

Tri County Repeater Association

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May 2003

April Meeting

April 1st, 2003

Paul Brooten – KB9TYC

The April meeting was held April 1st at Ruby's in Bloomer. Members present were: AB9EJ, KC9CGW, N9TUC, KB9TYC, W9RAY, N9XMU, N9UXH, and KB9YOS, and KB9WYO. There were no guests present.

Old Business

Some members attended the SkyWarn training class in Eau Claire on April 9th in Eau Claire. Greg, W9DGH was not present to discuss the storm spotting program that he was working on getting set up.

Paul, KB9TYC displayed a vinyl sticker to show the material that could be used for our bumper sticker. The material is commercial quality and is the same material used to letter vehicles and some signs. KB9TYC reported the cost would be between \$3.00 and \$5.00 depending on how many we order.

The club has not heard anything from Walt about

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Ohio Ham Hit with \$12,000 Fine in Malicious Interference Case

ARRL

NEWINGTON, CT, May 22, 2003--Cooperation between Canadian and US amateurs has resulted in a \$12,000 *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL)* from the FCC to an Ohio amateur. The FCC has alleged that Ronald E. Sauer, WE8E, of Bedford Heights violated Part 97 rules prohibiting deliberate and malicious interference, transmission of music and failure to identify. The case involved daily interference to the Trans Provincial Net, a Canadian net that operates on 7.055 MHz.

"This was no small task and was accomplished with the help of many people from the US and Canada working together," said ARRL Great Lakes Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT, who expressed thanks to all involved. In addition to TPN members, that included Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) officials, Industry Canada, the FCC, ARRL Michigan and Ohio Section officials, ARRL Official Observers and members of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society (CARS).

"This was indeed an example of teamwork in action and proves again that the FCC does care and continues to work with us to stop interference," Mondro added.

TPN Assistant Manager Jim Taylor, VA3KU, said the interference to the net had gone on for several months. Taylor says the first break came when a person believed to be the jammer started sending e-mails to some net members. The Canadian amateurs were able to determine that the e-mails had come from a public library terminal in the Cleveland, Ohio, area. Taylor contacted CARS President Bob Check, W8GC, for assistance in zeroing in on the interference.

Tracking down the apparent signal source involved mobile direction-finding work by three CARS members, who passed along their findings to the FCC's Detroit

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Office late last January. Already alerted to the situation, the FCC's Detroit Office had called on the Commission's High Frequency Direction Finding (HFDF) facility in Maryland. The HFDF group monitored jamming and the playing of music and narrowed down the search to an area near the intersection of Interstates 480 and 77 in the Cleveland area.

In the meantime, the FCC received the CARS report, which alleged that the interference was coming from Sauer's residence. The NAL says that on January 31, an FCC agent also used direction-finding techniques to track the source of the interference on 7.055 MHz to Sauer's home and conducted an inspection.

According to the FCC NAL, Sauer "admitted that he had been playing music and deliberately jamming the frequency of 7.055 MHz." Sauer "further admitted to jamming and playing music on this frequency on previous days," the FCC said.

Based on its findings, the FCC concluded that the \$12,000 fine was justified. The FCC ordered Sauer to pay the fine within 30 days or to file a written statement seeking a reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture. ❖

Comments From The Secretary

Paul Brooten – KB9TYC

Field Day is coming up very quick this year. At the time of writing there is 32 days to go. I will be taking pictures again this year and will have the capability of downloading a copy of your pictures off your camera if you use the Compact Flash or Secure Digital (MMC) digital camera cards. Please let me get a copy of your pictures before you leave to put on the web site.

Once again I am going to do the live web cam to the web site from the field day site. I believe we are the only club that does this.

The web site is doing well. So far in the month of May there have been 2,125 visitors to the site. The amount of data transferred this month so far is 5.254 gigabytes. If you have anything you would like to contribute to the newsletter or web site just send it my way. It always makes for a better newsletter when there is more original content. I may get a short mailing out about Field Day before the date comes with further information.

73,
KB9TYC ❖

For Sale

Yaesu FT-747GX HF Rig - Includes Supply, Relay box, Box, Manual, and power cord.

The 747 itself is in near perfect condition. The power supply has some cosmetic marks. Everything Works. I am currently using this rig on the air...will demo. I am selling this to raise money for a different rig I have had my eye on for a while which just became available. I am looking for \$600.00 O.B.O. for the entire package. Would like NOT to part out.

For more information contact Bill - KA9GNG at ka9gng@tcra.org or by phone at 715-924-3609

You can see pictures of the rig at <http://www.tcra.org>. Click on "For Sale" on the left column. ❖

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President: Dale McGraw – N9XMU
Vice President: Ray Johnson – W9RAY
Secretary: Paul Brooten – KB9TYC
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