

KEY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

August 2005

Meeting Highlights

Kent West, KC5ENO

President Lance Tolar, KD5EFB, called the meeting to order at 19:05hrs (7PM) on Monday 11 July 2005.

Peg Richard, KA4UPA, read the Treasurer's Report. There were no questions.

Kent West, KC5ENO, read the minutes from the June meeting. Peg motioned that the minutes be accepted as read; Ed Rouse, KE5EUS, seconded; the motion carried.

Old Business:

Concerning Hamfest, Peg reported:

- we still do not have the final bill from the Fire Department
- we still do not have a contract for the Civic Center for next

Club Meeting Reminder

Remember to attend the next meeting of the Key City Amateur Radio Club Monday, 8 August, at 7pm on the second floor of the Abilene Public Library.

year; Peg suggests that either the Civic Center is uncharacteristically slow this year, or they've given that weekend to another group, seeing as we only used it for one day this year.

- the club lost about \$300 on the Hamfest this year.

The club then resumed discussion about upgrading the controller software on the .76 repeater. David Swart, KC5PPI, reported that there were two main benefits to the new software:

- it would be easier to keep the clock set on the repeater, and
- it would be easier to reset the repeater remotely if necessary.

Further discussion pointed out that we've only had to reset the repeater about 3 times over the past ten years, and that upgrading the software would require changing some codes that might affect Skywarn operations. The general consensus was that without greater benefits, we might do better to reserve the money for the upgrade for a controller replacement, as our current controller is nearing its expected end of life. Joe Peterson,

KD5YCY, motioned that we not upgrade the repeater's software at this time; Peg seconded; the motion carried, with none opposed.

Nominations were taken for Vice-President. Randy Robinson, N5JZH, was nominated by Glenn Cummins, K5GC; the motion was seconded by Gerald Dugan, N5OGD. Wendell White, WA5LVH, was nominated by Dee Burton, W5VRE; the motion was seconded by Gary Peterson, NZ5V. Peg motioned that nominations cease; Patrick Leech, KD5UCI, seconded. Ballots were passed out, then collected. Randy was elected as our new Vice-President.

New Business:

Randy, N5JZH, reported that the .96 repeater is "sick", and wanted permission to investigate possibilities for repairing/replacing it. Permission was granted by Lance.

Randy also volunteered to teach a new Ham class, starting the week after the West Texas Fair and Rodeo, on 20 September. He wants it to last about 9 weeks, and meet every Tuesday evening, and perhaps on Thursdays also, ending about 17 November.

W.K. Wiggins, WB5ZOO, mentioned that national talk radio host Art Bell has spoken against Broadband over Powerlines (BPL).

Peg reported that she was called by the City of Abilene, asking if we would help again at this year's Duathlon; it will be on a Sunday morning this Fall. W.K motioned that we help; Randy seconded; the motion carried.

Gerald asked Gary about his new 6 meter repeater; Gary reported that since its output is at 29.6 MHz, any users of the repeater needs to be licensed for that frequency.

Lance wants to have some sort of project; he's thinking about doing a Voice-Over-IP (VOIP) demo next month.

Randy mentioned that the VHF/FM Society's annual Summerfest is scheduled for 5 August, in Austin.

Peg motioned to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 19:51hrs.

After the meeting, several of us met at McDonald's for coffee and fellowship.

So You Want to Create A Web Page?

Kent West, KC5ENO

Creating a web page is pretty easy now-a-days with all the web-creation products out there. Most word processors can even export to a web-page format.

However, to really understand what's going on under-the-hood, it's good to be able to create a web page by hand, using a plain text editor, such as Notepad or vi. Also, many of the web-development tools encourage bad practices, and produce sloppy code.

So to get started, fire up your favorite text editor. Make sure it saves your files as plain text; in other words, don't use something like Microsoft Word, unless you make sure to specify that the file is saved as plain text.

Create a new document with the single sentence:

This is my first (non-standard) web page.

Save this file as "index.html" in a location where you can easily find it. (The name "index.html" is the filename that web browsers look for by default when connecting to a web site.)

Now fire up your favorite web browser (I recommend Firefox), and click on *File/Open File* (depending on your web browser, you may need to choose something a bit different) and open the file you just saved.

There! You have your first web page.

As the text in your web page says, it's non-standard. Although a simple document like this can be opened by almost all web browsers, web browsers do not generally expect plain text documents. Instead, they expect plain text documents that have been "marked up" in such

Key City Amateur Radio Club Income and Expense Report July 11, 2005

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Regular Account:</i> | Balance Forward | 519.84 |
| | Income | 40.00 |
| | Expenses | 263.87 |
| | Balance on Hand | <u>295.97</u> |
| <i>Repeater Account</i> | Balance on Hand | <u>64.00</u> |
| <i>Hamfest Account:</i> | Balance Forward | 1008.07 |
| | Income | |
| | Expenses | |
| | Balance On Hand | <u>1008.07</u> |
| Amount Needed to Balance | | 1368.04 |
| Total Amount on Hand: | | |
| | Checking | 1334.41 |
| | Checks | 0.00 |
| | Cash | 32.00 |
| | Coins | 1.63 |
| | Total | <u>\$1,368.04</u> |
| ** Itemized Expenses (Regular Account) | | |
| | Southwestern Bell (July) | 22.45 |
| | Service Charge (June) | 15.00 |
| | Lee Funeral | 32.42 |
| | Annual Equipment Insurance | 194.00 |
| | Total | <u>263.87</u> |

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

as way as to tell the browser which text should be bold, or italicized, or in the middle of the screen as opposed to the left of the screen, or in red instead of black, etc. So rather than create a web page in plain text, it needs to be created in “markup” text. For example, a word that needs to be bolded would be surrounded by markup “tags” that specify it to be bold, like so:

```
<bold>Word</bold>
```

Since this markup text is expected to be on the World Wide Web, which has lots of links that can lead to here, there, and beyond, this text is referred to as “hyper-text”.

Accordingly, the content of web pages is known as *HyperText Markup Language*, or *HTML*.

HTML is a standardized language; these standards are published by the World Wide Web Consortium (aka W3C – <http://www.w3c.org>).

Some web browser vendors, notably Netscape in the past and Microsoft more recently, have added proprietary extensions to the standards, which at the time seemed like a good idea, but has since come to be recognized as a very bad idea. Thus, most professional web developers now try to code their web sites to the W3C stan-

dards. In recent years, most web browsers have become much more standards-compliant, with the notable exception of Microsoft's Internet Explorer. (It's hoped that the upcoming release of IE7 will rectify this, but reports from beta testers so far are not encouraging.)

The HTML specifications have gone through several revisions. Perhaps the best known revision is HTML 4.

However, the next version will be known as *eXtensible HyperText Markup Language*, or *XHTML*. So to finish out our example web page, we'll convert it to use XHTML, as in the example at the bottom of this page.

Properly configured web pages start with a DOCTYPE tag. The DOCTYPE tag in our document tells the web browser that this web page follows the XHTML 1.0 Document Type Declaration (DTD), strictly, as published at the referenced website.

Almost everything else will go into the HTML section. This starts with the opening tag `<html>`, and ends with the closing tag `</html>`.

XHTML specifies that most tags have both a start tag and a stop tag.

This html section is divided into two sections: the head section,

marked by `<head>` and `</head>`, and the body section, marked by `<body>` and `</body>`.

The head section contains such things as the title of the document, and keywords that spiderbots such as the Google indexer can search. Once Google knows of these keywords, it's easier for people to find your web site by searching Google for those keywords.

The body contains the bulk of your actual web page. White space and indents and hard returns, etc, don't usually matter in the XHTML file; as a general rule, the web browser will ignore these white space items. To provide spacing in your finished product, you'll need to use the correct tags and other items within your XHTML document. For example, to create a line break, you'd insert the tag

```
<br />
```

(Note the space between the “br” and the “/”; this functions as a sort of short-hand for both the start and end tag.)

This barely skims the surface of creating web pages, but it covers the bare minimum an XHTML document needs. Of course you'd also need hosting facilities to publish the page to the world, but that's a topic for another day.

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
<html>
<head>
  <title>My First Web Page</title>
  <meta http-equiv="content-type"
    content="text/html; charset=ISO-8859-1" />
  <meta name="Author"
    content="Kent West" />
  <meta name="Description"
    content="My First Web Page" />
  <meta name="keywords"
    content="Kent, West, web, first, page, standards, compliant, w3c" />
</head>
<body>
  This is my standards=compliant web page.
</body>
</html>
```

73, Morse!

Kent West, KC5ENO

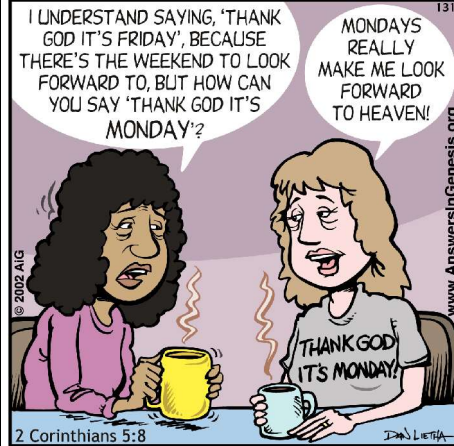
The ARRL reports on 20 July 2005 that the FCC has proposed that the 5WPM Morse code element be removed as a requirement to obtain any amateur radio license. There will probably be several months before this proposal is adopted (assuming it is adopted), so there's time to make your thoughts known to the FCC on this matter. See <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/07/20/100/?nc=1> for more info.

*And the [Morse code] character to emphasize that there she was, she was walking down the street, is :
do-wah-diddy-diddy-dum-diddy-do*

<http://www.learnmorsecode.com/>

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



The ITU Phonetic Alphabet

Kent West

Everyone needs a reminder every so often, so here it is, the ITU phonetic alphabet:

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Alfa | November |
| Bravo | Oscar |
| Charlie | Papa |
| Delta | Quebec |
| Echo | Romeo |
| Foxtrot | Sierra |
| Golf | Tango |
| Hotel | Uniform |
| India | Victor |
| Juliett | Whiskey |
| Kilo | X-ray |
| Lima | Yankee |
| Mike | Zulu |

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