Teletype Bulletin 13

It seems like an awful imposition, gentlemen, but still one more letter to the FCC is called for: Docket 10188, which specifies FSK teletype from 21.1 to 21.35 mc. This democracy of ours works on the principle that the majority rules, so if you are interested in teletype you can do both yourself and all other teletypers a serious disservice by not writing in that you are interested in that allocation. Be sure that those that are opposed will spend the half hour necessary to give vent to their ignorance and prejudice where it will do the most harm. The lack of a letter from you is a vote against us, Etc. Anyway, for the literary minded, I would like to remind you that we must muster to the clarion call raised by WA4FR: "T 90 FCC." At any rate, write Slowie a letter or else take up stamp collecting.

One letter came in during the month that deserves a bit of discussion. This fellow noticed a considerable change in my views on the content of Docket 10073 between bulletin #11 and #12. This is true and I am annoyed with myself for not taking the time initially to sit down and consider all of the various aspects of the FCC proposals. I talked with a few of the local T/Ters about it on the phone, but still no deep thought. Then W4BP called up from Washington and started asking me questions. He wanted to know why we should start out with such an array of restrictions. The more I thought about it and discussed it the less reason I could find to think of such a technical straight-jacket. As a hopeless idealist for the notion of democracy I believe that the more rigid we have the less personal interest there will be in obeying them. My own letter to the FCC suggested that many of the monitoring duties of the FCC could more effectively be taken over by the amateur on a plan similar to the ARRL Official Observer idea. I protested the line of thinking that was causing the FCC to make stations give their call letters at increasing intervals and proposed that identification be required only at the beginning and end of a transmission, no matter how long it should be. I also pointed out that one of the original purposes of allowing hams was for their value as experimenters. This value has been slowly but surely whittled down through the years, making it quite difficult now to do much along this line. As an example of this line of thinking I brought up the "BURF" which has been sitting atop the Municipal Building in New York for over a year and a half gathering dust. This gadget was built by John (W2BD) and installed. For a few days it was tested and the results were fantastic: for the first time all of the RTTY stations around NYC could work each other. Even W2JAV, a hundred miles away, was able to automatically start and stop the repeater. The action of this automatically operated repeater station is simple: it turns on with the receipt of a teletype signal and retransmits this signal (and re-generating it) on the low end of the two meter band. Thus by tuning your receiver to the repeater all stations could be worked. Without the BURF I (for one) can hear only one local station: W2BD. Any other contacts that I make on 2M have to be relayed through John. The application for a license for this repeater has been on file for a year and a half, and the only action is an occasional letter saying that it is being considered. What kind of way is this to treat an experimenter? This is the attitude that I want to bring out in the open and try to repair.

There are other factors about 10073 that did not occur to me before that have worried too: The setting of AF8K standards permanently eliminates such interesting possibilities as the use of 90 and 150 cycle tones. Preliminary tests with these tones seemed to indicate that they would work OK under certain conditions. The setting of 850 cycles as the allowable shift for FSK work eliminates the possibilities of more work being done with the use of Wide-band FSK on two meters. Since a phone station and an AF8K station take up at least 6 kc on two meters why not try a wide FSK range such as 1 kc or 6 kc, rather than 850 cycles? With this shift the use of entirely different detection techniques could be employed and the almost insurmountable problem of drift might be greatly reduced. Under the new proposed regs this could not be. Even harder to contemplate is the section 12.60A. I mentioned last month the difficulty of signing our calls every ten minutes on both RTTY and c.w. Now I have reread the whole section and see that in addition to this we would have to give our calls on both RTTY and c.w. every 30 seconds while calling CQ or testing. Wow. That really does it. Every 30 seconds!!!
Apparently I am the only one that thinks this monthly bulletin should be given away free. The fellows that do donate money for the upkeep of this means of communication between the RTTYers seem to have little interest in others getting off without paying. I must admit that I cannot see their point for it doesn't seem fair to them to have to pay the way for others. So that's it: subscription price to the Amateur Radio Teletype Society monthly Bulletin is $3 a year. When I started this venture a year ago I had no idea of the amount of time it would consume or the various expenses that would pile up in its production. This is not actually a complaint for I feel quite elated over the immense interest that my hobby has aroused. The charging of a price for the bulletin should accomplish several objectives: first it should give the Society some funds to print up membership certificates for active RTTYers, and do some of the other things that we would have liked to do but couldn't due to no funds; second, it would be nice to reduce the bulletin mailing list to, say, 500 so that it doesn't take as long to fold and mail them. Subscriptions will run from bulletin #9, that is from March 1, 1952, to March 1, 1953. Chalk up a dollar extra if you have bulletins 2-8. This, in plain language means: for more bulletins, send me $3. Arrangements have been made with my bank for personal loans to cover this charge. Terms as low as 19% a month with NO DOWN PAYMENT. If you don't have the $3 send for our personal loan sheet.

The mail during the last month has been pretty heavy, but little of it had much news. Most of the letters were from fellows that are new to RTTY and wanted info on how to get equipment, information, etc. Guess the June CW column had a lot to do with that for I sort of pushed teletype a bit more than usual in it. Incidentally, quite a lot of the June column got out at the last minute so that the discussion of the FCC docket could be put in. I had quite a list to do with that for I sort of pushed teletype a bit more than usual in it. Incidentally, quite a lot of the June column got out at the last minute so that the discussion of the FCC docket could be put in. I had quite a list of recommendations for FCC docket 912-W2-W3 call letters that are registered with me as being interested in RTTY. Possibly these will not fit in the August issue either. Maybe I will have to run them in the bulletin to get them in print. I did think it better to have them in CW though so that other local hams could look up those with TT knowledge and get acquainted. The September CW will have a complete article on the W4QEL receiving converter and associated equipment. He uses toroid filters and they look fairly simple to make.

W6XRM as usual sent several interesting letters during the month. Here are some of his thoughts: "Had a wonderful visit at the Lewises (W9QAU), they certainly are fine friends to know. Helped Doc some with his machine and he is installing the flip-flop polar relay renumber (ARTT 4034). I still think that seven 6W6's is a small price to pay for the benefit of a vacuum tube keyer system, which can be easily driven direct by a flip-flop. Moreover, you can use a small BC transformer for a power supply. As a matter of fact, the VT keyer idea was born out of a sort of desperation because I couldn't find a cheap enough isolation transformer for the selenium supply. There is also the noise reduction angle, which is a considerable benefit." Bob is driving from Wisconsin to Montana, thence to Oregon and down to Oxnard, where he will summer. Wisconsin again in the fall. Bob points out in another letter that I made one mistake in drawing ARTT 4034: the two 1/4 meg resistors that connect the two bulbs to ground should be connected together to minus 110 volts from the bias rectifier in the VT keyer. This is the same bias that is used in ARTT 4035 to the grid of the driver.

CQ had a letter the other day complaining about their attitude toward the ARRL, and mentioned my column as one indication of the bias. Perhaps I should point out that what goes in CQ and in this bulletin represents only my opinion. Perry in no way approves or disapproves of any statements I make about the ARRL. The opinion that I put before you in print is primarily made up from the letters that I receive from you. The evidence against the ARRL is strong and the letters I have received are very critical. The latest ARRL decision really made some of the gang mad: FSK teletype should be restricted to one low frequency band and should share 50 kc with the novices on this band. This is what the ARRL is recommending to the FCC. What went through the minds of those directors that agreed to this idea I just cannot guess. Those of you that have listened to the 50 kc on 80 meters open to the novices have some sort of idea of the frightful QRM that will be ours to share if such a plan should be accepted. There are some 12,000 novices now and floods more to come! I'll bet that not one of you has written his director.
What lies behind this attitude of the ARRL? I would like to know. As it is I can only surmise. An increasing number of letters from some of their top traffic men who are considering changing over to teletype (W6KYV has just put in a complete teletype setup and plans to use it for Pacific traffic work. Dave has been one of the top men on the Ossender list for well over a year.) for their circuits. I can understand how the ARRL might get emotional about this intrusion to their very basis of being. I wish they wouldn't though. As far as I know, c.w. today is almost completely an amateur phenomenon. The commercial and military stations are using automatic equipment. Why then should the amateur be forced to stay so far behind the technical developments of our modern world? Supposing the horse owners had passed a rule to the effect that automobiles could not use roads. I still haven't figured out why the code speed for Extra Class license was turned over the old 13 wpm. What do they need c.w. men for? Now I am not against the use of c.w. in the ham bands, nor am I against phone, SSSC, etc. I am not against the use of any type of emission in the ham bands that does not cause excessive interference to other stations. I am against inconsiderate operating practices, but that is about all. I have yet to see any advance of the human race attributable to negativism. In this vein, if the ARRL is not for us, why don't they let least leave us alone?

One encouraging sign from this quarter is the two articles on RTTY that have appeared in QST recently. Bud Sabel, W6CYI, and Harvin Bernsteain, W2AP, have had articles on basic TT and FSK oscillators. Harvin's article came as a complete surprise to me so I was unable to give it any advance publicity in this column. Incidently, this might be a good place to mention that although there is on my part a feeling of pride on being on the staff of QST, still I feel that we should encourage QST and even Radio News to print articles on RTTY. No one magazine can hope to cover everything in amateur radio with the result that most active amateurs subscribe to all three.

W6KYV: "Have been able to secure an excellent perforator, a tape transmitter, and a model 26 printer....I suppose I can be classed as one of the teletype men now. All equipment necessary is on hand, including the cool key transmitter for FSK. I have the terminal board (receiving converter and osc) that W6LB had. Lee has a commercial job going that stands ten feet high and has fancy circuits that I never heard of in it."

W4RPV: "Our RTTY activities here are converting the REDC equipment on the MARS net which will also be used on the ham bands. The Tennessee Technical College, located here, has a Signal Corps unit which is well equipped with teletype and carrier equipment. We are set up with elaborate audio filter test equipment which simplifies our design work for RTTY."

W1HMR, down in Okochobee, Florida, is looking for anyone that might be in the vicinity and interested in RTTY. He has a good TT Army background.

W5FTP: "W5FTP, at Ft. Mitchell, Ky., will be on two meters with me within a very short time. He is awaiting his machine and has had it on order for eight weeks or so." Rube is in Dayton and should be able to work the Detroit gang too when he gets the hanks out.

W5HP: "Detroit is at long last on the amateur RTTY map!!!" Seems he read about W6MB in the bulletin, looked him up, and found that Rod was all set to go. That did it. Walt really got busy and built his receiving converter and got on the air. W6LTI will soon join them. Congratulations.

W1KGY: "It is possible that I may be able to help any hams in this area (Nayland, e. a.) as I have had a fair amount of Army experience with RTTY." Fred is ex K6AK, which a few of you DX men may remember.

W1WSX has moved to Louisville from Eric, Pa., where he was W3CPS and has everything pretty well set up. He is on 80 c.w.: 3565 plus or minus 10 kc, 1:30 pm QMT, indefinite days of the week.

W2HSD: (Hey, that's me!) I spent a few minutes the other day and got my six meter stuff working again. I have a beacon rig sending a signal SW on 50.1 from about 2 pm to 2 am daily. If any of you can hear me I could put some RTTY into it. The Thursday night schedules mentioned in past bulletins have dropped dead. At any rate I seem to be the only one that reports in. Nuts. I'm still giving calls at 6, 10, and 11 pm on 500.
W2JAV and W3LNC drove up to NYC last month and visited W2BFD, W2CFT, and the headquarters station, W2NHU. The jumble of equipment at John's store did not amuse them for they showed some amazement at the almost complete lack of order in my shack. They wanted to work me on two meters, but my rig was in the middle of the floor, having been replaced in the relay rack with a Williamson Amplifier for high fidelity sound reproduction. I haven't figured yet where I can put the two-meter rig so I step over it. Howard, W3LNC, has been taking some 16 mm pix of the various RTTY shacks which will make an interesting documentary film. They walked in on Saturday morning unannounced and caught John with a couple days board, which they proceeded to photograph.

W2BFD (John) has been scratching his headbone plenty lately over this business of converting a regular typewriter (he bought one for junk at $3) into a teletype keyboard. Apparently he has the whole thing worked out and lacks only the brute force proposition of actually converting it.

John sent me a complete diagram of the faceplates of both the transmitting and receiving distributors, giving all of the angles involved. To the best of our knowledge this information does not appear in print anywhere, so if you are interested I will put it in the next bulletin. I gotta have a demand though.

W1APN has a bunch of model 21A's which he would like to get rid of. Tom is going to furnish a data sheet with the printer as well as a paper which will give a good basic explanation of just how teletype works.

I realize that some of the discussion in this bulletin may be a bit over the head of some of the newer RTTY devotees even though I try not to leave too much implicit. The solution for this is for you to let me know what you want to know about teletype. One year ago, when I started writing this bulletin, I knew very little about RTTY. Now I can answer most of your questions. When I get stuck all I have to do is call our technical consultant John and I usually get the answers.

This is probably the last issue of the bulletin that many of you will get since you will forget to send in the necessary $5 mentioned earlier. I'll be looking for you fellows on the air when TT gets allowed so don't stop your teletype activities for the lack of getting the bulletin. I'll see the rest of you next month with another eight page Bulletin.

W9KJ offers his model 12, galvan relay, power supply, table, all converted to RTTY, complete with two tone amplifier (Fed. Conv.) sent freight collect for $70. A steal. [Handwritten note: Send $70 to W9KJ.]

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