

Tri County Repeater Association

Volume 7, Issue 2

March 2003

February Meeting

February 4th, 2003

Paul Brooten – KB9TYC

The February meeting was held February 4th at Ruby's in Bloomer. Members present were: AB9EJ, KC9CGW, N9RVV, N9TUC, W9GDH, KB9TYC, KA9GNG, W9RAY, N9XMU, N9UXH, and W9NG. There were no guests present.

Old Business

Paul, KB9TYC advised there was no old business.

Treasurer's Report

Mike, AB9EJ gave the treasurers report. AB9EJ advised at the December meeting we had \$1,642.79 in our account. Since the December meeting we have had 17 memberships paid for a current balance of \$1,982.79. AB9EJ advised we currently have 2 family memberships and 19 regular memberships. Members present approved a check to be issued to Walt in the amount of \$90.00 for power.

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FCC Proposes to Hike Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee

ARRL

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 26, 2003--The FCC has proposed increasing the regulatory fee to apply for, renew or reinstate an Amateur Radio vanity call sign from \$14.50 to \$16.30 this fall. The Commission included the new fee in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2003" (MD 03-83), released today. The closing date for comments on the new fee schedule is April 25. Reply comments are due by May 5.

"We estimate that 9800 applicants will apply for vanity call signs in FY2003," the FCC said in its *NPRM*. That's up by 800 from FY2002. It expects to collect revenues of nearly \$160,000, an increase of almost \$30,000 from FY2002.

If all goes as it has in the past, the FCC will adopt a *Report and Order* on the FY2003 fee schedule this summer, and the new fee will become effective sometime in early September.

The FCC *NPRM* also seeks comments on its efforts to review, streamline and modernize its fee assessment and collection processes and procedures. "We welcome comments on a broad range of options in this regard," the FCC said. Areas of particular interest include suggestions for improvement in the agency's electronic payment system.

Applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the \$14.50 regulatory fee per call

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New Business

The antenna used in the past for Field Day that was owned by Dave, K0ZYP has been sold. Gary, KB9WYO has a TA33JR that he will donate to the club for use on Field Day.

Greg, W9GDH advised that Walt would like a new repeater controller. Greg advised Walt would like one capable of voice announcements to notify members of the net, meetings, etc. It was decided that Walt should figure out what he would like and to let the club know before we vote.

Mike wanted to know what the interest would be in getting some club stickers made up to promote the club. They could be sold for a small profit for the club. Paul, KB9TYC advised he has a relative in the sign business and he will check for costs on vinyl stickers.

Greg wanted to know the interest in getting a joint Sky-Warn program going in Barron, Chippewa, and Eau Claire Counties. Discussion ensued and this will be discussed more at the April meeting. Greg also made known of Skywarn training at the Barron County Courthouse Auditorium on March 10th, 2003 at 1:00 and 7:00 P.M.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held April 1st at Ruby's Roadhouse in Bloomer at 7:00 p.m.❖

2003 TCRA Officers

President: Dale McGraw – N9XMU

Vice President: Ray Johnson – W9RAY

Secretary: Paul Brooten – KB9TYC

Treasurer: Mike Metzdorf – AB9EJ

<http://www.tcra.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS

TRI COUNTY REPEATER ASSOCIATION APRIL MEETING

PLACE: RUBY'S ROADHOUSE IN BLOOMER

DATE: APRIL 1ST, 2003.

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

NWS SKYWARN TRAINING

PLACE: CHIPPEWA VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

DATE: APRIL 9TH, 2003.

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

Storm spotter training conducted by the National Weather Service.

VE TESTING

PLACE: SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL – EAU CLAIRE

DATE: APRIL 19TH, 2003.

TIME: 9:00 – 11:30 A.M.

All classes tested. Sponsored by the Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club.

Mike's Code Corner

Mike Metzdorf – AB9EJ

Answer to the code in the February Newsletter:

The next meeting for the tri-county repeater association will be held Tuesday February 4 2003 at rubys restaurant in bloomer. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm, but come early, have something good to eat, and see all that come. If you like this idea of an article, please let me know and I will do more of them on different subjects. This one is just a test. Have fun.

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sign (per 10-year license term) until the FY2003 fee schedule becomes effective. The FCC has said in the past that because it continues to incur costs related to vanity call signs even after their issuance or renewal, it believes a regulatory fee at renewal is appropriate.

Interested parties may comment via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>). Enter "03-83" in the "Proceeding" field (the FCC may not have this proceeding available immediately--*Ed*). Electronic comments by e-mail also are welcome. To receive filing instructions for e-mail comments, send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov and include the words "get form <*your e-mail address*>" in the message body. The ECFS will reply with a sample form and directions on filing comments.

A copy of the *FCC Notice of Proposed Rule making* (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-64A1.doc) is available on the FCC Web site.

Newsletter Comments

March 31, 2003

Paul Broten – KB9TYC

I apologize for the newsletter showing up so late. For some reason I was thinking the meetings were on the second Tuesday of the month so that put me behind.

If you have anything to submit to the newsletter please feel free to send it to me at kb9tyc@tcra.org.