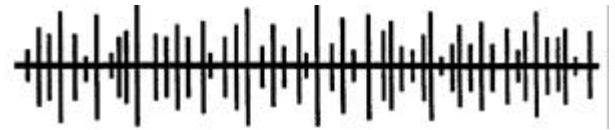


WHITE NOISE



Volume 9, Number 10

December, 97

They Call Me the Breeze

Bill Manley KB4XE



APRS viewers have watched W7LUS-14, the most mobile of the mobiles, as he moves to-and-fro and up-and-down their screens. Peter Gross W7LUS is an enthusiastic amateur radio operator who is also a trucker. He transports Trade Shows and Electronic Equipment for North American throughout the US. Before entering his migratory life style, Peter lived in Broward County Florida. He was an active member of PBPG and BARDS. He still is, when he is in town.

Peter spent the Christmas holidays with friend Joe Loewy KB4FO in Cooper City. He had recently taken delivery on his new 450HP Kenworth tractor and had the rig, with trailer, parked at Joe's house. I called Peter to arrange an opportunity to obtain a graphic profile of him and his house-and-business-on-wheels.



He gave me a tour of the tractor. It's exterior is white and beautifully decorated. The logo "They Call Me the Breeze" gives a clue of his participation in *that other* radio service. But the antenna endowments suggest something more serious is inside. The interior features the ham gear which defines his sophisticated amateur station on wheels. On the dash, between the driver and passenger seats, are the control heads for the Yaesu multi-mode and Yaesu HF rigs. "Mr. Potato Head" microphone serves the multi-mode but the HF rig is slavishly tuned to APRS at 10.151 LSB. The living quarters includes air conditioning, lavatory, shower, bed and kitchenette, sink, refrigerator, freezer, and microwave oven serve the necessities of life. Added to that are a computer station, with printer, and a Sony DBS television system. A 7.5 Kw diesel generator powers the home.



Locally Peter is known for his lavish barbecues. If you observe Peter heading for your area, invite him to yours. Let him do the cooking as you become nourished by his culinary skills, ham radio and trucking experiences.

APRS Excitement

Bill Manley KB4XE

If ham radio is dying, the APRS enthusiasts don't seem to realize it. They appear to be the avant-garde group, combining their ham radio interests with state-of-the art computer/internet technology.

Bob Bruninga WB4APR, the founder of APRS, continues to upgrade his DOS tracking program. In addition he maintains a web page featuring the latest. Check out:

<http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/aprs.html>.

In the meantime the Sproul brothers enhance their Win95/MacIntosh versions.

<http://aprs.rutgers.edu/index.htm>

Steve Dimse K4HG contributes the JAVA version. This exotic application links APRS sites nationwide through the internet. If you would like to see what is happening country-wide bring up

<http://www.aprs.net/usa.html> .

There are subsets to Steve's site. You can look at the whole world, the USA, or selected areas of the country. Bring it up while you run your own local site. You are certain to see yourself mapped on the internet. For example, Floridians can bring up

<http://www.aprs.net/Florida>

The latest internet link is Brent Hilderbrand's APRSa4 home page. This links GPS and other fixes with the mapping detail offered by the popular Street Atlas application.

<http://home.att.net/~bhildebrand/aprsa4.html>

And then there is also the APRS Microphone Encoder (Mic-E). I haven't really checked this one out myself.

<http://www.tapr.org/tapr/html/mic-e.html>.

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While connected to TAPR check out their other APRS files:

<ftp://ftp.tapr.org/tapr/sigs/aprssid>

TO QSY, OR NOT TO QSY?**That is a question**

Bill Manley KB4XE

APRS enthusiasts in many parts of the country operate on 145.79 MHz. The huge network represents an investment and tradition the likes of which we know is hard to change.

Planning ahead for the future Space Station, AMSAT has requested that that frequency be vacated to avoid interference with their planned amateur band plan. The suggestion has been made that terrestrial APRS operations QSY to 144.39 MHz.

Recognizing the emotional, and perhaps financial impact of the proposal, the TAPR Corp., inspired by Steve Dimse K4HG, is conducting a poll to determine the willingness of the APRS community to QSY and to assess the potential economic hardship. Potentially they may manage a fund to expedite the change by offsetting the expense to comply.

A questionnaire is attached to this newsletter as a convenience to mail in your feelings. Visit the TAPR web page to review more details on the subject.

<http://ww.tapr.org>

THE HUDSON LOOP

Bill Manley KB4XE

We are always vigilant to bring to *White Noise* readers articles of interest to the amateur radio community. One particular internet publication deserves special notice.

The purpose of *The Hudson Loop* is to rapidly provide essential news of interest to active amateurs residing in the ARRL Hudson Division and other areas faster than can be achieved via packet radio or

printed means. We strongly encourage membership in the American Radio Relay League and participation in the activities of its divisions, sections, and local clubs.

This service is available by free Internet subscription.

To subscribe, send an Internet e-mail message to

-----> arrlhudson@aol.com <-----

and type "SUBSCRIBE HUDSON LOOP" on the subject line.

No message text is necessary.

To cancel,

type "UNSUBSCRIBE HUDSON LOOP" on the subject line.

Here are two examples of some of the articles which have appeared in *The Hudson Loop* during the past several months.

"TECH AMERICA" OPENS, OFFERS FREE CATALOG

If you lived in the Northeast back in the sixties and early seventies, perhaps you remember the "Lafayette Radio" chain of electronic stores based on Long Island. Or maybe you recall the Chicago-based "Allied Radio." Remember those four and five hundred page catalogs of order-by-mail electronic goodies? Wouldn't you like to be able to order from those catalogs again?

Bob Miller, K2RM, is Vice President of Merchandising and Marketing for Tandy Corporation's new retail/mail order outlets called "Tech America". Tandy Corporation, which operates "Radio Shack" and "Computer City" retail outlets, is now in the mail order business with the new operation. "'Tech America' is an extension of Tandy Corporation's core competency," says Miller. "'Tech America' is picking up what 'Radio Shack'

has left behind. The new business is what most 'Radio Shack' stores were about thirty years ago."

"Tech America" carries components, test gear, kits, batteries and a lot more. 2000 technical book titles are available. Having trouble finding Rohn tower? How about that odd value resistor, or capacitor? You won't have that problem anymore! "Tech America" also carries computer parts down to the chip level. Amateur radio gear in the catalog includes complete lines from Standard and Alinco, Cushcraft and Valor antennas, and more to come.

With its flagship store located in Denver, other outlets are also open in Atlanta, Dallas, and Mesa, Arizona. Their FREE full-color, 548 page catalog, sure to please any technophile, is available at 800.877.0072.

(Info provided by Hap Holly, KC9RP, and "The RAIN Dial-up.")

-- submitted by George Bowen, N2LQS
(kxkvi@delphi.com)

The ARRL Letter

November 28

AX.25 Version 2.2 is up on the Web! You can access both the 1984 and 1997 versions of this amateur radio packet link protocol at

<http://www.tapr.org/tapr/html/ax25.html>.

This document marks the fourth edition of the AX.25 Amateur Packet Radio Link Layer Protocol by the ARRL and the Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Corporation (TAPR). The AX.25 Version 2.2 document is available free of charge.

This document defines a protocol used between two amateur radio stations in a point-to-point or networked communications environment. The protocol specifies only link layer and physical layer functions. It is not intended to specify any upper-layer protocol other than certain interface requirements to and from other layers. This

protocol recognizes and accommodates the uniqueness of the amateur radio operating environment.

Since the publication of the first edition of the standard, an amateur radio digital network has evolved. Because this development has negated the need for the digipeater mode of operation, the proposed new specification limits digipeating to a maximum of two hops or separate radio links.

A big addition in this version has been the addition of the System Description Language (SDL) diagrams to help anyone better understand how the system works. The SDL, included in Appendix C, is a much clearer description of the protocol than the verbal text.

At the ARRL and TAPR 1997 Digital Communications Conference in October, the ARRL Future Systems Committee transferred all responsibility for the AX.25 document to TAPR. TAPR now maintains the PID assignments and work on any future corrections or changes to the document. Three new PID assignments have been added to the current version--one for FlexNet and two for Jacobson TCP/IP compression.

A major effort toward updating Version 2.0 was published by Eric Scace, K3NA, in 1988 at the Seventh Computer Networking Conference. This work is included in the latest standard version, together with protocol improvements that will aid networking and HF users. The latest document began with the work of William A. Beech, NJ7P, Douglas E. Nielsen, N7LEM, and Jack Taylor, N7OO, in the early 1990s. "Without their work in the initial stages several years ago, the document wouldn't have been updated and the diagrams wouldn't be available today," said TAPR's Greg Jones, WD5IVD. Jones says Lee Knoper, N7CUU, a technical writer, edited the document last year. Jones and ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul

Rinaldo,W4RI, got the Future Systems Committee to look at the resulting document.

PALM BEACH PACKET GROUP MINUTES

DECEMBER 1997

OPENING AND REPORTS

The meeting was called to order by President DOUG (WB4KGY) @ 1932 hrs. Thirteen Elves / Members / Guests were in attendance. County policy as to smoking in public buildings was stated. Introductions were made.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Marvin (KD2CK) gave his latest report. A motion was made and seconded that it should be accepted as read. We are in excellent shape financially. A detailed report will appear in *WHITE NOISE* !

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Doug (WB4KGY)

1. Switch has been converted to FPAC !
 - A. Conversion was made Sunday 28 Nov. 97
 - B. Rearranged shelves in 8ft. rack.
 - C. Installed backup UPS donated by BOB (K4KTS).
 - D. Replace EPROMs in all TNC with KISS PROMS.
 - E. FPAC runs on a tower 486-66.
 - F. Club bought 2 dual port com cards.
 - G. Even with John's (WB4MOZ) weeks of testing, we still had problems which were corrected with the EPROM change Monday.
 - H. No more diode matrix.
 - I. Proved the system would work under polling.

NOTE: The Club / Packet Radio, would be in deep STUFF, were it not for the dedication of these guys.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. You should have your" WHITE NOISE". Mailed 2 Dec. 97.

B. Library books are available for check out. APRS book has been ordered.

C. Handout of: ROSE SWITCH / NODE LIST. ROSE / FPAC users guide.

NEW BUSINESS

A. MIKE (K2GPI) was released from the hospital today after surgery. A card was signed by those in attendance and mailed.

B. ELECTIONS:

Additional nominations were sought. None were made.

A motion was made, and seconded that the slate of Officers nominated should be elected by acclimation. After a rousing demonstration on the convention floor. The 1998 Officers were installed / rammed into place.

President	DOUG (WB4KGY)
Vise President	MIKE (K2GPI)
Treasure	MARVIN (KD2CK)
Secretary	BILL (KE4GUM)

C. The "CLUB" could use your HELP ! so volunteer your talents. Contact any of the club officers for more information.

ADDED ATTRACTION

Prior to the break, our ESTEEMED Treasure MARVIN (KD2CK), made us aware that we had missed a golden opportunity to acquire a real BUY on a hand held computer. While on a trip to "RIELLEY" North Carolina to see son Stuart (NF2N), an add appeared in the local paper, that a Sony hand held computer that listed for \$ 1999.95 (this is not a misprint) was "ON SALE" for \$ 99.95. Never one to miss a "good deal", they were at the door @ 0600 hrs. They bought the only 2 they had in stock. Readers will not get "the rest of the story". See what you miss by not coming to the meetings. Had there been 3 available, it would have made a good door prize for 1998 HAMFEST

ADJOURN / BREAK / WORKSHOP

Adjourn / Next meeting, Thursday Jan. 8th,\. 22:30 hrs.

Workshop / Packet Demo / FPAC (WB4KGY)
 Meeting ended @ 21:15 hrs.
 HAPPY TRAILS !! (KE4GUM)

**TREASURE COAST PACKET GROUP
 MINUTES**

Dec.13,1997

Vice President Joe K1VAO, opened the meeting at 9:35 AM.

The Secretary Ladd W2KGV, read the minutes of the Oct. 11 meeting, which were accepted after a correction of Tom's call in the attendees list, on a motion by Don K8BXT, and a second by Jim WA1COA.

The Treasurer, Andy W8BIX, reported a Balance of \$1339.69 after the payment of the Equipment Insurance Bill of \$ 48.85 His report was accepted on a motion by Tom N4LRV and a second by Jim WA1COA.

NEW BUSINESS; The Vice. Pres. Joe K1VAO, asked if the membership recruitment letter had been sent. The Answer was No. He then offered to print up the letter and the labels to facilitate the process. It was also noted that there were about 35 members two years ago. The secretary agreed to write the letter.

NEW BUSINESS: The V.P., Joe K1VAO, Reported that the Tech Committee was in need of more members, due to attrition caused by members moving out of state, and the work schedule of the only active member, namely, Bill N4XEO. He invited members to volunteer to serve. Joe K1VAO, and Ladd W2KGV, both previously active Tech Comm. members, said they would be willing to assist.

Q & A :Ladd W2KGV report a problem in using the 05 switch. There is a also sounds like a computer

malfunction that was observed during Morse Code transmissions.

In answer to a question, Ladd W2KGV, described the Switch layout at the site, mentioning the age of some of the equipment, and the plans for updating the setup. Audio disappears in one setup, but by unplugging and plugging the unit seems to correct the problem for a time. It was suggested that they might try using the circuit cooling spray, and selectively spraying componants might localize the problem area.

Attending were WA1COA KD4VAA N4LRV K8BXT W8BIX K1VAO W2KGV

Respectfully submitted, Ladd Z Sajor W2KGV

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