

Tri County Repeater Association

Volume 8, Issue 2

April 2004

February Meeting

February 3rd, 2003

Paul Brooten – KB9TYC

The regular scheduled meeting of TCRA was held at Ruby's Roadhouse on February 3rd. Members in attendance were KA9GNG, W9GDH, W9RAY, KB9TYC, KC9EXW, N9XMU, N9UXH, W9DNB, N9RVV, and AB9EJ. Guests present were KC9DUB.

KB9TYC advised he had nothing for the Secretaries report.

AB9EJ advised at the December meeting there was \$1321.31 in our account. AB9EJ advised since then there have been 17 new memberships and one sticker sale. The only cost paid out was \$90.00 to Walt towards the power bill. AB9EJ advised the current balance of our account is \$1577.39

The only old news was the new repeater controller. This will be tabled until the club hears from Walt.

Members present started to plan for Field Day. AB9EJ's towers will be available for the club to use

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FCC Fines Restaurant for Long-Range Telephone Use

March 26th, 2004

ARRL

A Chinese restaurant in New Jersey is facing a \$10,000 fine from the FCC for operating transmitting equipment on 2 meters without a license. The case involves Best Wok in Westville, which apparently had been using a so-called "long-range cordless telephone" to communicate with its delivery vehicle. The FCC says the telephone in question--said to have been obtained outside the US and not FCC certificated--operated within the 2-meter satellite subband at 145.8376 MHz. Acting on a tip, the FCC conducted an investigation that resulted in the February 26 issuance of a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) to Best Wok. While the case dates back to 2001, the FCC asserted in its NAL that the restaurant had violated the Communications Act as recently as early last year.

"On February 28, 2003, Best Wok operated radio transmitting equipment on the Two-Meter Amateur Radio Service frequency 145.8376 MHz," the FCC said. "Neither Best Wok nor any of its employees held a license to operate a station in the Amateur Radio Service Band." In 2001, following numerous complaints from the amateur community, the ARRL asked the FCC to investigate and "take appropriate action" against

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2004 TCRA Officers

President: Dale McGraw – N9XMU
Vice President: Ray Johnson – W9RAY
Secretary: Paul Brooten – KB9TYC
Treasurer: Mike Metzdorf – AB9EJ

<http://www.tcra.org>

several companies it alleged were marketing similar telephone devices via the Internet.

The FCC said its Enforcement Bureau first received information that Best Wok was transmitting on 2 meters in early September 2001. It followed up with a Warning Notice the next month, explaining the violation and possible penalties. Complaints continued, however, and in January 2003 the FCC issued a second notice to Best Wok.

The following month, an FCC agent from the Commission's Philadelphia office visited Westville "to determine if Best Wok was operating radio transmitting equipment" on 2 meters. The agent monitored "a constant radio signal" on or near the frequency 145.835 MHz. Using direction-finding techniques; the agent pinned down the source of the transmissions to Best Wok.

According to the FCC, the agent visited the establishment and inspected the radio transmitting equipment in the presence of restaurant manager Sae C. Hauwo. "The agent found that Best Wok was operating a long-distance cordless telephone system," the FCC said. "The system was comprised of a base unit that was located under the counter of the restaurant and a mobile unit that was in Hauwo's vehicle." The Commission says Hauwo told the agent he installed the long-range cordless telephone system so that his employees could answer customers' telephone calls while making deliveries.

Hauwo said that after the restaurant got the second written warning, it stopped using the long-range telephone and purchased a set of Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS) radios that operated on 154.600 MHz. But the MURS units failed to provide sufficient coverage; the FCC says Hauwo told the agent, so Best Wok resumed using the long-distance cordless telephone system.

In its NAL, the FCC said that based on the evidence it had, it determined that Best Wok "willfully violated" Section 301 of the Communications Act. Applying its forfeiture policies and the statutory factors, the FCC said the \$10,000 fine was warranted. Best Wok had 30 days to pay the fine or to seek a reduction or cancellation of the forfeiture.

FCC Philadelphia District Director John E. Rahtes issued the NAL. It's not yet known if the restaurant has paid the fine or appealed.

In unrelated enforcement actions, the FCC has downgraded one licensee and canceled four license grants in California pursuant to an audit of a W5YI-VEC examination session on September 1, 2001, in Yucaipa and an ARRL-VEC examination session on March 30, 2002, in Los Angeles. All participating volunteer examiners have been removed from VE service by the VECs.

As a result, the Amateur Extra license of Reynoso R. Salguet, N6REY, has been downgraded to Technician; the General license of Manuel M. Vega, ex-KG6GSP, was terminated for failure to appear for retesting; and the Technician licenses of Sun H. Kim, ex-KG6LDT, Karen S. Kim, ex-KG6LDU, and Dae Uk Hong, ex-KG6LDX, were cancelled after they failed to appear for retesting. ❖

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very early this year," Roller said. "March and April are normally our snowiest months, but instead we have conditions that haven't been this dry in over 90 years." He says the forecast calls for another day of dry, windy conditions followed by cooler and possibly wetter weather for the weekend.

The Picnic Rock Fire got its start Tuesday when a residential yard fire went out of control, and winds gusting to 35 MPH have helped spread the flames through the timber-pocked brush and grassland area. More than 200 firefighters, air tankers and helicopters are battling the flames. So far, no homes or structures have been lost. ❖