

The EPARC Key

We're Radio-Active

Volume 1, Number 2

October 1990

Officers Elected; Bylaws and Constitution Adopted

The second meeting of the Eastern Panhandle Amateur Radio Club was held on September 26, 1990. In attendance were Carrie (KB8HAR), Carl (KB8KNE), Dale (KF8FM), and Ruby (N8MBO) Birmingham; Gary (N8MAZ) Buckland; Brenda, Dave (KF8FL), and Mike (KB8KKT) Hartman and Darrell (KB8KRH) Collins; Jim (KW8I) Hoffman; Ken (AK2U) Holdridge; Fran (KB8IDL) Kuecker; Bob (N8MWB) Morrison; and Mark (N3HIG) Swartz.

Minutes from the August meeting were read by Ruby; membership applications were filled out and dues were paid. The club then proceeded to hold election of officers and to discuss and adopt a set of bylaws and a constitution.

The following officers were elected:

Dave Hartman	President
Ken Holdridge	Vice President
Jim Hoffman	Treasurer
Ruby Birmingham	Secretary
Dale Birmingham	Special Events Coordinator
Pat Fowler	ARRL Liaison

Dave Hartman subsequently appointed the following individuals the indicated positions:

Darrell Collins	Junior Officer
Fran Kuecker	Newsletter and Emergency Coordinator

After election of officers was concluded, Jim Hoffman presented to the club for consideration and ratification a set of bylaws and a constitution obtained from another amateur radio club. Jim stressed the need to quickly ratify both items so that filing for the club's tax exempt status could proceed. Jim added that the bylaws could be amended at any time. Discussion was held on the need to include a provision permitting the club to vote on applications for membership; it was decided to table this issue until a future meeting. The bylaws and constitution were then duly voted on and unanimously approved. It was agreed that new members would be assessed dues on a quarterly basis; i.e., dues are \$3.00 per quarter and so if anyone joins with, for example, any portion of three quarters remaining in the year, his or

Key Dates

Monday, October 22—7:00–10:00 PM, Skywarn Class
Tuesday, October 23—8:00 PM, EPARC meeting
Wednesday, October 24—2nd VE "dry run" test (if needed)
Tuesday, November 13—Vol 1, No 3 newsletter info due date
Tuesday, November 27—8:00 PM, EPARC meeting
Saturday, December 15—1st VE tests given (tentative)
Tuesday, December 18—Vol 1, No 4 newsletter info due date

her dues would be \$9.00. For associate members, the dues are \$2.00 per quarter.

ARRL Affiliation Possible

It was learned at the meeting that 75% or more of EPARC's members are ARRL members, making it possible for the club to affiliate with ARRL. There are many benefits for amateur radio clubs that are able to affiliate with ARRL, including:

- The club will receive a special newsletter specifically published by ARRL for radio clubs.
- The club will have access to liability and equipment insurance.
- ARRL will refer potential members to the club.
- The club will have access to ARRL stationery and free mailing labels.
- ARRL will give the club lists of all amateur radio operators in the local area.
- The club will have access to films and clip art from ARRL.
- The club will receive a \$2.00 commission for all ARRL members who renew.
- EPARC will receive a list of other ARRL-affiliated clubs.
- The club is permitted to use the ARRL logo on its newsletters and letterhead.

Logo Selected

Nine excellent and creative potential club logos were submitted to the club members for consideration; the club logo will appear on all official publications, mailings, letterhead, and possibly on membership badges/pins, T-shirts, and caps. The logo selected by the majority of club members was devised by Jimmy Harden.

Jimmy designed an active, enthusiastic rabbit that will be encircled by the club name and slogan, "We're radio-active." The rabbit and his apparel, a T-shirt and shorts, will appear in blue and grey, the official colors selected by the membership. Ruby will check on the expense of silk-screening the logo onto various club items.

Congratulations to Jimmy for his superlative design and thanks to everyone who worked on the many other fine drawings.

Fundraising Discussed

Dave stressed the need to look into ways to raise money for the club to enable the pursuit of several different activities, including the club's long-range plan of building a repeater. Club members agreed to hold special meeting on October 9, 1990 to discuss fundraising options.

Ten members were present at the October 9 meeting; also present was Tom Lufkin (WA4DAX) who holds an extra class license, is an active member of ARRL, and is also a volunteer examiner.

Fundraising ideas discussed included the possibility of selling Wolfgang candy, for which Dave (KF8FL) will secure information, and selling sandwiches and subs (an idea from Tom). Tom indicated that for the latter to work, the club would get a supermarket to make a donation for the groceries and the club would sell tickets for the groceries with the name of the sponsor on the tickets.

More discussion of fundraising activities will continue at the regularly scheduled October meeting.

New Members

EPARC has accepted membership applications from and offers a hearty welcome to:

- Tom Lufkin (WA4DAX), who has just moved to the area from Charleston.
- Dave Hark (N8GMQ), who is employed at a photo shop in Martinsburg and who resides in Shepherdstown. (He probably joined so that KB8IDL would remove the curse from his radio, hi, hi....)

One Box, Two Bands

This article is a synopsis of the presentation by Mark Swartz (N3HIG) at the September club meeting on the many benefits of dual banding. He entitled his talk "One Box, Two Bands = Versatility."

There are many benefits and no apparent drawbacks to using a dual band radio, according to Mark, an impetus, perhaps, for our club to consider building a 440 rather than a 2-meter or 10-meter repeater. These benefits include:

- It is possible to overcome the crowded 2-meter band space by instantly jumping up to the virtually empty 440 repeaters.
- One has the ability to access 440 repeaters that are crosslinked to 10-meter, 2-meter, and other 440 repeaters, permitting longer distance communications and random DX openings. It is possible to work Europe and South America with a hand-held radio on 2.3 watts with S-9 copy and almost no QRM or QRN.

For example, The NIH Amateur Radio Club (K3YGG) has a 2-meter repeater on 145.29 that is linked simultaneously to 447.925. The repeater in Jessup, Maryland on 146.760 is linked in the same manner with 444.000. The N3AUJ repeater in Silver Spring, Maryland has a 440 frequency of 449.025 linked to the output of 29.66 mhz. Using a hand-held radio equipped with a "PL" tone (mandatory on the 440 side) will enable you to easily make DX contacts many thousands of miles away.

- The 440 band is rarely used. With the exception of crosslinked repeaters, most 440 frequencies are empty; you can have a 30-minute QSO without the fear of tying up the repeater. If you use a particular 440 machine for about a week, you will find that you meet almost everyone who uses the same machine.
- Most amateurs who use the 440 band are very technically oriented, and you will rarely find QSOs concerning traffic or the weather. Most of the time the QSOs concern antennas, radio operation, and radio wave propagation. You will have a chance to share your knowledge with others, as well as learn new operating techniques from them.
- It is possible to work "crossband" with another station, i.e., with one station transmitting on 2 meters and the other on 440, so that you can both transmit at the same time, much like having a telephone QSO.
- The 440 band has random openings to repeaters in distant states and seems less prone to "white noise" and interference.

Miscellaneous Business

- EPARC is hosting a weather training class on October 22 from 7:00 to 10:00 PM to be taught by the National Weather Service. Everyone, hams and nonhams, are invited to attend. Interested persons should call Fran Kuecker (KB8IDL) at (h) 304-229-0864 or (w) 301-948-9633 x276 to register. The seminar will teach individuals how to spot potentially severe weather situations and when and where to report this information.
- Tom Lufkin (WA4DAX) has suggested that club members go to a local hospital during Christmas and assist in having Santa talk via 2 meters with the hospitalized children.
- Dale (KF8FM) informed the members about Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). The event will transpire on October 20 and 21. General consensus was that there wasn't enough time to make arrangements with Scout troops to participate in this event and to select a site from which to transmit. Perhaps this is an event in which the club can participate next year.
- Several club members (Bob, N8MWB; Darrell, KB8KRH; Carrie, KB8HAR; Fran, KB8IDL; and Bob's daughter, Melissa) worked communications on October 13 at Joe Gibbs' Youth For Tomorrow Camp.
- EPARC would like to express its deepest sympathy to Bruce (KC4NYZ) and his family members on the demise of his wife.
- EPARC thanks club member Mark (N3HIG) for his donation to the club, which will help make it possible for the club to file the papers to obtain its tax exempt status, and also thanks Bill Talbert (KA3RRD) for his donation.

Upgrade Corner

The club congratulates Mike Hartman on his recent upgrade from novice to technician. It's terrific to hear you on 2 meters!

The Phonetic Alphabet: A Short History*

When voice operation started becoming popular in the 1930s, the ARRL recommended the use of the Western Union alphabet (Adams, Boston, Chicago, Denver, and so on). During World War II, the joint Army-Navy (JAN) alphabet (i.e., Able, Baler, Charlie, Dog, and so forth) came into vogue, and the Western Union alphabet was all but forgotten. After the war, there was widespread feeling among radio amateurs that they had had enough military stuff, so the League adopted its very own phonetic alphabet (Adam, Baker, Charlie, David, etc.), a hybrid list using words from several other alphabets. Nevertheless, the JAN list continued to be heard most often on the amateur bands, purely as a matter of habit.

Not until the late 1950s did the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) list start being used officially by the military, its principal advantage being that it contained words that could be understood in any language. It was the ICAO list that was adopted by the ITU and the ITU phonetic list is identical to that originally promulgated by the ICAO.

Although the ICAO/ITU list is generally accepted operating convention today, amateurs originally resisted its introduction on their bands. At the same time, the post-war ARRL list never took hold. Most amateurs continued to use the JAN list or lists of their own devising (the latter being inconsistent with good operating practice).

Through the influence of the governments of the many Spanish, French, and English-speaking nations, the ICAO/ITU list eventually gained acceptance throughout the mainstream of Amateur Radio, and thus its widespread use in phone operation today. Recognizing that the ICAO/ITU list had become the *de facto* standard on the amateur bands, the ARRL Board of Directors first ordered it to appear in the ARRL literature alongside the ARRL phonetic alphabet, and later, at the May 1969 Board Meeting, adopted it as *the* ARRL standard.

*Reprinted from Robert Halprin, K1XA