

EXHIBIT A

PACKET



STATUS

REGISTER



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President's Corner

Reflections

1994 was a good year in many ways for TAPR. The Board set eight goals for 1994, which were: 1) continue to watch spending closely, 2) continue to work on increasing membership, 3) work on getting Special Interest Groups active, 4) get closure on current projects, 5) finish work on kit revamps in progress, 6) develop more TAPR involvement in national perspectives, 7) develop more TAPR publications, and 8) finalize TAPR's short and long term goals. The first seven goals were achieved with some success. I'll touch on each in a second. The eighth is an ongoing task and we will continue this activity in the future.

The financial statement for November has us in the black and it looks like it will stay that way through December. This will make a second year of positive operations. The Special Interest Groups that were started in March '94 have grown from two groups to six by the end of the same year. On the kit front, the DSP-93 reached closure and began making both TAPR and AMSAT money, the TUC-52 project is nearing prototyping, and the PSK kit, TNC-2 bare board, and DevMeter kit were discontinued. TAPR started to get more involved in national issues and will continue to work more on this area as opportunities appear for our input. In the area of

Look for TAPR at these Upcoming Events

- March 3-5, 1995 TAPR Annual Meeting (St. Louis)
- April 28-30, 1995 Dayton Hamvention
- Sept. 8-10, 1995 ARRL Digital Communications Conference

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publications, TAPR arranged an agreement with the ARRL concerning past proceedings of the digital conferences and TAPR began to develop a series of books to be published in 1995. The increase in membership was the happiest goal to achieve. The goal that was set by the board was to increase membership beyond 2,000 by the end of 1994. The goal was reached in October and we continue to get new members in daily. Thanks to all those that help with membership and welcome to all the new members! Membership makes this organization operate and allows everyone to benefit from the TAPR effort.

I would like to pay my compliments to outgoing board members Jack Davis, WA4EJR, and Ron Bates, AG7H. Although they will be leaving the board, I do not expect them to become any less active in TAPR. Jack continues to help with parts procurement and TrakBox issues, while Ron has been working with the TUC-52 project group. Thanks for all their effort this last year!

The Upcoming Year

TAPR still has a lot more to continue to work on in 1995. The annual meeting looks like it will be a great event and I look forward to seeing everyone in St. Louis in March. The TAPR election sees four excellent candidates running this year and whoever is elected should bring excellent energy to the board for the next three years. Last year we saw over 50% response from the membership. I hope we can get that good a response this year in voting. As for membership, I would like to see TAPR set a new membership goal of 5,000 members by 1997. This would be another doubling of the membership, which I believe can be accomplished. The set of goals I will be proposing to the TAPR board in March will include: 1) continue to be ever watchful on expenses, 2) continue to work on increasing membership, 3) continue to develop TAPR involvement in national perspectives, 4) continue to look at ways of providing more operational capabilities for digital operators, and 5) work on making TAPR a more rounded national organization. One of the keys to TAPR's success in the long-term future is building good working relationships with the various regional and digital interest groups. This will allow both TAPR and the regional groups involved to become stronger by working together on educational and research issues.

On the "don't forget" list, we have the annual meeting in March followed by TAPR's packet activity at Dayton. Dayton is going to see a few changes this year (read further in the *PSR*). Don't forget to send in your ballot for the election when you get it. Your vote

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Vice President	Keith Justice, KF7TP
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Date is expiration of term on Board of Directors.

The Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Corporation is a non-profit scientific research and development corporation [Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. tax code]. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by U.S. tax laws. TAPR is chartered in the State of Arizona for the purpose of designing and developing new systems for digital radio communication in the Amateur Radio Service, and for disseminating information required during, and obtained from, such research.

Article submission deadlines for upcoming issues:

Spring 1995	March 15, 1995
Summer 1995	June 15, 1995
Fall 1995	September 15, 1995
Winter 1996	December 15, 1995

Submission Guidelines:

TAPR is always interested in receiving information and articles for publication. If you have an idea for an article you would like to see, or you, or someone you know, is doing something that would interest digital communicators, please contact the editor so that your work can be shared with the Amateur community.

The preferred format for articles is plain ASCII text; the preferred graphic formats are HPGL or PCX. However, we can accept many

questions, so if you think you can help, contact Dorothy at the office. Don't forget, when contacting one of our advertisers to mention where you saw their ad. It helps us and them to know that their ads in the *PSR* are doing them good. Azden joins us this quarter as a new advertiser.

I would like to welcome Keith Sproul, WU2Z, and the APRS-SIG he will chair as the latest SIG to be formed in TAPR. This should be an excellent resource for those interested in APRS activities. Read the SIG section for more information on what this is all about. On a last note I would like to congratulate Bob Hansen, N2GDE, for another excellent year of *PSR* editing and production. Much has happened in Bob's life and many do not recognize the commitment Bob has made in the last eight months to continue to produce the *PSR*. In addition, the *PSR* continues to change its look and we all feel that it only gets better. Thanks, Bob.

Until next issue, cheers - Greg Jones, WD5IVD

1995 ARRL Digital Communications Conference

Dave Wolf, WO5H
Vice-President, Texas Packet Radio Society

Mark your calendar and start making plans to attend the year's premier event in Amateur radio digital communications. The 14th Annual ARRL Digital Communications Conference will be held September 8-10, 1995, in Arlington, Texas — just minutes from Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport. Co-hosts for the conference are TAPR and the Texas Packet Radio Society.

More detailed information on the event, including a call for papers, conference and hotel registration, will be released soon. Contact the TAPR office to be added to the mailing list for DCC '95 information.

This notice is to alert you well in advance so that you may schedule work and family obligations, and think about potential paper topics.

The hotel/conference center are extremely well-suited and well-sited for this event. They regularly host other ham events, and staff members are very familiar with the sight of satellite dishes springing up on the lawn! They, and we, are looking forward to a tremendous conference. I hope YOU can be a part of it!

Update on the Proposed Hierarchical Addressing Protocol

As a result of very constructive feedback from the TAPR on-line SIGs, the proposal has been revised so that the local and regional identifiers are included in supplemental tables, rather than in the body of the proposal itself. This way, the master document may stay intact with little or no revision over a long period of time. The regional (Table 3) and area (Table 4) identifiers may be updated quite frequently without the need to consult the original authors. This also places the responsibility for local addresses within the hands of the folks creating those particular address elements. It makes this a 'living' document that encourages frequent revision by its very nature, rather than a static one that discourages revision.

It is the purpose of this document to establish a basic framework upon which to base a logical hierarchical addressing structure. Attached Supplemental Tables will be changed as necessary to reflect current configurations within the international BBS network.

The original proposal was published in *PSR* #56. The comment period continues until January 31, 1995. Send comments and Supplemental Table input to:
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Internet: dwolf@tcet.unt.edu
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Hierarchical Addressing Compliance

It is unreasonable on the part of any sysop to exclude traffic from another station because he won't adopt a particular addressing scheme. Part of the process which led to the development of the proposed hierarchical addressing recommendations was intense discussion on BBS-SIG. This discussion included comments from many that mis-routing of Amateur packet mail via the internet would not occur (even if the address could be confused somehow as an Internet address) **as long as the gateway sysop set up his/her files correctly.**

The fellow who insists that another sysop change his hierarchical address is overzealous and unreasonable. He would more likely win a convert to NOAM if he used more tactful methods. Luckily, most folks exhibit more flexibility as far as hierarchical addressing is concerned. Continue to deal with them, and the more rigid will do what metal does — if it refuses to bend, it eventually fatigues at one spot.

Hopefully, this won't grow to a nation-wide flamefest and hopefully, not become a long thread on BBS SIG

Position Paper on Packet Bulletins

Tucson Amateur Packet Radio

Approved and released by the Board of Directors,
October 28, 1994

There has been a recent flurry of activity on the packet networks, as documented on BBS-SIG, over some packet bulletins issued by Frederick Sober, AB6GQ, an Official Observer Coordinator in the Sacramento Valley section of the ARRL. The concern expressed by AB6GQ is that packet bulletins whose contents do not relate to Amateur radio are in violation of Part 97. I have reviewed AB6GQ's bulletin, two letters from (FCC Personal Radio Branch Chief) Johnny Johnston, and discussed the matter personally with AB6GQ by phone on Sunday, October 23rd.

Here is a brief history of events, primarily reported by Frederick: in 1993 as an OO, AB6GQ was contacted by several local packet BBS sysops who were concerned over the content of bulletins addressed, for example, to ALL @ ALLUS, ALL @ WW, and so forth. The content of many of these bulletins did not include ham radio-related subject material, and they wondered if this was a violation of Part 97. According to Frederick, he contacted his section manager, who advised him to get in touch with League headquarters. He was advised by a League Regulatory Information staffer to contact the FCC directly. Someone at the Hayward field office referred him to Washington. An exchange of correspondence with Johnny Johnston ensued (texts of Mr. Johnston's letters have been transcribed to the SIG from copies obtained by Greg Jones). AB6GQ has been advised that the League is going to 'undertake an educational effort' about which something will appear in QST after the first of the year. Frederick advises he is going to wait for further word through the League chain of command for his next, if any, action regarding packet bulletins.

Because the spark which created this particular packet 'crisis of the day' was a statement to other Amateurs from an Official Observer Coordinator, and because there was a reported exchange of correspondence with an FCC branch chief, Greg Jones, President of TAPR, received numerous phone calls asking for TAPR's position on this matter. Greg discussed this situation with several League officials and other respected advisers prior to discussing it with the TAPR Board of Directors. Subsequently, Greg requested that I draft this position statement for TAPR.

To be succinct, most of the flame wars and great debates over permissible communications exhibit a

rules. Packet is not some mutant communications form that is not definable by the rules. Packet is no more or less privileged than any other form of Amateur communications. (Packet is used here, but this argument extends to all legal forms of Amateur digital communications which are used for the forwarding of bulletins)

Did you know that Part 97 comes complete with its own dictionary? 97.3 includes a list of definitions for the terms used in the document. Two definitions that are either overlooked or misinterpreted by many are 'broadcasting' and 'informational bulletin.' 'Broadcasting' specifically means transmissions intended for reception by the general public (see 97.3 (10)). The term 'informational bulletin,' defined by Part 97.3 (23) has no relation to what we refer to as a packet 'bulletin.' Part 97 defines an 'informational bulletin' as a one-way transmission to hams of a message of subject matter composed solely of interest to the Amateur service. A good example of an informational bulletin is a transmission of ARRL bulletins from W1AW. To conclude that all of this means that a packet bulletin must be confined to Amateur-only subject material is using terribly convoluted logic. Except for unproto, there is no one-way packet mode. It takes two to tango. A packet bulletin is entered on a BBS from the originating station in a two-way communication. From then on out, that packet bulletin is a third-party message. If it gets forwarded from one BBS to another, it is a third-party message being forwarded during a two-way communication.

97.113 lists prohibited communications and their exceptions. There is no specific prohibition against content with potentially controversial or frivolous subject material. This particular 'crisis of the day' arose, as so many others have arisen, because of message content. There is general agreement that many of the bulletins traversing the network aren't worth the electricity used to forward them. Studies in several metropolitan areas show that over 70% of the bulletins NEVER get read. They just get listed. This means users are being very selective about what they read. They DO have a choice. So do sysops. The process of reducing the amount of what many of us consider to be 'noise' on our boards begins with each of us exercising leadership at home. If someone posts a SALE @ ALLUS bulletin on your board trying to unload a camping tent, tell them nicely that this isn't appropriate. If you have a religious fanatic or political alarmist climbing on the electronic soapbox (and that soapbox has your callsign stenciled on the side), it's time for a heart-to-heart. Easy? Not always. Whoever

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