conclusions from long experience with the evils of badly designed alerts:

Designing Effective Action Alerts for the Internet at
<http://weber.ucsd.edu/~pagre/alerts.html>

Lastly, as a public service, Internet users can help stamp out the Gullibility Virus by sending copies of this message to anyone who forwards them a hoax.

73 de Brent Venis, KB0SPN
forwarded by Mike Reed, N7ZEF
(mreed@trib.com)

OPEN REMARKS / REPORTS

The meeting was bought to order @ 19:35 hrs. by Pres. Doug Welcker (WB4KGY) There was 10 members and guests. Introductions were made.

Treasure's Report: Marvin (KD2CK) reviewed the Treasure's report. The report appeared in the March *"The White Noise"*.

The Technical Committee report was given by Doug (WB4KGY). First item on interest was the conversion of APRS to the new frequency. The frequency was changed on March 19 with the installation of new EEPROMs on both GE Delta radios. The second radio is used for 1200 baud LAN on 145.03 Mhz. Crystals for the Boca APRS Digi (KF4DXY-1) were installed and the unit returned to service by John (WB4MOZ) on April 6th. This conversion is to remove the interference potential to future Shuttle and Space Lab 2 meter operations.

The SWITCH developed a problem a few days after the last meeting becoming sluggish and eventually halting operation. The problem turned out to be the original 2 port comm card. When the card was replaced the next evening operation improved dramatically over previous performance. This confirmed that the old board probably was defective since installation and may have been responsible for unexplained computer lockups. While investigating this problem the 223 Mhz secondary link to Boca was found to have a bad TNC.

We are still awaiting release of Tom Ringate updated version of the FPAC code now running on the Tampa LAN at 813962. You can review this new version by connecting to node at 813962.

PALM BEACH PACKET GROUP MEETING
APRIL 12, 1998

OLD BUSINESS

Agenda items completed per the PBPG Board Of Directors' meeting held in February include moving the club PO Box to West Palm Beach. The new address is:

PALM BEACH PACKET GROUP, Inc.
P.O. BOX 16471
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33416-6471

Also it was found that "HAMWEB", a system to broadcast all the messages on the BBS to all listeners during the midnight hours, was not compatible with the BBS operating system. The next BOD agenda item was the Internet Gateway interface. Joe (WB4TEM) has been working on this for some time but only recently found help from a Sarasota ham who volunteered to come to Boca to work on the system interface.

White Noise was mailed on April 3rd but still was not receive in Coral Springs till April 15th!

Secretary BillyBob (KE4GUM) has several packet books available from the club library. If you would like to check these out send him a message at WB4MOZ or give him a call. (his phone number is listed on the second page of this issue)

Included with the usual handouts this month is the SWITCH list which has a new asterisk (*) column to denote the accessible SWITCHES and ROSE sites connectible from the PBPG LAN.

NEW BUSINESS

Marvin (KD2CK) discussed a packet message he had received from a friend in West Central Florida about maintaining packet radio systems and BBS's. The author reflected on the need to continue to update and improve on the packet system as it is radio based and will be there when the phone lines are gone!

Memberships this evening are being accepted by Marvin (KD2CK).

Interesting BBS subject of the month "W" command. Do a "W" after connecting to your local BBS for a list of topic concerning many different facets of Amateur Radio.

ADJOURN / BREAK / WORKSHOP

Next meeting May 14, 1998. The program this evening was presented by Doug (WB4KGY) on how easy it is to get on 9600 and enjoy the many benefits.

Meeting was Adjourned @ 21:10 hrs.

Respectfully submitted;
Doug Welcker (WB4KGY)

APRIL BARDS MEETING MINUTES.

The meeting was called to order at 9. There were 18 attendees.

The meeting started off with the program. The program was a review of the ARRL MicroSmith program by Bob, N4CU. This is a smith chart program that allows a person to develop a 5 component circuit to match an input to an output impedance. It is a DOS program that requires only 272 K of ram and no coprocessor. However it has lots of features. It will do any matching expected of a smith program, L-network, Wideband matching, and transmission line stub and transform matching. It has a swept feature and frequency dependent loads can be used.

We took a break after about 40 minutes and then continued for about 20 minutes longer. We covered most of the features in the hour we spent on the program. Once again using the LCD projector panel to put a computer screen on a display so a room full of hams can see it made going through the computer program features very interesting.

There was some discussion of antenna design and John, KN4HX, volunteered to show us an antenna design program in May. Carl will be giving the April presentation.

The next meeting is April 18. The program will be by Carl.

Minutes by Bob N4CU

TREASURE COAST PACKET GROUP MINUTES

The January Minutes were accepted. as posted on the Local BBSs and as printed in White Noise, on a motion by Bill N4XEO and a second by Tom, N4LRV. The Treasurer; Andy W8BIX reported that after a reimbursement to Bill N4XEO of \$84.95, the Treasury balance was \$ 1334.74. The report was approved on a motion by Jim, WA1COA, and a second by Don K8BXT.

New Business: a Letter received from FADCA indicated that we are now fully coordinated under the Band Plan with Joe K1VAO as trustee.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:

Bill N4XEO reported that 2 attempts to set up Vero at 9600 baud were made, but the Radio at Vero has phase modulation which is not compatible with 9600 baud. Therefore the Vero Port was put back on at 1200 again.

K4VGI, on the west coast has some Phoenix Radios which might serve. Bill, N4XEO is also working on setting up the FPAC system. He has obtained 4 Port Com Cards, a Case etc and WA9IRD donated a Hard Drive, 386 board and a Video card. Kevin, W4KKK, donated a 286 setup. which we are not able to use at this time, but will be used for parts.

A bad battery had to be swapped out, which has eliminated "burps" on the 145.050 port, which was

causing packet rejects. It seems that the 440 port transceiver was drawing so much current on key up that it caused the "burps".

Com cards are available at \$45 bought in quantity of 5 or more. Also VHF and Uhf radios are available for \$75, and if they are multi channel and can be programmed, then they would be ideal since xtals are expensive. and we would have spare radios in standby. These are GE Phoenixes.

W2KGV made a motion, which was seconded to purchase the cards, but N4XEO would rather wait until he has had a chance to check out the one he has before he buys additional cards.

One of the 2 radios that the PBPG had obtained for us is the one on the 145.530 that would run out of memory, is now at N4XEO's QTH awaiting resolution of the problem. The other radio still at PBPG will eventually be used on the 9600 baud link at OKE.

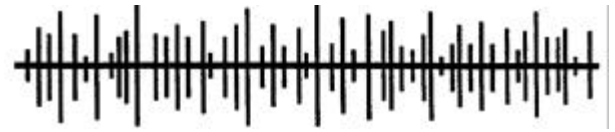
Tom, N4LRV reported that the Vero PG was awaiting info from the county, so that they could continue, modifying their set up. He said when Joe, KC4IBT was in town, he said that the Vero 440 radio could be modified for 9600 baud use and is using 2 himself.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 AM on a motion by Bill, N4XEO and a second by Tom, N4LRV.

Attending; K8BXT W8BIX K1VAO N4XEO
N4LRV WA1COA W2KGV

Respectfully submitted,
Ladd Sajor W2KGV Secy.

WHITE NOISE



Volume 10, Number 5

May, 98

MAYTON DAYTON

By Terry J. Taylor, W5JFM

Where else can you throw a hot dog up in the air, and have it cooked before it hits the ground? Yep, Dayton. With over 30,000 people, and most all of them with HT's, the RF environment is fairly well saturated. Clear frequencies are hard to find, if not impossible. The middle of May trek to the world's largest gathering of hams was a perfect time of year. Since the Dayton Hamvention moved from the end of April to the middle of May because of 4 straight years of bad weather, it has been totally successful with beautiful weather. The date change was just a few years ago, and everyone seems to be happy with the May date. The weather was great all three days with full sun and low humidity.

Living in the Cincinnati area now, the drive to Dayton is fairly short. I used to envy those that lived so close and didn't have to find a hotel room, or ride the busses. Having a rental car during those times made things a lot easier, but having a personal car is even better. The Hamvention is still located up on the NW side of Dayton at the Hara Arena Conference & Exhibition Center. There is a large mall close by, and the Dayton Airport is about 20 minutes away by auto. The arena itself is much larger than a gymnasium with seating all the way around the floor area. One corner takes up the entire prize area. Vendors donate to the Hamvention all of the prizes, with none being purchased. The prize value is over \$100,000. Alnico donated over \$23,000 in prizes. The top prizes were the Kenwood TS-870S, FT-847, Japan Radio Company JST-145 HF transceiver, Yaesu FT-920, Icom IC-756, 746, 706, Alinco DX70TH and Cushcraft X9 Big Thunder. There is a huge drum

where all of the ticket stubs are thrown in hopes of winning a prize.

And guess who won an hourly prize? I saw my number, 18561, up there on one of the numerous TV monitors and was shocked. Could it be a new radio, or just another ARRL book? Don't get me wrong, as ARRL books are very nice and well written and quite useful – but I was hoping for a new toy – you know! I made my way up to the prize booth, signed my ticket, and got a plastic bag with a few things in it. Well, let's see. First there was a CD, and it was the October '97 HamCall from Buckmaster. I later went by their booth to see if I could pay a few dollars for an upgrade, but no deal. They wanted the full \$50 for the new one, so I wondered if the \$50 value sticker on my prize was really worth \$50. Oh, well. The next item in the bag was the TAPR book "Packet Radio: What? Why? How?" It is a \$20 value, and since I already have one, I'll send it to the PBPG. My last little goodie was a \$20 gift certificate to Bill Barrick parts. This is a vendor with all sorts of little parts like led's, resistors, sockets, etc. I picked out a few things like tie-wraps, needle-nose pliers, and fuses. I thanked these prize vendors for donating to the Hamvention.

In the other corner opposite from the prize booth was the huge Icom booth. They have a "ton" of equipment on display for everyone to play with. They usually have a new slant every year, and this year was no different. Several people were scattered around the booth elevated and behind the displays. They had boom microphones and all that was being said was broadcast over a small PA system. This way people standing around could hear the explanations of how the equipment worked, plus the

answers to the numerous questions. This was an effective way of getting more information to more people. In other parts of the building, Yaesu and Kenwood took a different tack by using what I would call mini-theaters. Here, you could sit down and watch a video tape on a large screen TV delineating the various products. Maybe the folks sitting down and watching were really interested, or maybe just taking a load off their feet.

In yet another corner of the arena was Cushcraft. They always bring a huge antenna array and stack several antennas on a pole that goes up pretty high into the air near the ceiling. It must be pretty tough to get all that up, but it is impressive. Elsewhere on the arena floor is MFJ, with numerous displays of their various products, and Kantronics showing their new KAM '98 which isn't quite into production.

There are other vendors on the main arena floor which could take up hours of your time visiting. Walking through the arena tunnel on the east side, you'll find yourself in a maze of huge, connecting buildings that house even more vendors. You'll find PacComm, TAPR, AMSAT, APRS, the ARRL, Kachina, and you'd think a zillion more. Plus there were numerous computer equipment dealers, food vendors, CD-ROM dealers, etc. Just about anyone who is anyone in amateur radio was there. All of the flea market was outside the buildings in spaces that went to over 4000. It is huge to say the least.

Friday night was the AMSAT dinner which was located at the Amber Rose near downtown Dayton. The food was outstanding, as it was last year. I enjoyed sitting at the table with Keith Baker, KB1SF, VP of AMSAT, who likes to talk about the "Mother of all Heathkits", meaning Phase 3-D. Also at the table was Barry Baines, WD4ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) from Jacksonville who led a very interesting discussion on trains. He works for CSX.

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PO Box 16471
West Palm Beach, Fl. 33416-6471

The officers of the PBPG with their packet address and phone numbers are:

Doug Welcker, President
WB4KGY@WB4MOZ
(561) 686-3747

Mike Michaels, Vice-President
K2GPI@WB4MOZ
73754.3116@compuserve.com
(561) 967-0478

Bill Rabun, Secretary
KE4GUM@WB4MOZ
(561) 688-2088

Marvin Kaskawits, Treasurer
KD2CK@WB4MOZ
kd2ck@ibm.net
(561) 683-2930

John Green, Director
WB4MOZ@WB4MOZ
wb4moz@maco.net
(561) 793-6093

Bill Manley, Director
KB4XE@WB4TEM
bmanley@gate.net
(954) 752-3908

Saturday provided a nice day for just browsing. There is so much to see that time actually goes by quickly. I ran into Marvin, KD2CK, and his wife Bernice, KD2CJ from the PBPG. The chances of running into someone you know are very slim due to the vast number of people. However, I saw Marvin and Bernice 3 or 4 times. We even took a picture at the Kantronics booth.

There are numerous forums going on at one time and last all day long. I was impressed with the Youth forum. Colorado has been particularly active in getting young people in the hobby. There are several groups out there, and a few of them spoke at the forum telling how they were getting more young people involved. There is even a project sponsored by NASA going on in Lexington, KY, whereby numerous students are busy polishing mirrors for a satellite that is to be launched. It is called Project Starshine. Another forum was on Spectrum Management by Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, who works for the League in Washington, DC. Many people don't realize the extent to which the ARRL represents the amateur interests not only in Washington, but worldwide. These efforts are excruciatingly important to the future of amateur radio. Paul and Larry Price, W4RA, plus others are traveling to meetings in Geneva and South America to further the worldwide interests that US Amateurs have. They keep a finger on the pulse of activities and report back to the League for action. It is an ongoing effort to protect our frequencies. If for no other reason, this is an excellent reason to belong to the ARRL and support these efforts. No one else is doing it.

Saturday night was treat. The Convention banquet is relatively new to me having gone just last year, and now this year. Last year was really super with Ron Parise, WA4SIR, a payload specialist on the shuttle, giving a talk and showing slides of his mission. Particularly interesting was an audio tape of what he was listening to when he operated 2M and everyone was trying to call him at once. Unbelievable cacophony. I was even fortunate to sit with him at the head table along with Dick Miller, N8CBU, General Hamvention chairman. This year the banquet moved from the downtown convention center to the Nutter Center located at Wright State University. The reason for this was a concert put on by Ronny Milsap, WB4KCG. Tickets were sold to the locals that were admitted to the Center after the

banquet meal. Ronny put on a great concert and talked about ham radio. It was really awesome, whether you care for Milsap or not. Plus the food was good, too. No, I didn't get to sit at the head table this year, nor would I have wanted to. There was a massive speaker "farm" located all around the stage, and I took pity on about the first 10 rows of tables. I think I sat in the 11th row, which was about right. Of interest to packet radio operators, Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, received the Technical Excellence Award and was given five minutes for a short speech. He brought out an egg timer and set it on the podium remarking that he wasn't going to bore the crowd more than his allotted time, which drew laughs from the more than 1000 people present.

All in all Dayton is huge. The annual budget is now over \$700,000 for the three day weekend. There are about 750 volunteers on 28 committees. Security is tight with some guys arrested by the FBI last year for selling illegal contraband out in the fleamarket. The convention is well organized, and well run, and a whole lot of fun. If you manage to get caught up in the activities such as the numerous forums, and the 24 or more Unofficial functions listed in the printed program, you can't help but enjoy your Dayton Experience. The year 2000 will be a granddaddy of all Dayton's when the Hamvention will join the ARRL for a National Convention. This will be a first. I would imagine that strategic plans are already being made. Two weeks after this Hamvention, committees will form and start working on the '99 Hamvention. It takes time to plan and run such a huge operation – and nobody does it better than the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA)!

DAYTON HAMFEST AND PACKET RADIO

Marvin Kaskawits KD2CK

The Dayton Hamfest and Packet Radio By Marvin Kaskawits KD2CK Well after one whole year of planning and looking forward to the big day the gates finally opened at the outdoor flea market at 8:00 AM and the crowd just swarmed in. It was a feeding frenzy. There were over 2400 vendors in the Flea Market area according to what I heard on the TV news. You name it in electronics and it can be found somewhere in the ocean of vendors. At 12 noon the four buildings opened and they were just loaded with displays of Manufacturers, and new parts dealers. If it is ham radio related, it is there and the movers and shakers of the companies were also in attendance. Most of the National and International radio organizations were also represented. So you can see there were enough interesting items to satisfy the most demanding Ham.

Our first visit was over at the Kantronics booth. And low and behold who do we meet but none other than Terry Taylor W5JFM. Certainly a driving force in the Palm Beach Packet Group, having served as past officer of the club and is currently writing very interesting articles for the rest of us to enjoy. Joining us in the picture is Bernice Kaskawits KD2CJ who graciously filled in on modeling duties.



Bernice and I did make two rounds of PacComm and Timeworks and those two reviews will come to you in a three part series. We missed seeing the MFJ booth simply because we ran out of time. You remember what the Brooklyn Dodgers always said, wait until next year.

But, I had the pleasure of meeting Cheryl Selwald who is in charge of Business Development both Regional and International for Kantronics. When I asked her what's new this is what she showed us. Kam '98 a single port Multi-mode Digital Controller that can be used on HF or VHF frequencies. HF operators can now enjoy 1200bps communications on 10 meters, or copy WEFAX feeds without cable swapping. Telemetry and remote control operations are now possible, through the use of two A/D inputs accessed through an AUX port and two control line outputs. In the Kam '98 list of operations here is what it does: GTOR, PACTOR, AMTOR, ARQ, FEC, SELFEC, CCIR 476 & 625, PACKET 300 or 1200 bps, RTTY, NAVTEX/AMTEX, ASCII, WEFAX, WMWIN, HF E-mail, CW, GPS NMEA-0183 compatible, TELEMETRY, REMOTE CONTROL, REMOTE SYSOP ACCESS, HOST Mode, and KISS.

This new modem, will be available in late June or early July and therefore no price was available. While including all the HF modes of the KAM Plus, KAM '98 utilizes a new HC11 heavy duty microcomputer, 128K RAM standard and expandable to 512K all squeezed into 1.2" X 6.7" 6.9" (HWD).

The next is for all of you 9600 baud fans and you can include me. A number of third-port modems are planned for the KPC-9600 Plus: 1200 baud, 9600-38K4 and a HF modem. Any one of these modems may be plugged into the internal header (connector) on the 9612 Plus printed circuit board at a time, creating a three-port KPC-9612 Plus. If you plug in the 9600 baud modem, you create a 1200, 9600, 9600 TNC, and so on. Pricing and availability for these add-ons is not set yet. They anticipate that

the add-ons will cost about \$100.00. They are currently in "beta" test and may be available by mid-June or early July. Next month we will visit with PacComm and view the NEW Spirit-2.

THE CLIFF EFFECT

Mike Michaels K2GPI

Doug is away on holiday; we all wish him a pleasant trip. He has put on me the task of writing this month's column. This club, although primarily for the purpose of promoting Packet, is also dedicated to all digital communications modes. I've been retired from working at Broadcast TV but am still interested in the medium and try to remain somewhat 'current' with the rapid advancements being made. Recently I came across a new term that is being bandied about it is 'Cliff Effect'.

If you haven't as yet, I'm sure it is something you will encounter very soon. With the advent of digital television (and its myriad of standards) we will see the screen go blank unless the signal strength is above a certain threshold and it may go blank if the channel spectrum is not flat because of multipath reception and it may go blank if we are living in the middle of a large city and cannot put up an outside antenna and have to resort to 'rabbit cars'. Supposing you have trees outside your house and are receiving a decent signal through them, what happens when it rains? There is no way of knowing until the event occurs. You have had a good picture on the old TV but you want one of those new high definition TV sets; well, you won't know until you plug it in at home whether you will have satisfactory reception. The networks and some 'local' stations with sufficient funds are showing some activity to get on the air.

I can't wait to see what happens.

PALM BEACH PACKET GROUP MEETING MAY 15, 1998

OPENING AND REPORTS

The meeting was started @ 17:30 hrs. by Vice President Mike (K2GPI) Due to the absence of our President Doug (WB4KGY). No Smoking policy in county buildings was issued and introductions were made.

TREASURE'S REPORT:

Marvin (KD2CK) was out of town and current report was not available. Report will be published in future *White Noise*.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

John (WB4MOZ) reported that cable between APRS radio and duplexer, had been replaced. KF4DXY-1 (BOCA) removed from service and aligned frequency about 3KC higher. Call has been changed to KF4DXY-3. K4PKT-9 switch has had no problems.

Doug & John installed FPAC in Stuart on Saturday April 18th. Installed new 2M radio. All is working very well and is extremely fast thru-put from WPB. Vero Beach- 9600 N.G Club was given computer from Vero Beach for FPAC use.

OLD BUSINESS

As per last months BOD meeting, PBPG new address PO BOX 16471, WPB 33416-8471. HAMWEB not adaptable at this time. WHITE NOISE for month of May has been mailed. Three books are for lending, from PBPG library. Club is still looking for Bel Glade replacement site. If you have any leads, please contact Henry (W4UJ) @ 642-7980. Handouts of switch and node's list. ROSE / FPAC users guides was completed.

NEW BUSINESS

Members were encouraged to order PBPG Polo shirts. The club could use your help. Interesting BBS subject of the month. Tampa wormhole, to other cities is being taken down.

ADJOURN/BREAK/WORKSHOP

Mike K2GPI) delivered a talk, with illustrations and photographs, on the history and evolution of television pickup devices.

The above information was provided by Mike (K2GPI).

Respectfully submitted;
Bill (KE4GUM)

BARDS MINUTES
Bob Walker N4CU

I won't send out a minutes report for April. I was out of town (Penang, Malaysia on business) during the meeting and no one "took minutes".

The program was by Carl, an Un-April program. He has done two very successful April Fools meetings so he knew we would be wary. He made this one sound like an April Fool but he "loaded" a tree to a 1:1 SWR and then had everyone go out and he hooked an antenna analyzer to the network he attached to a few turns around a tree and showed us that the tree was the antenna.

Next meeting will be John talking about an antenna design program.

Bob

TREASURE COAST PACKET GROUP
MINUTES of APRIL 11,1998

The Vice President, Joe K1VAO opened the meeting at 9:33AM. The minutes of the March meeting were read by the Secretary, Ladd W2KGV, which were approved on a motion by Bill, N4XEO, with Andy, W8BIX, seconding. The Treasurer Andy, W8BIX reported a \$1419.69 balance. A

motion by Bill N4XEO, and seconded by Tom N4LRV was approved.

The secretary read a packet bulletin advising of the move of the APRS frequency from 145.79, to 144.39 the original frequency was in conflict with the space program.

Bill N4XEO, suggested that we approach the PBPG as to the possibility of their mailing the White Noise to TCPG members at their cost to mail. He was asked to pursue that idea. after a motion to that effect by Bill N4XEO, and a second by Andy W8BIX, passed.

TECH COMMITTEE

Bill N4XEO, has acquired 4 Phoenix radios, 1 for Vero, one for the Stuart switch, and 2 for his BBS. These radios are programmable, therefore no need to purchase xtals to change frequencies. 16 frequencies have been put in Stuart, West Palm, Vero, and Okeechobee among those. He asked for a \$75 check to be drawn. to cover. So approved.

This should place the LAN area in good stead for Vero and Okee. There will also a be cost for connector cables of about \$30.00

Bill also said that he had tried the 4 ports on the computer for the FPAC system that has been installed. Also the suffix for the LAN has been changed to "-9" (K1VAO-9, 561793 for example) no longer "-5", and the digi will be "-8"

Ladd W2KGV reported talking with Doug KB4KGY of the PBPG about the "Burps", and Doug thought it might be a faulty ground connection which would draw more current and unbalance the circuit. When asked if the high power draw of the 440 radio could be causing the problem, he said that the orange pot inside could be turned to lower the output. Ladd W2KGV also said that due to the "Burps", he would have about 20 or more retries. for each packet.

Q and A Period

Denny W9OQN brought up his problem with the audio output of his setup, and received several suggestions from those present.

Tom N4LRV, reported that the money for the upgrade of the Vero switch was voted on and approved, They will obtain the Phoenix radios etc for FPAC at Vero.

There being no new business brought up, the meeting was adjourned at 10 AM

Attending were, N4XEO, AF4CN K1VAO, W9OQN, W8BIX, N4LRV, WA1COA, W2KGV

Respectfully submitted,
Ladd Sajor W2KGV Secy.

ARTICLES FOR *WHITE NOISE*

The Palm Beach Packet Group accepts articles from other clubs and individuals wishing to have them published in the *White Noise*. This is offered as a gratis service for those not otherwise having publication services at their disposal. Article content should be amateur radio related, including all operating modes, applications including computer, experiences, announcements and reports of meetings. Advertising is not accepted.

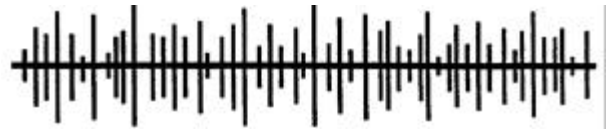
We reserve editorial privileges regarding content, spelling, punctuation and structure as well as the decision to publish or not. Articles can not be returned.

Send your copy to:

bmanley@gate.net

KB4XE @WB4TEM.#BCR.FL.US.NOAM

WHITE NOISE



Volume 10, Number 6

June/July, 98

THE PALM BEACH PACKET GROUP HAS A NEW QTH!

Doug Welker WBKGY
Bill Manley KB4XE

The transferring of operations from the old to the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has brought about a set of circumstances which no longer are compatible with the meeting schedules of the Palm Beach Packet Group. Beginning with the August 13 meeting, we have a new site. The new location is the Piccadilly Cafeteria located in the Polo Grounds Mall.

If your coming up/down I-95 exit at Southern Boulevard West to Military Trail and turn left (south) to the second stop light. The Piccadilly is located on the north-east corner of Military Trail and Summit Blvd in the north part of the mall. The meeting room is at the head of the food service line with enough room to accommodate about 40 people. Meeting time, 7:30pm, and date, second Thursday, remain the same. Come early and enjoy a good dinner with your fellow amateurs. We are also encouraging you to bring your wife/girl friend (maybe only one at a time) to participate in this social setting and get to know each other. If you have any questions please call Doug WB4KGY at (561) 686 3747.

The Palm Beach Packet Group is grateful for the long standing hospitality of the EOC administration and staff. As amateur radio operators we share the goals and objectives of the emergency operations team. We look forward to continuing that relationship.

SOUTH FOR THE WINTER

By Doug Welcker WB4KGY

See.....You didn't even miss me last month and I want to thank Terry Taylor (W5JFM), Marvin Kaskawits (KD2CK), Mike Michaels (K2GPI) for filling these pages with fine articles. As usually happens in May, I'm off somewhere on vacation. Kind of beat the rush this way as there is no problem with high ticket prices or reservations. This year was my wife's choice for a destination and she suggested a trip home to see mother, brother, and as many other relatives as possible. I agreed as we haven't been Brazil for four years.

Now you have to realize this isn't to some city you have ever heard of but into South-Central Brazil to a place called Rolandia which just happens to fall on the Tropic of Capricorn (22.5 degrees South Longitude). Interestingly Roland was named for a German war hero from the 16th Century and as you might guess there are a large contingent of Germans present. Today they are mostly second generation as their parents arrived shortly before the start of WWII and

literally cut their farms out of the jungle. But were getting ahead of ourselves so lets back up and get there first.

Actually it is quite simple - well almost. No problems with getting plane reservations. We decided to fly VARIC this time as we had flown it once before and were quite satisfied with the service. The most interesting part is obtaining the Visa. When you call the embassy in Miami and after fighting the automated answering service a real person with a less than polite manner indicates that the Visa is free but it costs \$45.00 to process!

Not only that but if you come to their office which is open only two days a week the application won't be processed the same day. "Come back in two days and it may be ready but DON'T call to see if it is ready." We gave up on that idea quickly and let the travel agent use her courier take care of the problem. Still the application goes to the third degree in the information that they want and by the way don't forget to include a copy of your return ticket (as if I would want to stay there). The application went well with the travel agent as it

took only a couple of weeks including Fed Express over night!

But it gets better. Really. Rented a car here in West Palm to get to the Miami airport and left about 4pm for our flight at 10pm. Finally on our way cruising down the Turnpike when suddenly I realize we don't have the camera bag. Exit at the Pompano, U turn and back we go. Well that only wasted an hour but we had plenty to spare so we soldier on through the rush hours to Miami. Actually it wasn't bad for a Friday as most of the traffic was heading north. Drove the car to ALAMO drop-off where the check-in gentleman, while trying to decide in what language to speak, used his wireless remote computer to complete the transaction. The receipt came from a whirring little printer on his hip. Very nice - Very quick. Carried the bags a few meters to bus pickup and in a few minutes we were deposited at the VARIC entrance at MIA.

Now it gets interesting. We had only two medium bags to check and two small bags to carry on. After only a few minute wait in line and after having our tickets, passports, and visa checked, we were at the counter. Heft the bags on the scale and after the counter girl tried to decide in what language to speak, we handed her the paperwork (My wife speaks to them in Portuguese and I use English). She gave us the strangest look. OH NO what now! "Is this all your baggage?" She looks at our paperwork. "Oh I understand - Your not Brazilian" (More on this later). After a few moments we were processed and had hours left to wait.

Time to eat. Hours and what seems miles later we arrive at the we arrive at F concourse to find the gate has already been change and the flight time departure has been pushed back an hour. This is an introduction to Brazil. No Brazilian has ever been able to be on time - its in the genes and it drives the northern Europeans crazy!! If the plane left on time it would be less that half full but when they call for boarding by seat numbers they all want to get on at first. In this case it is a real crowd as we are flying a 747. Now it gets better. As we board, there is a cart with major newspapers from the larger cities waiting. I pick up a copy of "ESTADE SAO PAULO" which includes a section of the "WALL STREET JOURNAL" South American version. When we get to our seats, neatly folded blankets and a pillow are waiting. Sitting next to my wife is a middle aged female business journalist - her friend is sitting two rows ahead and is already anxious about her next cigarette as she is sitting in the non smoking section and we haven't left the ground yet. I think the clouds of pollution we saw in the large Brazilian cities were from the continues puffers and not from the auto truck/bus exhaust. (Remind me to buy more Philip Morris stock)

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bmanley@gate.net
(954) 752-3908

Finally we are in the air. Seat belt light stays on, smoking light goes out. In seconds she is walking back into the smoking section with a cigarette already in her mouth and lighter in hand. First comes the drinks - I ask for Guarana - its the Coke of Brazil but better and not a cola, next a package consisting of a comb, toothbrush and paste, and a few other odds and ends. Now dinner and it was pretty good, more drinks and of course coffee cafezinho. Its coffee about a double thimble in size, half sugar and black like tar. (Don't take a shot if you want to sleep in the next twelve hours). Now for the neatest display - probably is common but as I

don't fly international a lot I hadn't seen it before. They have a projection TV system that continuously displays in multiple screens a map of where you are in varying degrees of zoom which includes ground speed, altitude, and time till arrival in both metric and English systems. Now the movie came on - Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt and I went to sleep.

Awoke the next morning and the sky was just getting light and the attendant was asking what I wanted for breakfast. I get a choice - how novel. Now the lines to the bathrooms were backing up the isle, I knew I should have got in line sooner. Too late. "Seats in the upright position" Look out the window and all I see is roof tops of red tile. Thump thump and we are on the ground and driving around the tarmac. Now we are stopped and the pilot announces that all gates are taken and we have to wait 15 minutes. This is a big, fairly new airport spread over more area than MIA, Guarulhos about twenty mile outside Sao Paulo.

Finally we deplane, walk forever to the baggage claim and after a short wait load our baggage on the free carts provided by the airport authority. Now 400 plus people with baggage head for one exit door. My wife now understands why she left the country. This is worse than Times Square at rush hour! After much aggravation and jostling we emerge. Poof - all I hear is the click of lighters as no the NO SMOKING signs are gone. Next you head down a isle with a traffic light - full size but with no yellow. If it turns red when you walk by the guard he directs you to customs inspection. Lucked out. Now off we go to check in for our next flight. The information lady says to go to the VARIC information counter. Hummm Interesting Turns out to be a bureaucratic trap. It seems that airport taxes are not included in the departure ticket price. \$18.00 later we have a red stamp on our ticket for the next leg of the flight to Londrina (Brazilian spelling of London - was settled by the English when they were putting in the railroad in the late 1800's). At least they took our bags and checked them no gratuity expected.

Can you believe it - we left on time after being bused out to the plane parked on the tarmac. I suspect we left on time because the overbooked passengers hadn't got their yet! Flying to Londrina takes about an one & a half hours in a 737 (full again) and you land on top of hill that has been shave flat. It looks like the flight deck of an aircraft carrier and the pilot treats it that way. Down quick and hard with max reverse thrust before the front wheel hits the ground! We deplane into cool (low seventies) sunshine, low humidity and light breezes with frantic well-wishers waving and whistling. Wow What a reception.

Whoops...Turns out it was for someone else behind us as Julie's Mother, Brother, and Nephew are all to be recognized. In a few minutes we have the luggage loaded in the car and were off for home.

(to be continued)

The Dayton Hamfest and Packet Radio

by Marvin Kaskawits KD2CK

This article is the second in a series of three, each one is with a different manufacturer of TNC's. In this interview, Bernice KD2CJ and Linda are together in the photo showing off PacComm's newest entry for 9600 bps.



It was very nice of Linda to take the time away from the busy booth to pose with us. Some of you that have not had the pleasure of having met and spoken to Linda at the PacComm booth during the many Hamfests they attend. You have just missed out on an opportunity to learn about what makes the little box do all those fantastic digital things to enhance our hobby. Linda is a businesswoman that is the brains and beauty behind PacComm, which just happens to be, located over in Tampa, Florida. In the picture, Linda is holding the high performance Packet Controller Sprint-2.

The Sprint-2 is the ideal TNC for 9600 and faster packet operation for BBS, satellite and NODE use. This TNC is built for reliable high, yet is very affordable. It uses reliable, tested technology (G3RUH modem, TNC-2 CPU architecture) with large-scale programmable logic circuits to reduce cost for solid, reliable performance. It is compatible with, TheNet X1, Rose, and Texnet ready.

It's digital features are 512kbit (64k Byte) EPROM 128k RAM provide 64k of Personal Message System storage and large send and receive buffers. The TNC-2 compatible design works with any TNC-2 EPROM. Major RS-232 and radio lines and power feed are protected against power spikes with on-board surge suppressers (Transorbs). Two independent modem transmit and receive filter sections to allow jumper selection of either of two radio baud rates with optimum transmit and receive filtering for each.

Included with the Sprint-2 are the operating manual, hardware manual, computer cable for 9-pin PC serial port, and an unterminated radio cable. The price for this little beauty is something to take note of. The Sprint-2 Standard Model with 9600 modem filters included is only \$239.00.

For more information:

PacComm Packet Radio Systems, Inc.

4413 N Hesperides Street

Tampa, Florida 33614-7618

Toll Free Order Line: 800 486 7388

Email: sales@paccomm.com

Browse their on line catalog: <http://www.paccomm.com>

In the next issue of "White Noise" will be a review of another manufacturer. That will be the third in a series of three articles that contain interviews done at the Dayton Hamfest.

20th Anniversary Of Amateur Packet Radio May 30, 1998

By: Burt Lang VE2BMQ

At around 9 pm on May 31, 1978 the first transmissions of packet over Amateur Radio were sent. The place was the upstairs banquet hall of Bill Wong's Restaurant on Decarie Blvd. in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The event was a special meeting of the Montreal Amateur Radio Club (MARC) called to discuss and debate proposed changes to the Canadian amateur frequency allocations that were being contemplated by the Dept. of Communications.

In attendance were several DOC officials from Ottawa, including the Director General - Regulations, Dr. John deMercado. Dr. deMercado is considered by some to be the "father" of amateur packet radio due to his persistant pressure to open up an exclusive portion of amateur band to experiment with the new mode, and due to his early experience on the ALOHA project in Hawaii. Others take a less charitable view of his role in this matter.

The first packet message was reported to have been "From John deMercado to the Montreal group - Bravo, well done!" or something like that. As is common with many historical events, the participants did not bother to record the particulars and memory now is less than perfect.

The Montreal Packet Net group consisted of:

Bob Rouleau,	VE2PY
Norm Pearl,	VE2BQS
Fred Basserman,	VE2BQF
Bram Frank,	VE2BFH
Jacques Orsali,	VE2EPH
Ted Baleshta,	VE3CAF
Ian Hodgson,	VE2BEN
and others not mentioned.	

A detailed description of the Montreal Protocol and hardware used in the experiments is given in the TAB book #1345 "PACKET RADIO" by Bob Rouleau and Ian Hodgson published in 1981. An interesting note is that the Montreal Modem design used the Exar XR-2206/2211 chip set. I am told that a sample of the Montreal Modem was sent to the Vancouver Group (VADCG) in the fall of 1978 and it is probably no coincidence that the same chip set appeared in the TAPR TNC modem of which Doug Lockhart of VADCG had a hand in designing.

It is ironic that none of the original Montreal Packet Net group are presently in Amateur Packet Radio. After a initial spurt of activity in amateur packet, Bob Rouleau and several others in the group turned to commercial applications for packet. The resulting company, DataRadio Inc., today is building and marketing commercial packet radio systems around the world. A recent application is the Canadian Weather Radio packet service introduced several years ago using DataRadio 9600 bps equipment.

We should congratulate these early pioneers in amateur packet radio for the work they did in getting the hobby started. It is through their early efforts that today's worldwide packet system has grown, often chaotic, seldom planned but with a continuous forward progress due to the efforts of countless others in the intervening years to advance and refine the technology. In the words of the first packet message:

BRAVO, WELL DONE!!!!!!!!!!

ITEM OF INTEREST

An *Introduction to Packet Radio* by Larry Kenney, WB9LOZ is a series of twenty articles was originally written in 1988 to appear in *Nuts & Volts*, the newsletter of the San Francisco Amateur Radio Club.

The series has been widely distributed since then, with revisions issued in 1991, 1993, and 1995. Now that the series appears on the Web, it is continuously updated, as needed, at this site.

Larry is the primary sysop of San Francisco's packet radio bulletin board system, W6PW-3, and is the owner of the BERKLY:WB9LOZ-2 node in the Berkeley Hills east of San Francisco. He continues to write monthly articles for *Nuts & Volts*.

(I've downloaded this complete series. It is too voluminous to include in the mailed distribution of White Noise, but reproduced copies will be available for handout at our regular PBPG monthly meetings - KB4XE -ed.)

WHOOOPS WE SLIPPED!

Bill Manley KB4XE - ed.

I'm sure that you noticed that this is a combined June/July issue of the White Noise. Due to circumstances beyond our control I became unavailable to pull the pieces together for the June deadline.

We regret the delay and plan to continue with regular monthly issues.

PALM BEACH PACKET GROUP MEETING JUNE 11, 1998

OPENING / REPORTS

The meeting was called to order @ 1935 hrs by President Doug Welcker (WB4KGY). Welcome / No smoking Policy / Introductions of Members followed.

The Treasure's report was not presented, due to Marvin (KD2CK) being out of town. The report will appear in future issue of WHITE NOISE. The technical report was given by DOUG (WB4KGY), as follows: The APRS radio was found to have very short range due to very low (<1 watt) of power. This radio was replace with the spare Alinco 3000. The receiver selectivity was so poor that a bandpass cavity filter was installed. At the same time if was found that the

diplexer exhibited a very high SWR. Temporary on site repair was made by JOHN (WB4MOZ). Quick Connect (K4PKT-6) to DX Cluster being installed by John (WB4MOZ) with assistance from Terry (W6LMJ). This allows connection to N4TL through Terry's cross frequency connect by only doing a "C K4PKT-6". The FPAC Switch, K4PKT-9, has experienced no problems this past month.

OLD BUSINESS

In the continuing effort to connect the INTERNET Gateway, JOE (WB4TEM) found computer serial port dead. FAU techs are to repair/replace the computer. WHITE NOISE was mailed June 9th. Three Packet books are available for lending. See KE4GUM.

An APRS book has been added to the library.

The PBPG is still looking for Bel Glade replacement site. If you have any suggestions or possible locations along the south side of Lake Okeechobee, please contact a club officer. Handout include: ROSE Switch/Node's list, ROSE users guide, FPAC users guide.

NEW BUSINESS

Doug (WB4KGY) reports of an assault on 420-450 band by the Land Mobile Communications Council to gain commercial use on this band. Among the many who responded, FADCA added it's concerns before the June 1st closing date. Also AAA has given misinformation to its members regarding this matter. ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner took them to task and insisted that the situation be corrected. (For more information see July QST pg 9)

The PBPG was invited to participate in Field Day. The CLUB is evaluating the situation, and will make a determination on it's actions. ART (WA4DBA) informed the PBPG that novice radio course will be taught at Santaluas high school, beginning this fall. He requested assistance from members of PBPG. Orders for PBPG polo shirts are being taken. Please submit you order on the form from previous WHITE NOISE issues. The club could use your help. Please step forward and offer your talents.

ADJOURN/BREAK/WORKSHOP

Workshop program: What is the future of Packet Radio? Panel discussion including BillyBob (KE4GUM) and Henry (W4UJ) with audience participation.

The meeting was adjourned @ 2136 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,
Wm. H. Rabun (KE4GUM)
rm

PALM BEACH PACKET GROUP MEETING JULY 9, 1998

OPENING / REPORTS

The meeting was called to order by President DOUG (WB4KGY). The abbreviated report was given by MARVIN (KD2CK) as follows:

As of May 31, 1998, Bank reports; saving account \$ 4,196.59, includes interest of \$ 10.67, checking account \$ 393.08. A complete report will appear in *White Noise*.

The technical report was presented by DOUG (WB4KGY). Henry (W4UJ) and Charlie (K2GNZ) volunteered use of a 2M/440 diplexer to replace the damaged/intermittent unit used on the APRS and 440 backbone antenna. FPAC "Quick Connect" for the DX Cluster was removed due to a problem in the FPAC software not allowing the connection. Upgrade of the VERO SWITCH to FPAC is planned for mid July. John (WB4MOZ) is testing the computer at his house under the call sign of WA4SBD-8/9 (his wife's call).

OLD BUSINESS

White Noise June issue was not mailed, due to illness of Editor Bill (KB4XE). Combined June/July issue will follow. BILL is out of the hospital after a short stay.

Joe (WB4TEM) is reported to still trying to solve computer problem at FAU, so we might establish gateway for internet connection.

Packet books are available from PBPG library.

NEW BUSINESS

Doug (WB4KGY) informed the group, that Time Wave Co. has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. It is regret that it was announced that FRED LINK (W2ALU) was a SILENT KEY. He was the founder /developer of FM Radio as we know it today.

Please be advised that this meeting was the last to be held at EOC. Our next meeting will be held at the Piccadilly Cafeteria, located at Polo Grounds strip mall, at Military & Summit Blvd. August 13th. @ 7:30 PM. Please step forward to assist your Club.

Doug (WB4KGY) gave a "GREAT PROGRAM", Getting around with FPAC.

Meeting adjourned @ 21:20 hrs.

Respectful submitted,
Wm. H. Rabun (KE4GUM)

Broward Amateur Radio Digital Society May 23, 1998 Bob, N4CU

The meeting started with introductions. There was one new attendee, Norm, W4QN.

The first subject was a short report on the Dayton Hamfest by Bob, N4CU and Carl, W9ZGU. Several items were discussed but the most interesting was the proposal by the Land Mobile Communications Council to use portions of our UHF bands. There have been several descriptions of this problem and the ARRL's suggested action by hams interested in leaving our UHF band as it is. Check the ARRL web site if you need information.

The program was by John, KN4HX. He demonstrated antenna design software written by Roy Lewellen, W7EL, named EZNEC. John showed us the 4 element 20 meter Quad which is part of the demo provided with the software. The program produces a set of data that is read directly by MicroSmith demonstrated by Bob, N4CU at the last meeting. MicroSmith is an antenna matching program that then allows you to match the antenna you have designed.

Once again, these programs shown on the big screen provides a very a very interesting aspect of amateur radio technical aspects. Thanks to John for an interesting and informative program.

Carl, W9ZGU, will give next month's program. He will demo an MFJ 224 signal analyzer. This analyzer will check the deviation on your radios. This device provides a final step in this antenna design series as it will measure the relative field strength, front to back ratio, and feedline loss.

ADJOURN/BREAK/WORKSHOP

Broward Amateur Radio Digital Society**June 20, 1998**

Bob, N4CU

The meeting started with introductions. There was one new attendee, Michael Maassel, WD0DVM. Mike's packet station is in transit but he is on VHF

Carl, W9ZGU, gave us a demonstration of the MFJ 224 FM Signal Analyzer. He checked the deviation of a radio held by John, KN4HX. Carl has made up a carrier containing the Signal Analyzer, a MFJ 259 HF/VHF SWR analyzer, a battery powered o-scope, and other equipment. The Signal analyzer will also measure relative field strength. Carl showed how the field strength reading could detect and measure excessive loss in old co-ax.

Dave followed up with a preview of some of the planned field day activities. He has a balloon and it will be used on Saturday for a high flying digi platform. It will also be used to pull up a long wire antenna. He has a Kite to be used on Sunday to pull up an antenna on the beach.

ARTICLES FOR *WHITE NOISE*

The Palm Beach Packet Group accepts articles from other clubs and individuals wishing to have them published in the *White Noise*. This is offered as a gratis service for those not otherwise having publication services at their disposal. Article content should be amateur radio related, including all operating modes, applications including computer, experiences, announcements and reports of meetings. Advertising is not accepted.

We reserve editorial privileges regarding content, spelling, punctuation and structure as well as the decision to publish or not. Articles can not be returned.

Send your copy to:

bmanley@gate.net

KB4XE @WB4TEM.#BCR.FL.US.NOAM

WHITE NOISE



Volume 10, Number 7

August-September 1998

CHIRPS

By Terry J. Taylor, W5JFM

So there it was – a whim! Yet this whim turned into a “why not”! Having a few days off to do a little playing, I decided to hop one of our international flights to London. Most of you know that I’m a ‘bus driver’ on the McDonald Douglas MD-88, known throughout the airline industry as the ‘MadDog’. The non-stop flight out of Cincinnati was aboard the MadDog’s big brother, the ‘MegaDog’ also known more astutely as the MD-11.

Summer travel is heavy so I had to make sure that I could get there, and more importantly back for my next work assignment. I was able to reserve the cockpit Jump Seat both directions, which added security for being able to get back to Cincinnati. The big airport is actually located in Northern Kentucky as the closest, largest chunk of flat land, so that’s why we fondly call it Cincinnati. I might add that getting around the US and the world on my airline is mostly a direct function of an empty seat. No empty seat – no go, unless I buy a ticket (Heaven forbid!). Living in South Florida and commuting to Cincinnati made for increased stress levels as flights filled up with paying passengers plus the Jump Seat was filled many times before I could reserve it. Alas, it was time to do something about it and move to Cincinnati.

The MegaDog, also called by some the ‘MightyDog’, is our flagship for international travel. Three engines, three pilots, and about 246 people depending on the model. At the time, our newest MD-11 had a new Olympic scheme livery (airplane lingo for paint job) and brought the Olympic torch from Athens, Greece, to Los Angeles, and from there made its famous zig zagging journey across the US to Atlanta for the Games.

The cockpit crew (Now hang in here as I’m getting to the Ham Radio portion of this article shortly!) is made up of a Captain, and two copilots, also called First Officers. Each pilot is type rated on the MD-11 which means that anyone can sit in the left seat, except that for takeoff and landing the Captain must be in his/her seat.

My Jump Seat was right behind the Captain giving me a nice view of all that was going on. Bright colored CRT’s (Super

VGA?) replace the old analog instrumentation and provide a dizzying array of information to the pilots. One CRT (for each pilot) provides basic aircraft attitude information such as level flight and turns, airspeed, groundspeed, altitude, winds, etc. Another CRT provides a navigational moving map display that can be zoomed in and out to several levels. With the push of a button nav aids such as VOR’s can be displayed on the screen, plus emergency landing fields. Yet another CRT shows various schematics of the aircraft systems. For instance, the air conditioning system schematic shows which engines are producing air to run the packs (small turbines that expand and cool air for cabin comfort). Valve positions can be seen on the schematic, plus various zone temperatures throughout the aircraft. It is simple to adjust the zone temps.

There was an empty Business Class seat, which I took later during the flight, but I stayed in the Jump Seat to watch the takeoff and climb to cruise altitude, and for the descent and approach through landing in England. At cruise, I slipped back to my seat. Employees are not allowed to sit in international First Class. These folks pay some really big bucks. A Flight Attendant told me that catering for each of these people is \$159. That is a lot of really expensive food. However, back in my business class seat, it was quite comfortable with reclining seats and foot rests plus lots of blankets and pillows. Each seat has a 6 inch or so square LCD TV screen where five different movies play simultaneously. You can switch between any of the movies at any time, or switch over to several audio channels with about 10 different types of music. Also, there is a video channel that depicts an airplane on a geographical map that shows our exact position in real time. Our speed across the ground/water is shown plus our estimated time of arrival to London Gatwick airport. You can find this information on the web for most any airline at <http://www.thetrip.com>. The caveat is that the flight you are interested in must be airborne. I don’t know how it is done, but it must be coming off the enroute Air Route Traffic Control Center computers. There is a Java applet that has to download from the web sight in order for the moving map to work. The last time I tried this the map part didn’t work as there was a message that some changes were being made to the web sight. Anyway, pick a flight that is airborne, and give it a try. This is great for tracking friends, or relatives that you may be picking up at the airport.

I haven't been across either 'pond' since my Air Force days 20 years ago, but if one has to go, this is the way to do it. The food was excellent and I settled into my reclining seat trying to make a comfortable nest. None of the movies interested me, so I began reading my present book – a good novel by Tom Clancy – while listening to some easy music. As we crossed the North Atlantic, darkness fell and most everyone went to sleep. I tried, but the Sandman couldn't find me. Halfway through the flight, a second set of five movies started playing so I watched a portion of "Lost In Space". Just after sunrise, the flight attendants were serving breakfast.

An hour prior to landing, I went back up to the cockpit to watch the descent, approach, and landing. We had to hold about 30 minutes waiting for clearance to land from London Control. The holding pattern was the strangest I'd ever seen in about 30 years of flying. The automation of the MD-11 flew it perfectly, and needless to say, I was impressed. For as big and busy as London Gatwick is, I was amazed it only had one runway. We landed under almost clear, blue skies. The surrounding countryside was beautifully green, no doubt from all the rain England is noted for.



View From the Jump Seat

On final approach to Gatwick's single runway. To the right of the panel the "809" is the ship number; the "EQBK" is the selcal identification for the aircraft.

I knew that an international Amateur Radio conference was taking place at the University of Surrey, so I made my way over there, which is about a 45 minute train ride. All of Europe lives off of on-time trains. You can almost set your watch by them. I caught part of the conference as an observer. Represented, as best I could tell, was the USA,

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The PBPG can be reached by mail at

Palm Beach Packet Group
PO Box 16471
West Palm Beach, Fl. 33416-6471

The officers of the PBPG with their packet address and phone numbers are:

Doug Welcker, President
WB4KGY@WB4MOZ
(561) 686-3747

Mike Michaels, Vice-President
K2GPI@WB4MOZ
73754.3116@compuserve.com
(561) 967-0478

Bill Rabun, Secretary
KE4GUM@WB4MOZ
(561) 688-2088

Marvin Kaskawits, Treasurer
KD2CK@WB4MOZ
kd2ck@ibm.net
(561) 683-2930

John Green, Director
WB4MOZ@WB4MOZ
wb4moz@maco.net
(561) 793-6093

Bill Manley, Editor
KB4XE@WB4TEM
bmanley@gate.net
(954) 752-3908

England, Germany, Japan, Italy, and the Russians by speakerphone. The purpose of the conference was to organize the installation and operation of Amateur Radio equipment aboard the International Space Station (ISS). After tremendous success with SAREX and MIREX, it is a natural follow-on to be present and active on the ISS. Chairman for the conference was Roy Neal, K6DUE former NBC Science anchor and announcer. Roy also announces for the Home and Garden Network's televised Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena, which is beamed all over the world including the Armed Forces Network. Flip the channels during the next Rose Bowl parade and you'll hear Roy's pleasing voice. Also

from the USA were representatives from AMSAT, ARRL, and NASA.

The political implications of the conference were interesting to say the least. The various countries had their own ideas for operation and control, but in the end it appeared that a good plan of compromise met most, if not all of the planned objectives. After one of the sessions, I was able to tag along for a tour of the university's dedicated satellite building. Surrey has built numerous satellites, both commercial and amateur, with TMSAT-OSCAR-31 (TO-31) being the latest amateur satellite to have had the University of Surrey's help and cooperation. The satellite building was amazing. Entering the fully automated control room, numerous computers lined the walls. No human operators were present, nor required. There were two vertical equipment cabinets on wheels that were as tall as I am. It was amazing to see Kenwood all-mode dual band transceivers along with PacComm TNC's. Beneath each radio was an oscilloscope. While the group was there in the room, a satellite came into "view" and we could see the eye pattern develop on the scope. Unfortunately, no one knew what satellite we were watching. All in all, the satellite facility is one of major technical advancement and you'll be seeing more satellites being produced there.

Spending a little time in London, the neatest thing is that I could understand the language, albeit with some accents. However, my Louisiana accent might have been just as tough on them. I did a lot of walking seeing many of the tourist sights. The summer crowds were heavy so I didn't get to go inside of too many places. I learned very quickly to look in every direction when crossing a street. You know the Brits do drive on the "wrong" side of the road. At most intersections painted on the road are words that say "Look Left" or "Look Right". You might not think so, but this really helps to keep from getting run over. Vehicles appear out of nowhere at the speed of light, and NOT from the direction that you would think. Other intersections won't let you cross the street as there are fences. You must take the subway to get to the other side of the street. These are nothing more than foot tunnels. What we would call a subway in, say, New York City, is called "the tube" in London.

Yep, I did a lot of tubing, and it is very easy to get around. I made my way down to Greenwich where the Old Royal Observatory is located. This a super neat and interesting place. Navigation on the high seas many centuries ago had become a major problem due to numerous shipwrecks and loss of life. After many attempts to establish some sort of worldwide navigation system, it was a clockmaker that finally

solved the problem. The observatory became the Prime Meridian through international agreement. Zero degrees longitude is marked through the building, and out into the courtyard with a plastic, lighted line embedded in the concrete. So it is very easy to straddle the line and put half of me in each hemisphere. The world clock standard, GMT, was established here until the move to Universal Coordinated Time (UTC), which is an average of 80 atomic clocks, and I believe, managed out of Paris. All in all the Observatory was a most interesting place and I would have loved to spend much more time there. The ticket also was good into the Queen's House, which I'm not sure what that was for, as well as the British Maritime Museum, but I didn't have the time to go into either one.

Another day I made my way out to the pile of rocks known as Stonehenge. This place is one of the big mysteries of the world. They know it was built 3 times, the first out of wood, and it used to be in a huge forest whereas now there isn't a single tree within miles. Why or how the huge rocks were transported from South Wales, nobody knows. The sun does shine through the rocks during the two equinox' and solstice's, but they still don't have a clue as to the significance.

To stop souvenir chippers of the rocks, visitors can no longer meander through the rocks. Handheld tape recorder devices are free of charge and provide in several languages explanations of what little they do know about Stonehenge. There were seven points around the site where you stopped and listened to a tape segment.

The trip back home was on the Jump Seat without getting a real seat, since the flight was completely full. It was good to get back home, but even England has a bit of home with its Americanization of McDonalds, Pizza Hut, T.G.I. Friday's, plus many more. Costs are higher in the UK with one British Pound about equal to \$1.70. The people were nice, and I was impressed with the friendliness and cordiality of the English Hams at the conference in Surrey. It was well organized and executed. It was good to get back and readjust to Eastern Daylight Savings time, which was 5 hours behind London.

Sure I would like to go back and see some more. There are other places that I would like to go as well before returning to London. I did make my way out to San Diego for the ARRL Southwestern Convention, but that will be in another article.

It is comforting to know that there are Hams working on future projects such as the ISS. Yes, it took a lot of money to send the participants, but I believe that it was money well spent. This type of conference could not have been handled

over the phone. If our hobby is to grow, people with the foresight to see far enough ahead and to meet the challenges that await must make things happen. I'm glad to know that some of these people were part of the Surrey conference, and will enhance the project as it gets off the ground (literally!)

...Chirp, Chirp!!

Dayton Hamfest

Marvin KD2CK

This is the third in a series of three articles on 9600 baud Packet equipment at the Dayton Hamfest. I had the pleasure of meeting Al Clark who is the Vice President of Timewave. He was kind enough to spend some time with me explaining what was new and what was not. Timewave took over where AEA left off and has supported the equipment made by AEA and has added some very interesting equipment of their own. The big attraction at the show was Timewaves release of their latest TNC the DSP-2232zx which is a DSP Multi-mode Data Controller.

DSP-2232zx – Now the legacy of the DSP-2232 is in a rugged package to match the renowned DSP-599zx. The DSP-2232zx has all the features that made the DSP-2232 famous: dual ports with RTTY, AMTOR, PacTor, 9600/1200 bps Packet, satellites, SITOR, NAVTEX, SIAMTM, and more. It even works with the same software programs. PC PakRatt for windows is included. The DSP-2232zx is the premier satellite data controller. It features automatic Doppler correction for PSK modems and outputs for up/ down frequency stepping to control the radio's frequency. The overall package features extruded aluminum housing, wear-resistant graphic overlays, LED tuning bars and status indicators, and a super- sharp, backlit LCD alphanumeric display.

Let's go over again what it has:

- Dual simultaneous ports.
- True mode/radio port Gateway.
- 9600/1200 bps packet.
- Signal Identification (SIAMTM).
- Auto satellite Doppler Correction.
- Full Maildrop Facilities.
- Hardware HDLC.
- DSP modulation / demodulation.
- All standard modes.
- PSK modems.
- Hardware memory ARQ.

According to Timewave's May 15, 1998 price list this little beauty goes for \$599.95.

If this is a little more than you care to spend there is still the old faithful PK-96 which is perfect for APRS/GPS & DX Clusters. This is a high speed controller with the speed you need. This 9600 bps packet controller comes standard with 1200 bps AFSK tone signaling, as well as 9600 bps K9NG and G3RUH compatible direct frequency modulation, making an excellent terrestrial or satellite data controller, it also can be used for high-speed data links between packet systems.

Some of the other features include:

- Hardware "true DCD" state machine for open squelch operation.
- Hardware HDLC ensures accurate protocol conversion at 9600 bps.
- Modem disconnect header for installing on other modems.
- Separate 1200/9600 TX level controls on the back panel.
- Identifies TCP/IP, NET/ROM, and TheNet stations.
- Special EXPERT disable option eases the learning process by limiting the command set.
- PC PakRatt for Windows 2.0 compatible.
- Comprehensive manual which illustrates radio connections.
- Includes open-ended radio cable, power cable and RX audio cable.

If your serious about packet radio, the PK-96 is the obvious choice. The PK-96 allows you to communicate on existing 1200 bps systems as well as with the new 9600 bps systems we have available right here in South Florida. You can take this unit home with you for a very reasonable \$169.95.

Writers note: Some of you may have heard that Timewave was in chapter 11 and was reorganizing their finances. I sent a message to an old friend of mine W0SXU Pat Durgins, he lives in Saint Paul, Mn and that is the same city that Timewave is in. He spoke to the people at Timewave and they assured him that even though there are discussions going on about a possibly being bought out by another company, they are currently still making and selling their full line of amateur product.

APRS And the IC-756 An Unfriendly Combination

Bill Manley KB4XE

When the Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) moved from 145.79 MHz to 144.39 MHz, I noticed a remarkable amount of noise on the channel. It didn't take long to discover that it was coming from my new IC-756 HF Transceiver which was located on the shelf just below my IC-228H VHF transceiver.

Disconcerted, I called ICOM. They were non-committal on the phone but invited me to send them the HF rig for them to look at. I did. (UPS was \$79.00 including insurance).

Having heard nothing after a month, I phoned. It seems that they had a backlog and had not gotten to my rig. But since I phoned, they would look at it right away. I called again in two days and they reported that they could not duplicate the problem. I insisted on speaking to a supervisor who set up a test. They could not verify my complaint. They returned the rig to me.

Upon receipt, I of course immediately checked out the rig. To my surprise, as ICOM had said, there was no interference! Ready to write the experience off as a lesson learned, I soon discovered that both ICOM and I had drawn a hasty conclusion.

It seems that the IC-756 emits a spur exactly on 144.39 MHz which is a product of its internal digital mixing circuitry. It grows in intensity as the rig warms up. After two hours, the ugly spur once again completely covered my VHF rig which was tuned to the APRS frequency.

Now thoroughly annoyed, I requested that others, who I know had access to the proper equipment, verify my findings. They did.

In a letter from ICOM they stated that "..... We have run extensive tests here at Icom and found that the emission reported on the new APRS frequency of 145.39 (that is 144.39 - ed) is a low level "spur" that is the result of mixing components. We have also found that this signal is well below that required by the FCC. To minimize the effects of this spur, we recommend proper grounding and physical equipment separation....."

Well I'll tell you. With the IC-756 warmed up, sitting on the bench, with nothing attached but its power cable, the spur is strong enough to completely block my battery powered IC-2AT with a rubber ducky at a distance of 30 feet. You can

imagine what it does to the IC-228H 12 inches away. It may be acceptable to the FCC and to ICOM, but it is certainly unfriendly in a typical ham shack setup.

Recalling that the interference worsened as the rig warmed up, I can't help but wonder if ICOM's extensive testing might have conveniently been performed on a cold rig, as they did when they sluffed off my original complaint. What might have been the result if they let things warm up a bit?

If you own an IC-756 and a VHF transceiver, check it out. Turn on both. Tune the VHF transceiver to 144.39. Let the IC-756 cook without antenna or anything other than a power connection attached to it. Let me know what you find. Maybe we can warm things up for ICOM a bit!

Email: bmanley@gate.net

Packet: KB4XE @WB4TEM

ARLB058 Section Manager Election Results

Kevin M. "KB" Bunin, K4PG, has been declared elected as Southern Florida Section Manager. Bunin, who lives in Delray Beach, topped a field of three candidates for the post with 827 votes. Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, got 691 votes, Neil H. Lauritsen Sr, KA3DBK, got 400 votes. Ballots were counted August 18 at ARRL Headquarters.

EDITORIAL

Terry Taylor W5JFM

I suppose there are those who disagree with the way the ARRL makes and implements decisions. On the surface, it might be very apparent that the League is operating with shortsightedness, but did you ever stop to think how well informed they are compared to the average ham. With people in Washington, DC, who keep their ear to the ground continuously for those that would take our frequencies, and those that work with the international organizations that would change our bandplans, it is a continuous fight to retain what we have, and there is no one else doing it but the ARRL. You might not like what our US Government does, but try living elsewhere on this planet and you'll see how well we have it. All I'm saying is that the ARRL is our "hand in the basket" to keep up with whoever wants to diminish our hobby in whatever way, and I think it behooves us to support them in any way that we can. They know the issues, and are better

able to make intelligent decisions as to what course to take. It might not be the most popular one, but there are many factors that enter into the decision. The Division Directors and Section Managers are there to hear you and to make note of your input and opinion. I'm glad that the ARRL is part of the plan to implement permanent radio equipment on the ISS. (End of Soapbox!)

WHY RADIO AMATEURS ARE CALLED "HAMS"

From Florida Skip Magazine - 1959
reported by WB4MOZ

Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called "HAMS"? Well, it goes like this: The word "HAM" as applied to 1908 was the station call of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were ALBERT S. HYMAN, BOB ALMY, and POOGIE MURRAY. At first they called their station "HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY". Tapping out such a long name in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision. They changed it to "HYALMU", using the first two letters of each of their names. Early in 1910 some confusion resulted between signals from the amateur wireless station "HYALMU" and a Mexican ship named "HYALMO". They decided to use only the first letter of each name, and the station call became "HAM".

In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio, amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity.

In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial WIRELESS REGULATION BILL as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of the committee hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed with the thesis that he asked Hyman to appear before the committee. Albert Hyman took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the bill imposed on amateur stations.

Congressional debate began on the WIRELESS REGULATION BILL and the little station "HAM" became the symbol for all the little amateur stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. The bill finally got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the "...poor little station HAM". That's how it all started.

You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station "HAM" with amateur radio operators. From that day to this, and probably to the end of time in radio, an amateur is a "HAM".

ANNOUNCEMENT Ham Radio Class

Objective:

To become a licensed Amateur Radio Operator

Where:

Santaluces High School
N.E. Corner of Hypoluxo & Lawrence Rd.
Lantana
Phone (561) 642-6212
Room 8219

When:

September 14, 1998
6:30pm

Registration:

Evening of First Class
\$25.00 for text & tapes

What To Bring:

Cassette Tape Player
Lined Note Book
Two Pencils

Instructor:

Art Dudley WA4DBA
50 Years in Amateur Radio
20 Years Teaching Electronics
Electrical Engineering Degree

Class Content: Rules & Operating Practices, Radio Wave Propagation, Basic Electronics, Radio Circuits & Components, Signals & Emissions, Antennas, Safety, Morse Code, Equipment.

Questions? Call Art Dudley (561) 968-3222

Come out and enjoy the fun. People from 6 to 90 have passed the test for an Amateur Radio License.

**PALM BEACH PACKET GROUP
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

August 10,1998

The meeting was brought to order by President Doug Welcker (WB4KGY) @ 1320 Hrs. Board members present include John (WB4MOZ), Mike (K2GPI), Marvin (KD2CK), Bill (KB4XE).



The Board Meeting

Left to right: Mike K2GPI, Marvin KD2CK, Doug WB4KGY, Bill KB4XE, John WB4MOZ. Absent Bill KE4GUM.

Photo by Bill KB4XE

1) *White Noise* Printing Situation

For the past several years the *White Noise* has been printed at no cost to the Palm Beach Packet Group. This may come to an end soon. If a no-cost printer cannot be found or the dues raised, it may be necessary to reduce the frequency of *White Noise* printings. Commercial printing costs will be investigated and reported at the next BOD meeting. (editor 26 May 98:Good news - no cost printing will continue)

2) Membership E Mail Notices

With the increase in member E-Mail activity the BOD's want to use use this mode notify members of special events, activities, etc. Finding a home for a "List Server" will be investigated.

3) Internet Access at FAU

Dave Gendel (KC4WVQ), President of the IBM Radio Club, is now helping Joe Kuntz (WB4TEM) to initiate the interface

for the INTERNET at the FAU site. We hope they are successful soon.

4) Loss Revenue from No WPB Hamfest

For the past several years the WPB Hamfest has been one of the major revenue generators for the club treasury. PBPG activities included hands on training, educational literature, a digital mode presentation, new product raffle, and subscription renewals. In discussing ways to relieve this funds shortfall, the board members decided to solicit members and others on the mailing list by direct mail. This would include a short letter with the membership form printed and filled in on the opposite side and included a return mail envelope.

5) *White Noise* Articles

Bill expressed a need for more WN articles. Members of board agreed to supply articles and we encourage the membership and others take pen in hand and ink their view or present a packet/digital related experience.

6) Loss Of Belle Glade Site Update

Doug will contact various parties that maybe able to either supply information about a Belle Glade site or are site owners.

7) Assignment Of Presentations

Board members have accepted responsibility to do multiple presentations during their tenure. Marvin will do a the September educational secession followed by Mike in October. The PBPG will be continue to encouraged any individual to give a presentation on some aspect of electronics or amateur radio. If the club member has a subject he would like covered please contact a board member and express your wishes.

8) WEB Site

Doug will Contact Derick NP2IJ to work with Bill and others on the development of a PBPG Web Page.

9) Methods to Increase Activity

Bill suggested we print the title of the next educational secession in the WN as an enticement to bring people to the meetings. All agreed that interconnectability to the internet would go along way in increasing activity.

10) Rewrite of ROSE Users Guide to the SWITCH Users Guide. A few months ago the educational secession presented by Doug on "HOW TO USE FPAC" made quite an impression on Mike among others. Mike suggested a Users Guide for FPAC similar to previous additions of the NODE and ROSE Users Guides.

11) KB4VOL Lists

For several years Bill (KB4VOL) has maintained "LISTS" including BBS's, Repeaters, Hamfests, etc. Included with these are the NODE's and ROSE/SWITCH list. Bill has indicated his desire to hand off the maintenance of these lists in a recent packet message. It was suggested that the PBPG BOD discuss taking on this responsibility but before the PBPG BOD meeting was held others had stepped forward. We want to thank Chuck Hast (KP4DJT) for maintaining the ROSE/SWITCH List and Gurdon Wolf (KB4FEA) for maintaining the NODE list.

12) Status of Shirts.

Marvin reported that he had found a firm (Owned & operated by a ham from South Africa) that does laser coloring of shirts. Due to problems with the digital format of the club logo, the logo was re-created by Philip (Marvin's son) at his facility in New York City. Marvin was wearing the prototype polo shirt and the logo printed in great detail. The members of the board set the price at \$13.00 per shirt which includes the logo, call sign and name. If desired the shirt is available without name and/or call sign at no extra charge. Shirts are available in all sizes with no minimum orders. Were sure the membership will want to own at least one these shirts. Send your checks to the Club today.

The PBPG thanks Marvin and Bernice for the use of the facility to conduct the BOD meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1540 Hrs.

Respectfully Submitted by;
Doug Welcker (WB4KGY)

**PALM BEACH PACKET GROUP
MEETING**

AUGUST 13, 1998

OPENING AND REMARKS

President DOUG (WB4KGY) convened the meeting at 7:35 PM. This is the first meeting to be held in the meeting room of the Piccadilly Cafeteria. Introductions were held. Due to the nature of the educational secession, tonight's business meeting will be a shortened version.

TREASURE'S REPORT

Due to tonight's events, the report will appear in the WHITE NOISE.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

DOUG (WB4KGY) reinstalled the GE DELTA APRS radio after replacing the final amplifier board. VERO switch was upgraded to FPAC on Saturday July 25th by John & Doug. BOCA switch was upgraded Aug. 8th by the same team including Joe (WB4TME) and Dave (KC4VBQ). The Israeli built TMSAT & TECHSAT, digital amateur satellites, were orbited by a Russian launch vehicle in the past few weeks.

OLD BUSINESS

White Noise was mailed August 11th. BOD meeting was held August 9th. See next *White Noise*. Packet books are available from KE4GUM. PBPG is still looking for Bel Glade replacement site. Handout of *White Noise* was completed.

NEW BUSINESS

Assault on 420-450Mhz band. ARRL petitioned FCC to drop LMCC portion relating to the 424-450 Mhz. bands. The PBPG wishes to acknowledge and thank TERRY TAYLOR (W5JFM) for donating a book; Packet Radio What? Why? Where? to the PBPG. Terry has long been an active member/supporter of our club.

Art Dudley (WA4DBA) is starting a novice Amateur Radio class at Santaluces high school, beginning September 14th (more information available on other pages of this issue). For more information call him at 968-3222. PBPG polo shirts are available for group purchase. Contact Marvin (KD2CK). The club can use your help. Please step up and volunteer your services.

ADJOURN/BREAK/FIELD TRIP.

Meeting was adjourned @ 17:49 Hrs to the new EOC. The group was given an excellent tour of the New EOC facilities at Southern Blvd. and Military Trail. The tour was conducted by Manny Papandreas (W4SS). This was an enlightening tour of a state-of-the-art facility which was enjoyed had by all.

Respectfully submitted;

Wm. H. RABUN (KE4GUM)

Broward Amateur Radio Digital Society

July 18, 1998

We had two programs at this meeting. The first was by Bill Rafus, KD4FRB. Bill had recently visited the Amateur Radio Satellite (AMSAT) integration facility in Orlando, Florida. The integration facility is in a free trade zone where parts from all over the world can be received duty free for "integration" or assembly into the Phase 3 D satellite being built by AMSAT. Bill had slides; videotape, photos, and a

storyboard showing the current build status of the satellite. . He visited for three days and helped assemble modules to the spacecraft. It was a detailed presentation that described the components of the satellite. We received a good deal of information about the antennas, transmitters, and many other parts.

Carl, W9ZGU, gave us a demonstration of his portable packet / APRS station. It was a quick demo but he also had a time valued show-and-tell. The Radio Shack Digital Scope Probe had been reduced from \$100 to \$30. There was only a few left in the area. Several of the attendees went straight to Radio Shack after the meeting and bought one. None were left locally.

Dave, KB0NNZ, was successful with his balloon launch during field day. The digi was carried aloft and pictures were taken with the Kenwood SSTV hand held unit. Later the 160-meter antenna was raised. There was not enough wind for the kite.

The August 15 program will be by Carl on the proper set up and adjustment of a TNC.
Bob, N4CU

Broward Amateur Radio Digital Society
August 15, 1998

Carl, W9ZGU, brought in his portable packet station and his adjustment equipment and showed us how to set up and adjust a TNC. He showed us how the oscilloscope could be used for adjustments and was really the only tool needed. He had a variety of interconnect boxes and other gadgets he has built to better use and adjust packet equipment. His portable packet station is very interesting, complete with several connectors for accessories and a monitor voltmeter built in.

Jim Dahling, WA4CSQ, provided a door prize, a brand new monitor and a high current +5,+12,-12 power supply.

The September 19 program will be by W4QN, Norm Alexander of Cubex Quads, on the subject of Quads..
Bob, N4CU

ARTICLES FOR *WHITE NOISE*

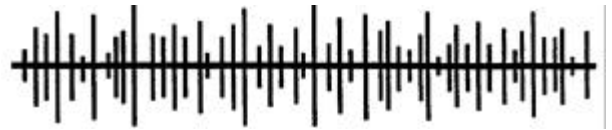
The Palm Beach Packet Group accepts articles from other clubs and individuals wishing to have them published in the *White Noise*. This is offered as a gratis service for those not otherwise having publication services at their disposal. Article content should be amateur radio related, including all operating modes, applications including computer, experiences, announcements and reports of meetings. Advertising is not accepted.

We reserve editorial privileges regarding content, spelling, punctuation and structure as well as the decision to publish or not. Articles can not be returned.

Email your copy to:
bmanley@gate.net

Or By Packet to:
KB4XE @WB4TEM.#BCR.FL.US.NOAM

WHITE NOISE



Volume 10, Number 10

December 1998

SEASONS GREETING

by Doug Welcker (WB4KGY)

It's hard to believe that December is once again upon us and twelve months have past so quickly. Being a displaced northerner I can remember when we use to have four distinct seasons with each having it own unique status. You use to plan your activities around the seasons. When the snow and ice melted it was time to clean up the house and yard; when it got hot it was lawn mowing and vacation time with weekends spent at the cabin on the lake; when the days started to shorten it was back to school, rake the leaves; and before you knew it Thanksgiving and Christmas were upon you.

Down here in subtropical South Florida we have been reduced to three sets of seasons all depending on your prospective. First there is Tourist season and Non Tourist season. If I lived in a cave under a sand hill I would know about this from the frustration that I see in my wife's face and the raised tempo of her frustration getting back and forth to work. Bet she can't wait to retire so she can drive at forty-five on the "I" during rush hours. The second set of seasons is Air Conditioning and Non Air Conditioning season. This runs somewhat concurrent with the Tourist season depending on your comfort level and location. But the best season is the Hamfest season. This starts in September at Melbourne after a long dry spell for those of us addicted to picking through boxes of other peoples junk. Never understood why Hamfest season and Tourist season end at the same time. Do they take all that stuff back north with them?

So another year has passed and another year begins.

Seasons greeting from the
Officers and Directors
of the Palm Beach Packet Group.

End on an Era Approaches

by Doug Welcker (WB4KGY)

The following was gleaned from a message by Scott (WA6LIE). I found it so interesting I followed his instruction

that I tried it myself. By leaving my radio and TNC on for a few days I was able to see the time to expect a flyover. I connected on my second try after a W8 stationed signed, queried the mailbox and disconnected. After no one else was observed I connected again. With all this operation I had only one retry! When I disconnected a Colombian station established with the BBS. Read Scott's article and give it a try. Don't wait too long as the MIR Space Station is on it's last legs and soon to be abandoned.

HOW TO WORK R0MIR-1

by Scott Avery (WA6LIE}

The MIR Space Station is currently orbiting the earth about every 95 minutes while traveling at roughly 17,000 MPH. Due to the fact that MIR is a moving object, and radio frequencies being involved here, Doppler corrections may be needed. On the 2 meter band, the Doppler is a maximum of 3.5 khz on a pass directly overhead (90 degrees). On a pass say 10 degrees above the horizon, the Doppler is small about 1 khz. This can be a very important factor in working the packet Personal Bulletin Board. This is because packets may become distorted. Here are some items to look at in your station for successful attempts.

Note: Doppler on 2 meters is really not too valid unless there will be a pass in excess of 45 degrees or so above you horizon. Your mileage will vary.

1. LOCATION

If you are in a bad location where it might be difficult to get a signal out, you might be limited to the number of passes that you can work. You might want to look into a simple 1/4 wave 2 meter groundplane. This antenna has a good lobe looking up. (pre-amp suggested) Another common antenna is a Jpole, and is a good antenna for this. If you are in the clear to your horizons, you have it made. However, Doppler and antenna type will be your disadvantage. For the average HAM station running say a 50 watt radio, and a Jpole antenna has a great advantage on MIR passes that are up to about 20 degrees above the horizon! Doppler isn't a real

consideration and your antenna pattern is ideal for something up to 20 degrees above the horizon, or a bit more! Most radios will work, and no frequency corrections are needed. Doppler up on UHF is around 10 KHZ and Doppler compensation is needed!

2. TRACKING

You will need some satellite tracking software to know when and where MIR will be in your area. There is a lot of tracking software available on the Internet. I use STSPLUS, and have for over 12 years. (read Download STSPLUS in this issue of *White Noise* - ed) Keplerian information on MIR and other satellites is updated twice weekly, and can be found on your local BBS.

3. FREQUENCY

The frequency is 145.985 simplex world wide. (1200 baud packet and Voice)

4. PACKET WISE

If you are not familiar with packet connections or mailboxes, do some experimenting on the ground first before trying to operate MIR. The TNC on MIR is a Kantronics KPC-9612+ V 8.1 and is operating at 1200 baud ONLY. Here is the HELP that you would get on ROMIR-1 when using the Help (H) command.

```

B(ye)          PBBS WILL DISCONNECT
E(dit) n [BPTYNFH] [>tocall] [<fromcall]
[@BBS] "old" "new"
H(elp)         THIS LIST!
J(heard)      CALLSIGNS WITH DAYSTAMP
J S(hort)     HEARD CALLSIGNS ONLY
J L(ong)      CALLSIGNS WITH DAYSTAMP AND
VIAS
L [x [y]] [;] LIST MESSAGES x THRU y YOU
CAN READ
L <|> call    LIST MESSAGES FROM OR TO
CALL
LB            LIST BULLETINS
LC [cat]      LIST CATEGORIES
LL n          LIST LAST n MESSAGES
LM(ine)      LIST UNREAD MESSAGES
ADDRESSED TO YOU
LO [+|-]     LISTING ORDER
LT           LIST TRAFFIC
LTn          DISPLAY LOCATION TEXT n=1-4
K(ill) n     DELETE MESSAGE NUMBER n
KM(ine)      DELETE ALL READ MESSAGES
ADDRESSED TO YOU
R(ead) n     DISPLAY MESSAGE NUMBER n
RH n         DISPLAY MESSAGE n WITH
HEADERS
RM(ine)      READ ALL MESSAGES ADDRESSED
TO YOU
    
```

White Noise is published by the Palm Beach Packet Group, Inc.

The PBPG can be reached by mail at

Palm Beach Packet Group
 PO Box 16471
 West Palm Beach, Fl. 33416-6471

The officers of the PBPG with their packet address and phone numbers are:

Doug Welcker, President
 WB4KGY@WB4MOZ
 (561) 686-3747

Mike Michaels, Vice-President
 K2GPI@WB4MOZ
 73754.3116@compuserve.com
 (561) 967-0478

Bill Rabun, Secretary
 KE4GUM@WB4MOZ
 (561) 688-2088

Marvin Kaskawits, Treasurer
 KD2CK@WB4MOZ
 kd2ck@ibm.net
 (561) 683-2930

John Green, Director
 WB4MOZ@WB4MOZ
 wb4moz@maco.net
 (561) 793-6093

Bill Manley, Editor
 KB4XE@WB4TEM
 bmanley@gate.net
 (954) 752-3908

S(end) call SEND MESSAGE TO callsign
 S[B|P|T] call SEND BULLETIN, PRIVATE, or
 TRAFFIC

Please don't use the Help command on MIR. This is STANDARD to MOST TNC's and doing so just limits the use of MIR by other stations.

There can only be ONE user connected to ROMIR-1 at a time.

5. BE PREPARED

If you wish to send a message to the crew, have a file of message READY to go! What I usually do is make a message

to R0MIR before I even send it. On my KPC-9612, I get in my mailbox, and SP R0MIR@MIR Then enter the subject and then the message. When MIR is in range, and the mailbox is not being used, I forward the message. My TNC talks to MIR's TNC and goes through the forwarding process. This is a lot quicker! I send 3.7K of info in one minute! This includes the connect to disconnect time. Consult your TNC users manual for forwarding mail to a station.

Note: As of 12 June 1998 there is a Russian crew ONLY! They do not speak English or any other language. All mail addressed to the crew should be in Russian! As of 24 June 1998, the mailbox has been opened up to third party traffic. See MIREX UPDATES for more information.

HINTS:

please wait for a <<D>> frame from R0MIR-1 to the currently connected station before you try a connection!

Most TNC's use the command MCOM ON to see ALL frame headers. Consult your TNC user manual for more information.

cmd: MCOM ON

eg. R0MIR-1>WA6LIE [06/21/98 01:00:24]: <<rr2>>: (This is what my tnc shows)

R0MIR-1>W6XXX [06/21/98 01:00:30]: <<DM>>: (This station is QRMing)

R0MIR-1>K6XXX [06/21/98 01:00:34]: <<DM>>: (This station is ALSO QRMing)

Why? R0MIR-1 hasn't yet finished with WA6LIE, thus still connected!

The <<D>> is a disconnect request from R0MIR-1 (To connected station ONLY) At this time, you might be able to connect to R0MIR-1 IF the connected station has already send his <<D>> request.

R0MIR-1>WA6LIE [06/21/98 01:00:45]: <<D>>: (Now R0MIR-1 is done with WA6LIE)

A <<DM>> commonly seen is a "Disconnect" sent to a station. We call this DM City! In other words, no person is doing anything except getting Disconnected! This is seen then stations are trying to connect to R0MIR-1 when there is already a user connected! This is the main contribution to qrm and failures of those that are connected, or trying to connect, or send/read mail!

EXAMPLE:

If I were on a high speed highway, and STOPPED in the middle of the road to see where I was at, I would become a traffic hazard. Others would honk their horns and give obscene gestures. Someone else will rear-end me, and cause a major accident and close down the road. IF I had been aware of where I was at, and where I was going, there would be no incident, and everything would flow normally!

Bottom line: look, think and listen first!

Don't try to send a message to your buddy down the street to MIR's personal mailbox. It will not allow 3rd party messages. If you try, you will get a response - MESSAGES MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THIS STATION. Please Don't connect to your buddies mailbox or home station Via the MIR digipeater! This is like you and your buddy going down the highway at the same speed chit-chatting - impeding traffic!

** IF you can run your radio squelch open (using CD software KPC only), you will increase your odds of decoding the signal. Consult your Kantronics manual for more information.

6. BE COURTEOUS

See #5 above, and apply here.

Again, please don't try connecting to R0MIR-1 when someone else is already connected! You will get a R0MIR-1 **BUSY. When you get this, don't keep trying while others are connected. This just messes up the other station, and it is interference and will just take that much longer for the user to finish before he/she disconnects. Would you like others interfering with your connects to MIR? Look for the <<D>> frame from R0MIR-1 to the connected station. Using MCOM ON will allow you to see all these packets. Here is what MY KPC-9612 would show:

R0MIR-1>WA6LIE/1 [05/13/98 22:18:04]: <<D>>:

After you see this, hopefully, the ground station has sent his/her disconnect to R0MIR-1, and it will be ready for the next connect.

R0MIR

This is the callsign of MIR. This port has no value to working MIR except credit towards a QSL card. There is nobody at the keyboard. You will get *** BUSY ***DISCONNECTED

QSL requests USA and WW except Europe:
Dave Larsen - N6CO
PO Box 1501

Pine Grove, California
95665
USA

Please include a SASE (Business Size Envelope) and one IRC for international. If you are sending an IRC, Please make sure it is dated 1998, as the post office won't accept IRC's dated over 1 year old. "Green Stamps" (USA only) are appreciated for covering additional costs.

European QSLs To:
Radio Club "F5KAM - QSL Manger de "R0MIR"
" Carrefour International de la Radio"
22, Rue BANSAC - 63000 - CLERMONT-FERRAND - FRANCE
with a self-addressed envelope, and two 1998 IRC coupons.

If you have any questions, drop me a note!
73, Scott
E-Mail: wa6lie@juno.com
Packet: wa6lie@wa6lie.#wcca.ca.usa.noam

DOWNLOAD STSPLUS

Bill Manley KB4XE

Dave Ransom has released STSPLUS version 9848 as of November 28, 1998. To download an upgrade or this newest version in entirety, and other goodies, visit his web site at

<http://tie.jpl.nasa.gov/dransom/stsplus.html>

STSPLUS is a mainstay satellite orbit prediction program which has been in circulation many years. Ransom offers it as shareware and requests a minimum of \$15.00 donation for licensing.

What's New In Packet?

Doug Welcker WB4KGY

How about a 1200/9600 dual band held transceiver that will plug directly into you laptop? Or maybe a YAM (for "yet another 9600 modem"), a product of Italy that operates at 1200 and 9600 and is available as a kit or assembled. YAM connects to the COM port of a PC and is software-drive using PC/FlexNet, JNOS (Windows 95 or DOS), TFPCX 2.71 (DOS) or a Linux driver. A French development, PIC-RCT is a 9600 packet modem that interface with any TNC. It is driven by an on-board PIC microcontroller and is NRZ/NRZI

switchable. PIC-RCT includes a high-speed data output header (a 2x10 pin HE10 connector), a bit-error-rate test (BERT) function, and automatic test function that checks the integrity of the PIC and an accurate AF tuning on both transmit and receive - available as a kit of assembled.

For more information see pg. 90 December *QST*.

Suppose Edgar Allan Poe Used a Computer --

Once upon a midnight dreary, fingers cramped and vision bleary,
System manuals piled high and wasted paper on the floor,
Longing for the warmth of bedsheets,
Still I sat there, doing spreadsheets...
Having reached the bottom line, I took a floppy from the drawer.
Typing with a steady hand, I then invoked the SAVE command
and waited for the disk to store,
Only this and nothing more.

Deep into the monitor peering, long I sat there wond'ring, fearing,
Doubting, while the disk kept churning, turning yet to churn some more.
"Save!" I said, "You cursed monster! Save my data from before!"
One thing did the phosphors answer, only this and nothing more,
Just, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

Was this some occult illusion? Some maniacal intrusion?
These were choices undesired, ones I'd never faced before.
Carefully, I weighed the choices as the disk made monstrous noises.
The cursor flashed, insistent, waiting, baiting me to type some more.

Clearly I must press a key, choosing one and nothing more,
From "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

With my fingers pale and trembling, Slowly toward the keyboard bending,
Longing for a happy ending, hoping all would be restored,
Praying for some guarantee Timidly I pressed a key.
But on the screen there still persisted, words appearing as before.
Ghastly grim they blinked and taunted, as my patience wore,
Saying, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

I tried to catch the chips off-guard - I pressed again, but twice as hard.
I pleaded with the cursed machine: I begged and cried and then I swore.
Then I tried in desperation, sev'ral random combinations,
Still there came the incantation, just as senseless as before.
Cursor blinking, mocking, winking, flashing nonsense as before.
Reading, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

There I sat, distraught, exhausted; by my own machine accosted
Getting up I turned away and paced across the office floor.
And then I saw dreadful sight: a lightning bolt cut through the night.
A gasp of horror overtook me, shook me to my very core.
The lightning zapped my previous data, lost and gone forevermore.
Not even, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

To this day I do not know The place to which lost data goes.
What demonic nether world is wrought where data will be stored,
Beyond the reach of mortal souls, beyond the ether, in black holes?
But sure as there's C, Pascal, Lotus, Ashton-Tate and more,
You will one day be left to wander, lost on some Plutonian shore,
Pleading, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

(Our gratitude to some unknown WWW author with condolences to Mr. Poe - ed)

PALM BEACH PACKET GROUP MINUTES

NOVEMBER 12, 1998

MEETING TO ORDER

President DOUG (WB4KGY) brought the meeting to order @ 19:34 hrs, introductions were made.

Treasure's report was not available, due to Marvin (KD2CK) being out of town. Full report will appear in the *White Noise*.

Technical report was given by Doug (WB4KGY).

1. Lake Placid site has been upgraded from Rose System to FPAC on Wednesday November 5th.
2. WPB SWITCH has had no problems for the past month.
3. Problems in the SRQ Lan are resulting in equipment being merged into local radio club.

OLD BUSINESS

Seventeen donated computers, monitors, and printers have been tested and stored. Thanks to Marvin's sons Philip and Stuart who were here for a visit. Club will offer a computer to any amateur that has and interest the digital modes. Applicants we be screened for needs. The Secretary will write an article for the West Palm Beach Amateur Radio Club news letter announcing the availability of the aforementioned computers. *White Noise* was mailed on November 12th. Marvin's computer is back up and running thanks to his sons. Polo shirts were delivered to the distributor however when Marvin (KD2CK) went to pick them up they were not the style that was ordered and will have to be reordered. There are books on Packet operations available from KE4GUM. We may have found antenna site in Lake Harbor for the replace of the Bel Glade site. An APRS site in Clewiston may also be in the near future. Satellite Locator site up and running on Bills (N4XEO) BBS. New NODE & SWITCH LISTS were passed out.

NEW BUSINESS

It is time for nominations and election of new officers for the coming year 1999. NOMINATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

For President DOUG (WB4KGY) nominated by Bill (KE4GUM) second by Bob (WD9ATM).

Vice President Mike Michaels (K2GPI), nominated by Bill (KE4GUM) second by Bob (WD9ATM).

For Treasure Marvin (KD2CK) nominated by Bob (WD9ATM) second by Mike (K2GPI).

For Secretary, Burke Grosse (KC4UEC) nominated by Bill (KE4GUM) second by Bob (WD9ATM). Howie Silver (KB2BBG) nominated by John (WB4MOZ) second by Bill (KE4GUM). Andy Czermann (KF4ATC) nominated by Bill (KE4GUM) second by Bob (WD9ATM).

A motion was made by John (WB4MOZ) that nominations be closed, second by Bill (KE4GUM).

Voting will occur at the December meeting. Additional nomination can be made from the floor in December. These people will lead us into the "NEW CENTURY". We would like to have members step forward to help the club in it's activities.

BARDS meeting Nov. 21st.@ Motorola. HAMFEST ACTIVITIES: Tampa Nov. 21/22 Okeechobee Dec. 5th.

ADJOURN/BREAK/WORKSHOP

Doug (WB4KGY) made a fine presentation "End of an Era Approaches" New things to come. (see article on MIR in this issue) Meeting adjourned @ 20:37 hrs.

Next PBPG Meeting Info

Doug Welcker WB4KGY

Bob (WD9ATM), the man with the most inquisitive mind, will give an educational secession on how to use and navigate the INTERNET via packet radio. Larry (W4BKX), a young 84, has made available to the packet radio community an INTERNET/TCP-IP gateway to the world. Bob will cover everything you want to know about the how/when/why of Larry's operation and INTERNET gateway is general.

See you there.

Minutes of November BARDS meeting

November 24, 1998

Bob, N4CU

Most of the attendees assembled at Marions Bagel Host. We had a good time discussing old times operating RTTY and the changes in keyboarding when we switched to packet. We adjourned after breakfast and assembled in the Motorola lobby. The program was by Dave KB0NNZ. It was an interesting tour of the Motorola manufacturing facility. Dave described the latest manufacturing processes. We followed the tour up with a stop at the Motorola Amateur Radio Club shack and checked out the TenTec Omni IV.

The December 19 program will be by Carl, W9ZGU.