



REMARCS



MAY/JUNE, 1995 COME TO FIELD DAY! JUNE 24-25

Ah, the scent of stale fritos, flat soda, and cold pizza is in the air . . . Field Day, the most popular ham radio operating event in North America, will soon be here. Sponsored by the ARRL, Field Day is a combination contest and emergency-preparedness drill. If you abominate the outdoors, detest fun and good fellowship, can't bear to get your fingers dirty, hate to learn anything new . . . in short, if you have a heart of Styrofoam and the personality of an onion, then you won't like Field Day. Biased? Who, me?

MARC Field Day does not expect you to be an expert operator, let alone a hot-dawg contester who copies code at Warp 9. No matter how new you are in ham radio, or how new you are to Field Day, you are warmly welcomed at MARC's operation. We will have a VHF station as well as HF stations. Set-up starts at 10 AM on Saturday; clean-up starts at 2 PM Sunday. We need operators, cooks, technical workers, gofers, shleppers, and hangers-around. More information will be given at the May and June club meetings. A map to the site appears on page 7. Contact Field Day Chairman Mitch N3BGA (610-539-0281) to volunteer yourself and your stuff.

The field is mowed, but shoes with socks are recommended to avoid injury and poison ivy. A chemical toilet is provided for those of us who need it. While bringing little kids may not be a good idea during set-up and take-down, for safety reasons, families are otherwise very welcome to visit and enjoy the event. Be sure to bring a hat and anti-sunburn goop, or rain gear if needed. Field Day goes on rain or shine.

Actually, if you want stale fritos, flat soda, and cold pizza, you may have to bring your own. In the last few years, the food at MARC Field Day has been outstanding. How good is it? You'll have to come, do some work, have some fun, and find out!

PROGRAMS ... PROGRAMS ...



At the May 18 meeting, the featured guest speaker will be Joe Behm of PECO. Mr. Behm holds a degree in mechanical engineering from Drexel University and has been with PECO for 17 years. After 14 years as a generator engineer, he became a cost of element analyst. In English, that means he determines the cost of generators and other equipment used by PECO in power generation and distribution. He will speak to us on power generation and distribution, voltages, stepdowns, power grids, power grid control, and interesting stuff like that.



The June program will be an ARRL update by Kay Craigie WT3P (who?), Vice Director of the ARRL's Atlantic Division, it says here. She has been Vice Director since 1990, prior to which she served two terms as ARRL Eastern PA Section Manager. In addition to traveling to dozens of hamfests and club meetings each year throughout the five-state Atlantic Division, she has at various times served on the League's Membership Services Committee and ad hoc Spectrum Management Committee and has been liaison to the ARRL Digital Committee and VHF Repeater Advisory Committee. This year, her responsibilities include being on the Administration and Finance Committee and the ad hoc Volunteer Enhancement Committee.

WHAT'S THIS LINKED REPEATER THING, ANYWAY?

By Jeff Chapman WA3RIZ

The link system that our 145.13 repeater is connected to is called the "Pennsylvania Complex Link Group." This system is set up to allow the interconnection of several 2 meter repeaters throughout Pennsylvania. Out-of-state repeaters can also connect into the network. At one time, I understand there was even a wormhole connection into a system in North Carolina. On the Sunday evening net, it's not unusual to hear stations check in from Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, and New York State. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency is aware of this resource and has worked it into their operational plans. The National Weather Service has used the system to track storms through the state with an Amateur operator running net control from State College.

This is all made possible by taking advantage of some very well-placed mountain-top UHF repeater systems. These repeaters form a continuously-connected backbone at several key locations around the state. Any traffic heard on one of the backbone repeaters will be heard by all. The backbone repeater systems are interconnected through a combination of UHF, microwave, and some landline connections. The participating 2 meter repeater systems connect into the backbone via a UHF link radio. [continues on page 3]

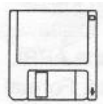
LOST YOUR BUTTONS?

For anyone with normal-sized fingers and the normal human's propensity for occasional attention lapses, the dozens of itty-bitty buttons on today's HF and VHF rigs can be trouble. Of course, if you've never made a major operating boo-boo, you haven't been licensed very long. However, that's no excuse for being an on-the-airhead. Here are a few examples of things not to do.

- + **Transmit with the offset button set wrong.** It's easy for a finger to nick this button accidentally when we press one beside it. We don't want to transmit up 600 when we should be down 600, on simplex when we should be up or down 600, or not on simplex when we think we are. If you aren't being heard, check that offset button.
- + **Transmit on the wrong VFO.** Another "Which way is up?" mistake, this one occurs in working split frequency. It can be not only embarrassing but also illegal. To work DX on 40 phone, for example, we have to use split-frequency operation. Europeans cannot operate at all above 7.100 MHz, while we cannot use phone below 7.150 MHz. The solution is for them to call below 7.100 and listen above 7.150. We listen for them below 7.100 and transmit on their listening freqs in our phone band. This is fine, as long as you don't set up your VFOs backwards or accidentally turn off split operation by pushing the wrong button. If you do, you may violate the FCC's rules and/or be called rude names by rude people.
- + **Transmit with the AF gain or volume switch turned down.** Especially on VHF rigs without an S-meter, this can cause us to step on an ongoing QSO, because we can't hear the people using the frequency. If we are lucky, they will forgive us for stepping on them, when we realize we've goofed and apologize profusely.

The moral is to check the settings on the rig before transmitting and to pay attention what our fat little fingers are doing to all those microscopic buttons.

CALLSIGN DATABASE NOW ON INTERNET



The Federal Communications Commission is now offering the complete Amateur service database on the Internet, via the FCC's file transfer protocol (FTP) site. This new service marks the beginning

of electronic granting of licenses at the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. The database will be updated every Monday by noon Eastern time.

As soon as the data for a new license appears in the database, the license is effective and all privileges of that license may be exercised by the licensee. Licensees will no longer need to wait to receive a license document in the mail. They may use the database as proof of licensing and go on the air immediately.

Information may be retrieved using the following procedure:

ACCESS: ANONYMOUS FTP.FCC.GOV
 DIRECTORY: PUB/XFS ALPHATEST/AMATEUR
 DOCUMENTATION: README.TXT

The FCC's Consumer Staff in Gettysburg can answer questions at 800-322-1117 or 717-337-1212. **[W1AW, ARRL Bulletin #40]**

W5YI TO W1AW: PULL THE PLUG ON HF!

Fred Maia W5YI, publisher of the commercial newsletter *THE W5YI REPORT* and manager of the W5YI/VEC, has petitioned the FCC to ban all information bulletins and code practice transmissions below 30 MHz. This would, of course, silence the W1AW bulletins on HF, as well as the daily code practice transmissions.



Claiming that HF bulletin and code practice services have outlived their usefulness, Maia says they make hams mad by interfering with their QSOs and add to a rising tide of anger on the bands. He says code practice is available on computer software and that ham radio information bulletins can be found on various computer on-line services . . . not to mention (and he didn't!) in his commercial newsletter! Hmm. The FCC assigned file number RM-8626 to this petition.



Not coincidentally, Maia's petition would also outlaw controversial HF bulletin operations by a certain ham whom the FCC has cited and fined for broadcasting. However, the FCC has never bothered to collect so much as a penny of this or any other recent monetary forfeiture imposed on

a ham for rules violations. In a recent filing with the FCC on the subject of forfeitures, ARRL issued a blistering protest of the FCC's failure to make violators pay their fines. The FCC's thumb-twiddling makes most hams a lot madder than the occasional QRM any HF op is accustomed to!

Whatever is claimed about bulletins and code practice interfering with QSOs, in your editor's personal opinion the real reason for the petition is that the FCC can't/won't enforce its rules. So out must go the bath water, baby and all. Is silencing ham-band broadcasters worth killing W1AW code practice and factual HF bulletins from W1AW and other responsible operators? Should hams be, in effect, forced to own a computer in order to get ham radio bulletins and take code practice? Normally, ARRL does not file comments on petitions. This one is an exception!

The comment period for this petition ends May 4, so you probably don't have time to express your opinion now. However, if the FCC proceeds to a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on this topic, MARC will get that information to you as quickly as possible. **[some info tnx ARRL]**

ON THE BOOKSHELF

Introduction to Radio Frequency Design, by **Wes**

Hayward W7ZOI (1995, ARRL, \$30, diskette included). This book, ARRL's most popular new title, prepares the reader to design HF, VHF, and UHF equipment. The author emphasizes use of models and their application to both linear and nonlinear circuits, discusses oscillator design, applies two-port network methods to the design of amplifiers and oscillators, and covers structured equation sets to aid readers in writing programs for PCS and



hand-held programmable calculators. There's a bibliography, too. And software on the included diskette has programs that will design and analyze all sorts of filters, RF system dynamic range, feedback amplifiers, and phase-locked loops.

