Tri County Repeater Association

Volume 10, Issue 2 April 2006

February Meeting

February 7th, 2006

Dale McGraw – N9XMU

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Tri County Repeater Association was held at Ruby's Roadhouse on February 7th at 7:00 PM with the following members present: K9YLI, N9LUG, N9XMU, N9RVV, KC9FEE, and AB9EJ.

Old Business

Discussion of purchasing a smaller HF Beam for Field Day was brought to the floor. AB9EJ related he had researched a Hy Gain antenna in California but when cost of shipping and other options were brought up the issue was tabled with the idea that another deal might become available.

It was decided by the majority that the club should email the newsletter to club members who have email. Members who do not have email will continue to receive the newsletter by US Mail. Any prospective members will also receive the newsletter via email.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Mike's Code Corner

March 31st, 2006

Mike Metzdorf – AB9EJ

The following is some code that has a message. Some of you will find this very easy, others will find it educational, and others won't bother at all. That's ok. Have fun anyway.

Code Corner # 13 – What is a contact?

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2006 TCRA Officers

President:	Don Jaster – K9YLI
Vice President:	Mark Marusik – KC9FEE
Secretary:	Paul Brooten – KB9TYC
Treasurer:	Mike Metzdorf – AB9EJ

http://www.tcra.org

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New Business

An informal discussion on moving the meeting to Cornell twice a year was brought to the floor but no decision was made pending further information.

K9YLI suggested that a new format might be considered for the Thursday night net.

K9YLI also related that he will be sending out TECH TIPS and discussions will be held on these tips at the meeting. Code practice was also discussed so those of you who might want to learn the code should contact the Club President regarding this issue.

It was also decided that we could do a better job of promoting Amateur Radio by bringing Home Brew projects and any kits we build to Field Day, also information obtained from publications could be brought providing we had permission of the publisher.

Good DX and 73,

N9XMU ❖

February Code Corner Answer

March 31st, 2006

Mike Metzdorf – AB9EJ

Code Corner # 12 – Help a Different Way.

While Amateur Radio's assistance is usually on-air traffic handling, one group found a different path.

In Los Angeles, CA, users of the repeater on 147.435 held a hamburger cookout. About 25 people showed up and the donations for the Red Cross came to $1500.00.

73,

AB9EJ ❖

FCC Affirms $21,000 in Fines Levied On Maine Radio Amateur

March 29th, 2006

ARRL

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 29, 2006--The FCC has affirmed a total of $21,000 in fines it proposed last year to levy on Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine. The FCC's *Forfeiture Order* (*NoF*), released March 29, comes nearly 10 months after a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture* (*NAL*) in the case. The FCC has alleged that Baxter violated several sections of the Part 97 Amateur Service Rules.

"The noted violations of the rules involve interference with the ongoing communications of other Amateur Radio stations, failure to exercise station control, transmission of communications in which Baxter had a pecuniary interest, and transmission of communications that constituted impermissible broadcasting," the FCC said. The *NoF*, which reiterates specific allegations outlined in the *NAL* last June, was released over the signature of Russell Monie Jr, who directs the FCC Enforcement Bureau's Northeast Region office in Boston.

The FCC also has concluded that Baxter "apparently willfully and repeatedly" failed to file required information pursuant to an Enforcement Bureau directive. In two warning notices in 2004, FCC Special Counsel in the Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth directed Baxter to provide information on how K1MAN was controlled and the identity of the station's control operator.

"The Boston Office found that Mr. Baxter's statements that '[n]o correction actions are necessary' and '[n]o changes are needed with regard to station control' failed to comply with the Bureau's demand for station information, the FCC said in the *NoF*.

Replying to the June 2005 *NAL*, Baxter denied any liability for the forfeiture amount, the FCC said. According to the Commission, Baxter cited the fifth and sixth amendments to the US Constitution and requested "all documentation regarding the alleged

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UPCOMING EVENTS

TRI COUNTY REPEATER ASSOCIATION APRIL MEETING

PLACE: RUBY'S ROADHOUSE IN BLOOMER

DATE: APRIL 4TH, 2006

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

SKYWARN TRAINING

PLACE: CHIPPEWA VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE – EAU CLAIRE

DATE: APRIL 18TH, 2006

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

CONTACT HAL SWANSTROM AT (715) 839-4736 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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73,

AB9EJ❖

apparent liability" and "a trial like hearing before the full Commission." Baxter did not submit "any substantive responses" to the alleged violations recited in the *NAL*, the Commission said.

The FCC denied Baxter's request for a hearing. According to the Communications Act, the FCC said, providing a hearing is at the Commission's discretion, and a hearing is "not normally utilized when only monetary forfeiture matters are involved."

Its procedures, the FCC noted, do not deprive Baxter of his right to due process, because the Communications Act provides that any forfeitures issued in accordance with its procedures are "ultimately subject to a trial *de novo* in federal district court" should Baxter not pay the fine beforehand. A licensee's decision to forego presentation of arguments and evidence in response to an *NAL* "does not create a right to a hearing," the Commission contended in the *NoF*.

The FCC further noted that the fifth and sixth amendments to the US Constitution "address the rights of defendants in criminal cases" and said Baxter's reliance on those amendments to support his hearing request "is misplaced."

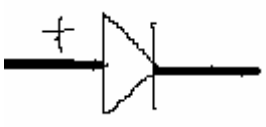
"Baxter received notice regarding the legal and factual bases for the apparent violations and proposed forfeiture and has been afforded an opportunity to respond 'why no such forfeiture penalty should be imposed,'" the FCC said. According to the *NoF*, Baxter, while denying any liability, "has chosen not to present any specific exculpatory arguments or evidence in response to the violations set forth in the *NAL*."

The FCC gave Baxter 30 days from the release of the order to pay the $21,000 in fines. If the forfeiture is not paid within that time, the FCC can refer the case to the US Department of Justice for collection.

Baxter's Amateur Radio license expired last October 17, but according to the FCC, he has continuing operating authority since he filed a timely renewal. His renewal application remains under review based on complaints filed and on FCC correspondence regarding the operation of his station over the last license term in general. The forfeiture action is a separate action.❖

Tech Tip from Don Jaster – K9YLI

DIODES



Banded end is cathode

Diodes are rated by maximum current flow (I) and peak inverse voltage. PIV is the voltage applied with polarity to make the diode NOT conduct. The diode is forward biased when a positive voltage is on the anode.

HOW THEY WORK

Diodes conduct only one way. (They do have a small reverse current flow) The K shape of the symbol is the cathode(Kathode) then you lay a "plate" across the open end. The plate of a tube being the plus side the tube symbol configuration or ANODE. Electron flow is **AGAINST** the arrow. Back when 'current 'flow as taught, current flow is plus to minus which would then have been with the arrow. The way to remember the symbol is using some tube type nomenclature. You start with the cathode (kathode) then you lay a **plate** across the open end.

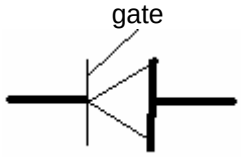
---K |----- then push it together

Cathode anode.

If the voltage across the diode is more plus on the anode side it conducts fully. If the anode is minus in reference to the cathode, then it does not conduct Called ‘reverse bias'. If the reverse bias exceeds the PIV rating, the diode will 'avalanche' and conduct usually destroying it. Most common diodes are at least 50 piv.

ZENER diodes require a fixed forward bias voltage **before** they conduct, thus they are used as voltage sensing devices, as they 'turn on' at a pre-determined voltage.

SCRs are **S**ilicon **C**ontrolled **R**ectifiers. They only conduct when the 'gate lead ' is triggered. Then they don't stop until either one lead is opened or they "blown out". The way to 'blow them out' is to apply a zero or negative pulse on the anode, thus momentarily stopping conduction.



cathode anode

Triacs look similar to SCRs. They are effectively A.C. SCRs and are used to control motors, etc in AC circuits. They look like back to back reverse diodes. With gate leads.