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WE'RE GROWING

Bill Manley KB4XE

Last month we reported the merger of the Treasure Coast Packet Group into the PBPG including the acquisition of the N4XEO site and equipment in Fort Pierce, Fl. This month K4PKT-1, an APRS repeater site, was installed in Clewiston, Fl. The Clewiston site, with the antenna at 330 feet, completes the APRS link between SE and SW Florida as well as bringing some Central Florida into the same linkup.



Andy, Doug and Jim ponder the APRS equipment

President Doug Welcker WB4KGY and members Andy Czermann KF4ATC and Bill Manley KB4XE along with Jim Johnson W4JBZ and Brian Johnson visited the site containing an AM Broadcast Station operated by the Johnsons. Doug and Andy had brought along the APRS station which had been assembled and tested over the past few weeks.

The first order of business was to modify the grounding of the commercial equipment racks. With that task completed, then Doug mounted the APRS equipment in the rack while Brian and Andy prepared the hard line. A coaxial jumper connected the equipment to the hard line and power was applied. To our delight the Kantronics DCD lit almost immediately indicating an incoming signal....

We were on the air!



Brian and Andy prepare the hard line

Later, bringing up our own APRS stations at home, we discovered to our delight that K4PKT-1 was aggressively linking the east and west coast of South Florida. The Clewiston site provides a much needed fix for a gap in South Florida APRS communications.

CHARLIE NEWELL K2GNZ SK

October 22, 1922 - June 9, 1999

The ham radio community lost a valuable member and friend this week. He was an elmer to countless new Hams, and was always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it. He first got his amateur radio license before 1981. He was Past President of QCWA, WPBARC, an active member of PBPG, former Treasurer and Secretary of PBRA, and active in the AT&T Telephone Pioneers. He served in the United States Navy in World War II. Other activities included Elks, Red Cross, VFW and a Volunteer Fire Fighter. He was active in the Snow Ski Patrol in upper New York before moving to Palm Beach County from Cooperstown, New York. Charlie was 76 years old. Monday's memorial service at the VA Hospital is a reflection of all the time and effort spent there as a volunteer. Memorials should be given to either the Veteran's Administration or the Heart Fund. Out of all these volunteer activities and organizations, Charlie probably will be most fondly remembered for his work as an elmer in the WPBARC. His good humor and willingness to help at all times are legendary.

ARLB038**Easy Operation Overseas Now a Reality for US Hams**

The FCC has implemented the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) Recommendation T/R 61-01 that eliminates the need to obtain a special license or permit for US hams wishing to operate during brief visits to most European countries. In addition, the ARRL has begun issuing International Amateur Radio Permits to simplify operation by US hams in certain South American countries.

The FCC put the final pieces of the CEPT arrangement into place June 7 by issuing a Public Notice in English, German, and French that spells out the basic information about Amateur Radio operation in CEPT countries. To operate in a CEPT country, US hams only need a copy of the Notice, their original Amateur Radio document, and proof of US citizenship (a US-issued passport or a birth certificate should suffice).

US hams holding any license class but Novice are eligible to operate in CEPT countries. A US citizen with a Technician ticket may be authorized privileges equivalent to a CEPT Class 2 (i.e., VHF-only) license, while a US citizen holding a higher class license may be authorized CEPT Class 1 (i.e., all amateur and amateur-satellite) privileges.

The authorization is for use of a portable or mobile station only, including stations set up at hotels or a camping site. Authorization is also granted for US hams to operate the stations of permanent licensees in host countries. The use of Amateur Radio aboard an aircraft is not allowed, however.

To identify while overseas, US stations will use their assigned call signs preceded by the CEPT call sign prefix for the country or territory visited. US licensees operating under this agreement overseas cannot request protection against harmful interference.

Operators must abide by the provisions of the ITU Radio Regulations as well as CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 and the regulations in force in the host country. US operators planning to operate in other countries must become familiar with that country's regulations and frequency allocations, paying special attention to regional differences.

Participating CEPT countries as of June 7 include Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France (including Corsica, Guadeloupe, Guiana, Martinique, St Bartholomew, St Pierre et Miquelon, St Martin, and Reunion/Dependencies), Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom (including Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man).

The ARRL has begun issuing the International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) that allows US amateurs to operate from Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela without having to obtain a special license (the US and Canada also are CITELE signatories). The IARP is valid in any country that is a signatory to the CITELE Amateur Convention.

The Class 1 IARP--available to Tech Plus and higher class licensees--requires knowledge of Morse code and carries all operating privileges. The Class 2 IARP--equivalent to the US Technician ticket--does not require knowledge of Morse code and carries all privileges above 30 MHz. An IARP is not a license, but it certifies the existence of a license.

Complete information on CEPT and IARP operation, including an IARP application form and a copy of the FCC Public Notice on CEPT, is available from the International Operating page on ARRL Web, <http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/io/>.

The new procedures affect operation only in participating CEPT (European) and CITELE (Central and South American) countries. They do not change the procedures for US hams wishing to operate overseas in countries that are not CEPT participants or CITELE Amateur Convention signatories. Information on operation from these countries also is available on the pages of ARRL Web.
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PBPG MINUTES

JUNE 10, 1999

OPENING AND REPORTS

President Doug Welcker (WB4KGY) brought the meeting to order at 19:30 hrs. All present introduced themselves, using their names and call signs.

Since Treasurer Marvin Kasawits (KD2CK) was out of town, there was no treasurer's report. Minutes of the May meeting will be as printed in the issue of "White Noise" now being distributed.

Technical committee report was presented by Doug (WB4KGY). High points included:

The equipment for the new Clewiston APRS is ready to go to the tower site and is awaiting date coordination with club members and tower owners.

We give a great big welcome to Andy Czermann (KF4ATC) as a new member on the technical committee. He has already completed preparation of radio equipment for APRS/ packet, and has completed several additional equipment repairs and adjustments, greatly relieving Doug.

Again this month we have had no problems with our local switch.

OLD BUSINESS

The assimilation of the Treasure Coast Packet Group into the Palm Beach Packet Group is proceeding very well. The inventory of equipment and statement of then current funds will take place just as soon as personnel involved at TCPG are in a position to do so, i.e. illness of a key member's spouse.

The "handouts" for SWITCHES and NODES are now available for reference and/or downloading on the club web site. (*Media version of NODES is not yet available. SWITCHES and PBBS lists have been added to the web site. - ed.*)

NEW BUSINESS

Burck (KC4UEV) made a motion, seconded by John (WB4MOZ), to donate \$25.00 with an appropriate covering letter to QSL.NET c/o Al Waller (K3TKJ) for WEB Site service. The motion passed unanimously. Upon his return our Treasurer will issue a check in the amount of \$25.00 for WEB site service, and the Secretary will write the cover letter and put these two items in the mail to: QSL.NET, Al Waller (K3TKJ), Rt. 3, Box 314-B, Rd. 497, Laurel, Delaware, 19956. Secretary will coordinate this action with our Director Bill Manley (KB4XE).

Our President Doug has been asked to talk about the PBPG at radio groups as he travels the country this summer on his vacation.

Don't forget Field Day, June 26/27, 1999. Please identify yourself to the Club Event Chairman when you visit an operational Field Day Site.

We have a BARDS meeting scheduled for June 19th at Motorola.

ADJOURNMENT/WORKSHOP

Adjournment including an invitation to the next meeting, Thursday, July 8, 1999 to be conducted by Vice President Mike Michaels (K2GPI).

A very interesting presentation was prepared and presented by Director John Green (WB4MOZ). His subject was "Internet Connection Speed and You".

The presentation was concluded at 20:26 hrs.

Burck Grosse (KC4UEV)

Broward Amateur Radio Digital Society

May 22 and June 19, 1999

<http://www.geocities.com/ResearchTriangle/Lab/7781/>

The May meeting was a presentation by KT4XK of the space program accomplishment of the Ft. Lauderdale Motorola Amateur Radio Club. Harold, Bruce, WB4YUC, Tom, K4GFG, and Kai, KE4PT and others have been providing support to the Amateur space program from the early 70's. There were many accomplishments, most never publicized. Accomplishments vary from making a radio for the first of the tether experiments to the first school-to-MIR space station contact.

The June meeting was by Carl, W9ZGU. He brought a big bag of demonstration equipment. The first was a ME-11 Autoranging digital multimeter from Tech America. This was a DVM with RS-232 to an application screen on a laptop. You could even make a time trace of voltage variations. And best of all, it is less than \$50. He had a lot of home brew test and general utility equipment. One was a cut out relay to drop a piece of equipment off your car battery circuit to prevent a dead car battery. Along with this came some valuable information on new alternators. Did you know that you will burn out a new alternator if you try to charge a dead battery with it? This is because the newer alternators are not rated for continuous use. He showed us "Carl's super-super meter box", a constant load discharge timer based on an alarm clock, a rainbow kit computer oscilloscope, and several others.

The July 17th program will be an explanation of the Navy Postgraduate School's spread spectrum ham satellite by Bob, N4CU and an introduction to Linux by Al, K4BVL

Bob, N4CU