

Parma Radio Club *Newsletter*

April 1998

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K8UZW

New Meeting Hall for PRC

We have a new meeting place! Starting in April, the Parma Radio Club will meet at the Busch Funeral home. We will join two other radio clubs that meet there now. Two Monday night meeting dates have been reserved for April, May, June and July. These dates are not the first and third or second and fourth Monday, as we would like, but we may be able to reserve more regular dates when the contracts are renewed after July. **Make sure that you read the newsletter each month, so that you know the meeting dates.**

We will use the smaller of the two meeting rooms which will accommodate up to 65. Rest rooms and kitchen facilities are adjacent to the meeting room. The meeting room is just as nice as the one we are using now and the Busch people are very friendly and helpful.

The Busch Funeral Home is located at 7501 Ridge Road, just south of Pleasant Valley Rd. Enter the north driveway, immediately turn right and drive past the meeting rooms on the lower level. There is some limited parking immediately south of the building. If those

Meetings are held two Mondays each month at 7:00 pm at the Busch Funeral Home, 7501 Ridge Road in Parma.

April 6 Program: *Linearity and Biasing of Amplifiers* by Ed Kochevar, KB8CQ.

April 20 Program: *Audio and Speaker Systems* by Henry Kearns, WA8ROK

parking spaces are full, continue up to the upper level where there is plenty of parking. A sign with the Parma Radio Club's name will be posted on the meeting room door.

When we moved to our present meeting hall at the library, the attendance at the first meeting dropped to one half and has never recovered. It has finally negatively affected membership renewals. Virtually everyone gives the same reason for not being able to make the meetings. Saturdays are too inconvenient for most people. Many work on Saturday, do yard work, visit relatives, go on weekend outings, etc.

Hind sight is always 20/20, but we should have treated the library meeting hall as temporary. We knew that it would affect attendance and didn't do anything about it. The library meeting hall is very nice and we are treated very well, but Saturdays are just killing us. We had to make the change.

For those, who have been unable to make it to the meetings, we hope that Monday nights are more convenient and that you will make a special effort to visit more often. Some of you may have become discouraged and decided not to renew your membership. We hope that you will reconsider that decision. To those, who stuck with us, thanks for your interest and support. **Gene Mayler, K8EE** ■

Club News

2m Net Night Change

Due to the change in of our meeting day, the weekly 2m FM net has been changed to Tuesday nights at 9:00 p.m.. Jim Tiegiser (K8JT) is still the net control and you are all invited to join in.

What You Missed

At the March 14 meeting we had a great talk about linear amplifiers by Herm, W8UNI. He brought his home brew amplifier and Gene, K8EE, brought his. Many of the members had never seen the inside of a high power amplifier before and had many questions about the components and design.

Did you know that there are four different signals that come out of the first mixer of a superheterodyne receiver? Ed, KB8CQ, explained how only one of those signals goes to the I.F. amplifier in his talk about TRF and superheterodyne receivers at the March 28 meeting. What happened to the other three?

Excellence is no accident

Elected Officers

President: Gene Mayler, K8EE
Vice President: Jim Tiegiser, K8JT
Secretary: Dave Cole, KC8CUL
Treasurer: Louise Liska, N8UFY

Appointed Officials

Club License: John Thomas, AB8Z
Programs: Ed Kochevar, KB8CQ
Sunshine: Henry Kearns, WA8ROK

Newsletter

Interem Editor: Gene Mayler, K8EE
Publishing Assistants: Henry Kearns, WA8ROK
Bob Kalina, N8IXU
Contributers this month: Dave Cole, KC8CUL
Gene Mayler, K8EE

Membership

Dues are \$12.00 per year, including a subscription to the Parma Radio Club Newsletter. Make checks payable to the Parma Radio Club, Inc., 3806 Wood Ave., Parma, OH 44134.

Field Day

We have tentative approval from the city of Brecksville to use their Blossom Property pavilion area again this year for Field Day. A formal request has been sent to the city and we hope to receive the formal approval shortly.

There will be two separate operations again this year. The competitive operation will be run by Gene Mayler, K8EE, using his call sign. Jaye Sturtevant, K2ZT, will be joining us again this year and Roger Kaul, K3TM, will be operating with the PRC for the first time in over 25 years. Henry Kearns, WA8ROK and Jim Tiegiser, K8JT will head up the "for fun" operation. They have yet to decide whether they will use K8UZW or N8E.

Almost New Member

After several years of absence, Bill (KC8HG), has rejoined the PRC. Add him to your membership roster. Welcome back, Bill.

Bill Curtis, KC8HG, A
14040 Old Pleasant Valley Road
Middleburg Hts., OH 44130
E-mail: wicurtis@juno.com
440 845-1771

Illegal CBers Under Fire

There are two bills before both Houses of Congress that will grant local authorities power to enforce F.C.C. regulations regarding illegal CB operations within their jurisdictions. These operations include out-of-band operations and illegal use of altered CB radios from FCC specs. Sen. Fiengold (D. Wisconsin) and others have been receiving complaints across the country about CB RFI for years and have noted the lack of enforcement by the FCC.

In the Senate, the bill is designated S. 608, introduced April 17, 1997. In the House, it is designated H.R. 2612, introduced by Rep. Ehlers on October 6, 1997, and is currently referred to the Committee on Commerce's Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade, and Consumer Protection. Ed Miller (N5ZCG) of Venus, TX suggests that we encourage our congressman and senators to pass these bills.

Editorial comment: Passage of these bills would set a dangerous precedent. They may be going after CBers now, but who do you think will be next? Another problem is that it is unlikely that local authorities have the technical expertise to know the difference between citizens radio and amateur radio. How would you like to spend your hard earned money to defend yourself in court to prove that you are not a Cber.

Based on information in a packet message from Ed Miller, N5ZCG *Gene Mayler, K8EE* ■

Big Field Day Rule Changes

The ARRL has just announced some big changes in the Field Day rules for 1998. The one that affects us most is that a VHF/UHF station is no longer a free station for those in the one transmitter class. It has always been my contention that this rule gave an unfair advantage to clubs in densely populated areas like New York City. VHF/UHF stations are now treated the same as a novice/technician station. They are free only for those running two or more transmitters.

Also, bonus points will no longer be awarded for having VHF/UHF and packet stations. VHF/UHF stations have never been significant point getters. The best we have done on VHF in recent years is about 75 contacts. Packet is even

worse with only about ten contacts. That's not very significant compared to more than one thousand contacts from a single HF station. The problem was that you still had to set up the VHF/UHF and packet stations for the bonus points to be competitive even though those stations weren't productive otherwise. One reason we are in the one transmitter class is that we have a limited number of people and resources. Setting up the VHF/UHF and packet stations doubles the amount of work, and gives us very little return for the investment of time and effort.

In the past, packet stations were exempted from the "no repeater" rule. Now they will not be able to use digipeaters or network nodes. This will pretty much kill what little packet operation there was.

Not all the rule changes make sense. The ARRL has introduced the digital (non-CW) mode. Now you will be able to work the same station on phone, CW and digital (non CW) on each band. Their reasoning is that this will encourage the use of RTTY, AMTOR, PACTOR, etc. Now, who in their right mind would want to operate on one of these digital modes and make ten or fifteen contacts per hour when they can average sixty contacts per hour on CW. This rule doesn't hurt anything. It's just silly.

Congratulations to the league for straightening out the worst of the rules. There are still some goofy rules left, but they are tolerable. *Gene Mayler, K8EE* ■

Calender

April

- 5 VE exam, LaGrange, contact Ola Slone (WD8MOU), (216) 647-5116
- 6 Parma Radio Club meeting at 7:00 pm, Busch Funeral Home, program: *Linearity and Biasing of Amplifiers* by Ed (KB8CQ)
- 13 ARRL VHF/UHF Spring Sprint 144 MHz
- 19 VE exam, Elyria, contact Steve Hall (W8HF), (440) 327-3832
- 20 Parma Radio Clubmeeting at 7:00 pm, Busch Funeral Home, program: *Audio and Speaker Systems* by Henry (WA8ROK)

May

- 3 VE exam, LaGrange, contact Ola Slone (WD8MOU), (216) 647-5116
- 4 Parma Radio Clubmeeting at 7:00 pm, Busch Funeral Home, program: *Generation and Reception of SSB* by Gene Mayler (K8EE)
- 7 VE exam, Akron, contact Dave Raines (KE8HA) (330)882-4680

Nets

- 28.460 MHz USB, Thursday, 9 p.m.
- 146.46 MHz FM simplex, Tuesdays, 9 p.m.

Great Lakes Director Resigns

ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Joe Falcone, N8TI, has resigned, effective March 23. He offered no reason for his decision to step down.

An attorney from Livonia, Michigan, Falcone became a director January 1, 1998, after defeating incumbent Director George Race, WB8BGY, in balloting last November. Falcone was a member of the ARRL's Enforcement Task Force.

Great Lakes Vice Director Dave Coons, WT8W, automatically has succeeded to the office of Director, creating a vacancy in the Vice Director's position.

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New Temporary License Class Proposed

In an unprecedented event, on Tuesday this past week, all amateur radio vendors, and many national electronic chain outlets, in an effort to shore-up the sagging radio sales picture, were given the authority to issue amateur radio call signs to new radio purchasers.

The ruling from the FCC in docket APR-001 allows for the call sign block of "WT" along with the district #, for all vendors to issue. These "try before you study" licenses will be issued for a thirty-day on-air trial period at the general class level.

It works like this: a potential ham who doesn't know if the hobby is worth the effort of all the study time, is

authorized to operate for a period of one month along with the purchase of a radio. The new operator will be authorized at the General class level with a "WT" call sign, i.e., WT2XYZ.

At the end of the trial period, the new ham can enroll in a class, or take their exam from a local VEC or from the vendor, which is also now authorized to give radio exams. If the operator decides the hobby isn't worth the aggravation they find on the HF bands, he or she can return the radio for a full refund.

The NRRL Letter ■

Refinishing Cabinets

Is the finish of the cabinet of your radio equipment scratched and chipped? You can make it look like new very easily. Rustolium sells a spray paint called "Hammered Metal" that comes in gold, silver, green, light blue and black. It produces a finish that is very similar to the slightly rough finish that is common on radio cabinets.

First prepare the surface by sanding with progressively finer grits until all of the chips and scratches are gone. If bare metal is exposed, prime the entire cabinet with spray primer. Priming is probably a good idea even if there isn't any bare metal. Then apply the "Hammered Metal" finish according to the instructions. The final finish will be glossy, but it can be dulled by using 0000 steel wool or a fine abrasive like automotive rubbing compound after the finish has a month or so to become hard. You can speed the drying process by baking the cabinet in a 150° F oven for an hour or two.

Gene Mayler, K8EE ■

Mailing Lists and Reflectors

By: Gene Mayler, K8EE

Last month, there was a short article about an RFI Reflector. Most of you understand, all too well, what RFI is, but don't know how it gets reflected. A reflector is just another one of those overly cute computer terms. More about that later.

All of you that have paid your club news are automatically given a subscription to the Parma Radio Club

Newsletter. Being subscribed means that your name and address are placed on the mailing list to receive the newsletter. Internet mailing lists work the same way. You can subscribe to a newsletter, bulletin service, discussion group or other information service, and your E-mail address is placed on the mailing list for that service. The term "mailing list" has two meanings. The actual list that your E-

mail address is located and the service itself is also called a "mailing list." The latter meaning is misleading, but we have to live with it.

Mailing lists fall into two categories, those that are one way and only send mail to you and those that are interactive. The ARRL Bulletin mailing list is an example of the former. This list sends out the ARRL bulletins whenever they are issued, however the list will not accept any mail sent from you. The interactive mailing lists allow you to send mail to the list. These lists are usually discussion groups where you can participate, ask questions and answer questions of others. The RFI Reflector is an interactive mailing list. You can send a message to the list with your questions about RFI and that message will be sent to everyone else who is subscribed to the list. Usually, in just a matter of hours will receive an answer from someone else on the list. Many times you will get several answers. So, how does the RFI get reflected? Every message that you send to the list will be sent back to you. You might say it's reflected back. This assures you that your message has been received by the list.

Hundreds and perhaps thousands of mailing lists deal with amateur radio

Interactive mailing lists may or may not be moderated. A moderated list is one where a real human, the list moderator, screens all the incoming messages and determines whether they will be distributed. The RFI reflector is one that is moderated by Tim Duffy, K3LR. In an unmoderated list, computer software handles the messages and sends out all messages that are received. Most lists are unmoderated.

Most mailing lists are limited to very narrowly defined topics. There are hundreds and perhaps thousands of mailing lists that deal with amateur radio related subjects. Some are on a beginners level while others get into very technical topics. The "NOS-BBS" list, one of the mailing lists that I subscribe to, is about as technical as they come. They even get into the ones and zeros of software development at times.

So, how do you know what mailing lists are available and how do you subscribe to them. There isn't any one place that has a listing of all the mailing lists. You find out about mailing lists from bulletins and magazines, word of mouth, etc. You subscribe to a mailing list by sending an E-mail message. Sometimes you send the message to the person that runs the list and simply ask to be added to the list. This is

fairly rare. More often, you send the message to a "list server". A "list server" is the software on a computer that handles one or more mailing lists. Your message will contain commands that instruct the list server to add you to the mailing list. For instance, if you wanted to subscribe to the "ham-ant" mailing list at the listserver at UCSD (University of California at San Diego), you would send a message that looks something like this.

To: listserv@ucsd.edu
Subject:

INDEX
HELP
ADD ham-ant
QUIT

Here, the text of the message contains four commands. The "INDEX" command tells the list server to send you a list of all the mailing lists that are available on this list server while the "HELP" command requests the help file that explains all of the list server commands and how to use them. "ADD ham-ant" instructs the list server to subscribe you to the "ham-ant" mailing list. The "QUIT" command tells the list server to ignore everything that follows. The "QUIT" command is useful if your E-Mail software automatically adds your signature to your messages. Soon after you send your subscribe message, you will receive a message from the list server confirming that you have been added to the mailing list. It is important that you save this message to a file or put it in a folder for future reference. It contains information about how to unsubscribe.

It is important to understand that the E-Mail address of the listserver and the list itself are not the same. For instance, the address of the list server at UCSD is listserv@ucsd.edu while the address of the "ham-ant" mailing list is ham-ant@ucsd.edu. The most frequent mistake made is to send your unsubscribe message to the list rather than the list server. Not only is it wrong, but everyone on the list will receive your message and see how stupid you are.

The example I gave here is for the list server at UCSD. Not all list servers work the same way or use the same commands and format. The best thing to do for a list server that you are not familiar with is to get help first. I usually send a message to the server with the word "HELP" in the subject and the text of the message. That will work most of the time.

If you feel lonely and neglected because you never receive any E-Mail, here is a way to get junk mail every day. The nice thing about it is that you pick and choose what junk mail you get. Future newsletters will introduce you to interesting ham radio related mailing lists. ■

Snowmobile SOS

BY Dave Cole, KC8CUL

It was a bright sunny day to the south of Cleveland, the temperature in the high teens. It had snowed the previous night, adding several inches to the already deep cover. Rick, (JK8TFY) was enjoying his new snowmobile, having traded in his used 15 year old model the previous fall. When he began, 10 years ago, he had gone around to the various farmers and property owners and obtained permission to traverse their property lines and thus had miles of untouched, snow-covered ground to travel over. Often, he would bring along one of his snowmobiling buddies and they would bring lunch and make a day of enjoying the scenery. This time though, Rick was alone.

Having recently obtained his Technician plus ham license, he had discovered a whole new twist to his favorite winter sport. Every 15 or 20 minutes he would stop and call snowmobile/mobile. He would switch frequencies each time and would work a different repeater. He had even made some simplex contacts using a 2-meter HT picked up cheap at a hamfest, a 5 aH gel cell battery, and a ¼ wave mag mount on the rear deck of the snowmobile. There was no problem scaring up contacts as everyone who heard him wanted to work a snowmobile/mobile. Rick was even thinking of getting a special QSL card made up with a picture of him on the machine.

White tail deer were a common sight to Rick. They would come out of the surrounding woods and scavenge the fields for the fodder left over from harvesting. Some of the farmers would even leave a ¼ or ½ an acre of uncut corn as an offering to the deer. This was prime hunting ground. Rick had learned years ago not to ride during deer season for two reasons. One reason was he had heard a rumor of a snowmobile rider being mistaken for a deer and shot when he got off his machine to explore a heavily wooded area on foot. Fortunately, the rumor also said the driver survived his encounter with the hunter. Second, he didn't want to risk his continued use of the land by angering the hunters when he disturbed the deer, which was inevitable with the noise his machine made. But, hunting season was over and he had miles of open fields and wooded trails to ride. Around noon, Rick parked his snowmobile and ate lunch, firing up the

radio and making more contacts. He then continued riding for the rest of the afternoon when he decided to head back to where his truck and trailer were parked. The sun was an orange ball on the horizon, a few degrees above the horizon.

The open fields he was traveling through were divided up by windbreaks of trees 20 to 30 feet deep. Where the woods were untouched, trails had been carved by years of wildlife passing through, as well as transportation and farm machinery. A few farmers had even cut their own trails, straight and about a car lane wide to get from field to field. Rick was traveling through one of these areas at 25 to 30 mph. He had his lights on as the sun went down and the shadows thickened. Suddenly he saw movement to his left and up ahead. Slowing to a stop, he saw two deer, a big 10 point buck and a doe. When he realized they were frozen in his headlights, he shut them off. Another doe stepped out joining the first two. Rick revved his engine, spooking the deer who bounded off to the right and disappeared. He waited a few more moments to see if any more deer appeared. It looked all quiet as the snowmobile idled. Flipping on the headlights, Rick checked his watch. It was later than he thought and there were some other things he wanted to get done yet this evening. Throwing caution to the wind, Rick accelerated down the trail figuring at 40 mph he could be back to his parking place within the half hour. Out of no where, another deer bounded into his path directly in front of him. Too late, he rolled off the throttle and swerved to the right, trying to avoid it. The snowmobile stuck the deer's rear legs and hindquarters flipping it over the machine into Rick crushing him as he fell to the ground. The snowmobile still carrying momentum swerved to the left and into a large oak tree causing extensive damage and stalling the engine. Rick lay there stunned, stars flashing before his eyes, spread eagle in the snow with the deer's hindquarters laying across his left leg. His last thought before he blacked out from the shock and pain was, "Boy, now I'm in trouble."

Will Rick survive his encounter with the deer? Stay tuned and find out in next month's PRC newsletter. ■