



# KEY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

May 2003

## Correction

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

In last month's newsletter I neglected to mention two other folks who helped out at the Steamin' Wheels Bike Race and Fun Ride. Thanks to Wayne (KK5XJ) and Dean (AD5IE)!

## April Meeting Highlights

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

Kent West (KC5ENO) called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

As meeting minutes were not available, they were not read.

Then Peg Richard (KA4UPA) read the Treasurer's Report, followed by a report on the upcoming Hamfest.

Peg then read a Thank You from Susan Jarrod, concerning the club's help with the Steamin' Wheels Bike Race and Fun Ride in March.

Peg also informed the club that after our March decision to purchase Terrorist Insurance for \$16, our insurance underwriter waived the \$16 fee. Thanks, New Hampshire Insurance Company!

Kent reminded the club how well Gerald Dugan (N5OGD) did at March's meeting with his 5-7 minute demo of the EchoLink system, and encouraged everyone to be thinking of what 5-7 minute talk/demo they could present in upcoming meetings. He also meant to tell everyone to send in articles for this newsletter, but forgot to do so.

Peg also gave a brief report on the latest test session results.

After the meeting, several of us met at McDonald's on North First Street for coffee/snacks/late suppers.

## Hamfest was Here!

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

The 2003 KCARC Hamfest and West Texas Section Convention is now history. We had a great event, with lots of fun for most. Peg was feeling poorly for much of the week, and for Saturday, but she trudged on and did her usual great job. Thanks to Randy and the kitchen crew for running the food concession. Thanks also to everyone who just did what needed to be done when it needed to be done.

Peg should have a report on the Hamfest at an upcoming club meeting.

## Field Day is Here!

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

The 2003 Field Day, scheduled for June 28-29 (always the 4th full weekend in June), serves as both a contest and as a practice exercise for emergency communications.

Previous years were held at the State School, which in April would be absolutely *wonderful*, but at the tail end of June makes for some mighty uncomfortable folks in the Texas heat and skeeters.

Last year the Field Day was held at the Taylor Elementary gymnasium, and by all reports was much more pleasant. Although the rigs were still run from generators and other emergency power, the folks running them were able to stay out of the heat and out from under the sun and away from the mosquitos.

### Test Results:

New Hams as of May 3rd. Test taken at Hamfest. Congratulations are in order.

Scotty Wood	Abilene	Technician	
Kacey Toliver	Merkel	Technician	
Thomas Devrow	Weatherford	Technician	
Steve Adams	Ranger	General	KB5WDY
Weldon Lamb	Cisco	Extra	KA5BNK
Ted Olsen	Abilene	Extra	N5IJE
Barbara Graff	Odessa	Extra	KD5HGC

As always "THANKS-A-BUNCH" goes out to the VE team for giving up 'lookin around' at the Hamfest to come help with the testing.

Allen Griffith	N5AG
Ray Schulze	N5SR
William Floyd	KK5XJ
James Richard	K1UQI
Jake Mullins	KC5GZP

Ron Harden - VEC

This year we have preliminary plans to return to Taylor Elementary.

Field Day has several different "classes" of participation, depending on how many radios are used and what type of emergency power is used and how many people participate, etc. In 2002 the KCARC operated as class 3A, and in 2001, the KCARC in conjunction with the Dyess Amateur Radio Club operated 4A.

According to the ARRL web site (<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2003/rules-fd-2003.html>), the object of FD is "[t]o work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio" within a 27 hour period (or 24 hour period, depending on class.)

There are six basic classes (Classes A through F) and two additional "sub" classes (A- and B-Battery). See the table below for a description of the classes.

Being a club, we'd operate as Class A. If we only used battery/solar/wind/water/human power, and kept our output power at 5 watts or below, we'd be Class A-Battery.

Points are awarded based on several criteria, such as what class is being operated, what types of power are used, what power levels are used,

what type of contacts are made, whether or not there's a public information table set up for the general public to be exposed to, whether an attempt is made to get publicity from the local media, whether the setup is in a public location, satellite contacts, etc.

This year we'll need some able-bodied people to help set up the antennas and stations (takes two to four hours typically), and we'll need able folks to tear down the equipment at the end of the event.

We'll also need people to man the radios. If you've never had much opportunity to be on HF, now's the time. You can come spend 10 or fifteen minutes making several short contacts. Or you can man a radio for 24 hours if you're up to the task. We'll need folks who can talk into a microphone, and we'll need folks who can run a CW key, and we might need folks who can run a digital mode. You don't have to stay at the site for the full duration. In fact, typically we'll have enough people to carry us until 6 or 7pm, at which time it'd be good if fresh troops showed up as relief. About 10 or 11pm, they're going to get tired, at which time another group might show up. Around 2am, we'll need more folks, and then around 5am the early-to-bed folks can come back out. If you want, you can bring a cot and a sleeping bag and stay the night under the stars or in the gym.

And we need someone to contact the local media with a press release concerning the upcoming Field Day,

so if you'd like to rub elbows with the media, this job might be for you.

We generally have a good supper on Saturday night, which all are welcome to attend (although reservations and payments need to be made beforehand to make sure we have enough food).

It's a lot of fun, and a great opportunity to get on the HF bands (even if you're not licensed for HF, as long as a control operator is present), and a great time to get experience working pile-ups. If you're involved in setup, it's also a great introduction to setting up antennas and stations.

For the past few years we've met at the Towne Crier about 7am for breakfast, and then got started setting up for the 1pm start time. If you can participate, join us at any time from 7am Saturday morning until about 3pm Sunday afternoon. It's a lot of fun! See you there!

## New Proposed Field Day Classes

*Submitted by John Dyer, AE5B*

### SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL NEWSLETTER EDITORS AND FIELD DAY CHAIRMEN

New Field Day Classes Proposed! from Lirpa Anonymous on April 1, 2003

Newington, CT April 1, 2003  
Following the ARRL's introduction of this year's "F" class for EOC stations, other classes have been proposed for future runnings of Amateur Radio's most popular on-the-air event. Given that most veteran operators have participated in one or more Field Days that fit these qualifications exactly, it may be that there will be more classes in next year's report.

The proposed new classes are:  
**Class J** An entry in this class indicates that all equipment used during Field Day was complete JUNK. 100 bonus points are available if any of the equipment actually catches fire or damages another piece of equipment.

**Class M** If your group MEANT to get on and had the best intentions of being active, but just couldn't get it together, send in a summary sheet for

<i>Class</i>	<i>Description</i>
Class A	A group, such as our club, operating two or more HF rigs.
Class A-Battery	Class A, 5 watts or less, running off batteries, solar power, non-motor-driven generators, etc.
Class B	1 or 2 person portable
Class B-Battery	Class A-Battery, but only 1 or 2 persons
Class C	Mobile station
Class D	Home Station
Class E	Home Station, emergency power
Class F	Operation at an Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

this class. No logs or dupe sheet are required. 200 bonus points if you forget to send in the summary, but meant to.

**Class T** Also known as the "Little Red Hen" class, entries in Class T must show that 5% or less of the available operators actually did all the work while the rest stood around TALKING. Multiply score by 1.5 if less than 2% of the operators did all the work.

**Class Z(zzz)** Recognizing the trend as average operator age increases, this class is available to groups where everybody falls asleep after dinner on Saturday evening.

Along with the new classes, additional Bonus Point awards are under evaluation:

25 points if any member can actually find an ARRL Radiogram form 5 points for each QSO using funny phonetics that actually make the responding operator laugh so hard that beverage squirts out his or her nose.

Double points if they weren't drinking a beverage at the time.

Double the QSO points for each contact made on an antenna that has fallen down without anybody noticing.

Field Day brings out more operators every year. Recognition of the "real-world" situations can only serve to increase participation and reporting accuracy.

*(Editor's Note: You might want to notice the date and author of this special ARRL news release. - Kent)*

## W1AW Operator Chuck Bender, W1WPR, SK

*Submitted by Nesa Love, KC5ENL*

SB QST ARL ARLB030  
ARLB030 W1AW Operator Chuck Bender, W1WPR, SK

Former W1AW station manager Chuck Bender, W1WPR, died at his home in West Hartford, Connecticut, on April 17. He was 79 years old. For over 37 years, Bender served as an operator at W1AW, from 1952 until his retirement in 1989, with the last 17 years as Chief Operator.

"Chuck was a fixture at W1AW and

for many League members, he was the visible, human face of ARRL Headquarters as he greeted visitors to the station during his tenure," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Mark Wilson, K1RO.

ARRL Archivist Perry Williams, WIUED, was a long-time colleague of Bender's at the League. "He was a private man who liked to read and he enjoyed playing chess," Williams said. "He loved baseball, and he also bowled a lot with his wife Arline."

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Bender joined the US Army during World War II, seeing action in Germany. He previously held the call

W3ODU and was married to another former ARRL HQ staffer Arline Bender, WA1VCM, in 1968.

Bender was preceded in death by his wife Arline and son Steven Lyhne; his daughter, Susan Lyhne, survives him. At Bender's request, no public memorial service will be held.

## Jerry Jennison, SK

*Submitted by John Dyer, AE5B*

Jerry Jennison, N5OKQ, passed away 2 May 2003. Jerry was a member of the San Angelo ARC having served as an officer of their club many times over the past years.

### Key City Amateur Radio Club Income and Expense Report April 14, 2003

<i>Regular Account:</i>	Balance Forward	\$727.35
	Income	65.00
	Expenses	54.29
	Balance on Hand	738.06

<i>Repeater Account</i>	Balance on Hand	64.00
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<i>Hamfest Account:</i>	Balance Forward	1,279.82
	Income	485.97
	Balance on Hand	793.85

Amount Needed to Balance	1,595.91
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Total Amount on Hand:	
Checking	1,551.03
Cash	40.00
Coins	1.88
Total	\$1,595.51

** Itemized Expenses (Regular Account)	
Checking Service Fee (Feb)	15.00
Southwestern Bell (Apr)	20.79
Newsletter Postage	18.50
Total	54.29

(Hamfest Account)	
Bulk Mail Out	467.47
Stamps	18.50
Total	485.97

Peggy A. Richard, KA4UPA  
Treasurer, Key City Amateur Radio Club

Most of you met Jerry last year when he presented a program to the KCARC on the Salvation Army Team Emergency Network. A memorial service was scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, at 2 PM at the First Baptist Church in San Angelo.

## Club Meeting!

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

Remember to attend the Key City Amateur Radio Club meeting, Monday, 14 April, at 7pm (1900hrs) on the second floor of the city library.

## Tidbits

*Kent West, KC5ENO*

\* Keychain drives are becoming popular. These are USB devices, small enough to fit on a keychain, that contain some sort of flash memory and function like a 21<sup>st</sup> century floppy. Whereas a standard floppy only contains 1.44MB, and has moving

parts and is easily subject to damage, these keychain drives have no moving parts, and typically will hold 64, 128, 512, or 1024 MB of data. There are basically two types: those with a set amount of memory built in, and those that are more or less just a case into which you can insert your own memory stick. This latter type is convenient for use with memory cards from digital cameras and PDAs. You can take the memory card out of the camera, put it in the USB keychain drive, and transfer your photos to your computer without running down the batteries on your camera. These devices work with Windows, Macintosh, and Linux. Some other typical uses might be to transfer a PowerPoint-based sales presentation from your office to a potential client across the continent, or to store your MP3/Ogg tunes, or to transfer large files from a broadband-connected computer to a slow- or non-connected computer, etc. Pricing for these devices is about \$20 for just the case

(plus the price of a memory card), to about \$45 for a complete 64MB unit, to about \$200 for a 1GB unit.

\* The Discovery Center at 810 Butternut has just opened a Bountiful Living salad bar for lunch (and it's very good!). The Discover Center is a bookstore, toystore, and education center, approaching science from a Biblical viewpoint.

\* President of the KCARC Kent West, KC5ENO, has just learned that the president of the West Texas Linux User's Group (WTLUG – <http://www.wtlug.org>) has just had to resign for family reasons. Kent, being the vice-president of the WTLUG, now finds himself the president of both the KCARC and of the WTLUG.

\* Getting lots of spam ("junk mail") in your Inbox? There are lots of spam filters out now. Some email clients (such as newer versions of Mozilla/Netscape Mail) even have junk mail filtering built-in. Just google for spam filters, and soon you can be seeing less junk email.

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Whoever . . .