

HAMRAG

Affiliated with ARRL

NET meets each Monday at 9:00 P.M. local time on 28.7 megahertz



MAY 1971

What's with the ARRL? No, this is not just another anti-ARRL editorial because I am not basically anti-ARRL. But lately I have found causes to seriously question the ARRL and some of its leaders. Take, for example, Division Director Phil Haller's letter to members recently. He asked for comments on the proposed band expansion, after he reworded the F.C.C.'s proposal in such a way that the uninformed amateur would vote the way Haller wants him. I have never met Phil Haller but just from the letter I can assume he is an Extra Class operator who spends most of his time on the CW bands. Also notice the Question "Should the dues be increased?" followed by Haller's statement later in the letter to pay up now as the dues are going up. Looks like this question has been decided. Also, I call your attention to the new Field Day rules. Here, just a few weeks before Field Day this bomb is dropped. Power classes have been upped; multipliers changed; and low power operation has been made unfeasible. Hurt hardest by the changes has been the VHF operator. In fact the score sheet stops at 20 meters. Apparently Phil Haller's statement that "the technician class is not an amateur...he only wants a radio in his car." has affected all of the ARRL. Next case in point: Advisory committees have been established by the ARRL to set policies on various specialty areas. Strange that members of the DX committee need not be DX'ers, or that the FM repeater committee need not be active on that mode. Sounds more like patronage jobs in Illinois politics than honest efforts to get the best person for the job. A case closer to home is the holder of the Illinois Section Emergency Coordinator's post. Not once have I seen our section listed in the reports received column in QST. This amateur is not even active in emergency public service work in his own home town. I know; I served as an emergency coordinator in his home county for a few years. During that time we had a multi-million dollar disaster and this amateur was no where to be seen. He frequently opposed efforts to establish an Emergency Corps in the area. He has never offered assistance or even communicated with our coordinator for Winnebago County. This is leadership? This is where our money goes?

I'm proud I have been an ARRL member for over 12 years. But let's bring the ARRL into the 1970's. de K9PAK

WHAT YOU MISSED

Thanks to Pete, W9LVT, and Gunnie, K9WTS, for lining up our April meeting. Many comments were received; all said it was the best meeting yet this year. For those of you who missed it, featured was a roundtable discussion of DX. Is high power necessary? Is it really hard to work DX? Who is DX anyway? How do you QSL DX? If you missed the meeting, you missed the answers to these and many other questions. Also this was the first meeting at Rock Valley College. Boy, what an impressive building. It was worth it to come to the meeting just to see the building. An impromptu tour of the electronics lab by our host Vito, K9UCM, followed. Fantastic is the only word close to describing it. At the last board meeting, your board of directors voted to continue meeting at Rock Valley. We will try to have some signs or guides to direct you this month. One clarification.... smoking will not be allowed in the classroom where the meeting is held. Smoking is allowed in the hallways where the floor is tiled. Most of the building including the classrooms is carpeted, so this ruling is understandable. I'm sure the club won't wear out their welcome due to carelessness and untidyness. We've never had trouble in the past and aren't expecting any now.

DX TEST RESULTS

We won't know for a few months yet, but looking at the scores for the DX contest sure is impressive. Nine stations participated in the first club effort at the DX game, accumulating a combined score of 2,173,685 points on phone. Unfortunately, only two stations participated in the CW portion... we needed three to qualify... but they racked up over 1,000,000 points. A job well done. Keep your eyes open for the announcement of the club rankings in QST soon.

RADIO EXPO '71

This should be a really big show. It is a hamfest and much more. Radio Expo is expected to attract not only the hams, but the experimenter, CBer, hi-fi nut, and the public in general. Most major manufacturers of amateur and commercial equipment will be displaying their wares. A large swap area is planned too. The intention is to tell the amateur radio story to others... to overcome the downward trend of ham radio's growth as compared to other electronic hobbies.

The sponsors of the Expo have made two offers to RARA which we should consider. First, we can help pad our treasury by selling tickets. We make a dollar on every ticket sold and can return unsold tickets. Everything to gain... nothing to lose. Second offer: we can have a ten foot square booth in the display area at no charge to display club materials or to just tell the public what we are doing in Rockford, keeping in mind that we are to show that hams do more than cause TVI and that it's a good hobby. We will discuss the pros and cons of these offers at the next meeting. Come with your thoughts and ideas.

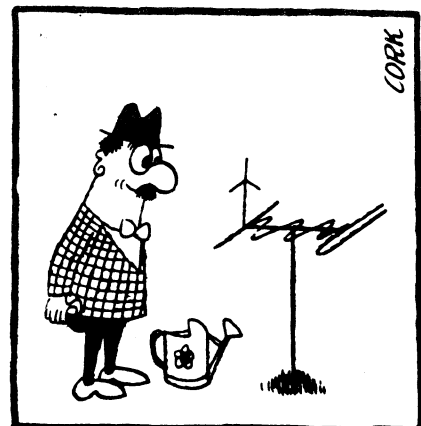
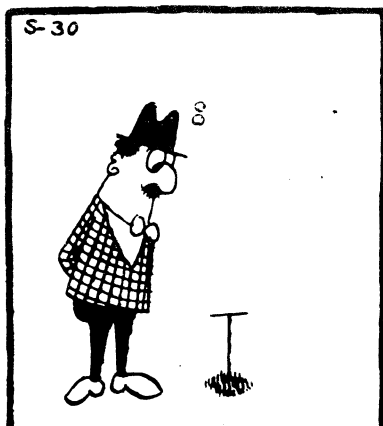
HAMFEST SEASON UNDERWAY

The hamfest season got off to a big start at DeKalb last weekend. The cool weather didn't seem to cool the hot buying and selling and spurred the coffee sales. Next area hamfest is the Dixon affair at Amboy on May 16th. Then comes Starved Rock, and others at the rate of about one each weekend. The last one in Northern Illinois is our own hamfest at Belvidere, which is a big selling point. I had no trouble selling tickets at the hamfest, so remember to take them along next time. By the way, each of you is expected to sell your quota, so get going.

MEN FROM MARS TO LAND IN ROCKFORD

The Army was enthusiastic when we asked them to give a presentation about M.A.R.S. at the May meeting. MARS stands for Military Affiliate Radio Service and uses amateurs to handle messages for servicemen including phone patches. There is much information and misinformation about MARS floating around, so here's a chance to learn about this service. Here to speak at the meeting will be the director of the MARS station at Fort Sheridan, some enlisted men who operate the station, and a local former ham from Rockford who operated MARS stations in Viet Nam. They have many experiences to tell. Also they will bring the communications van for you to tour. Same meeting place a last month... Rock Valley College. Follow the signs to Classroom Building #1, room 225. Someone will be in the northwest corner of the parking lot to direct you. If you picked up a visitors parking pass last meeting, be sure to post it. If you didn't get one don't worry.

- May 14th.... Next meeting at Rock Valley College - 7:30 p.m.
(Come early for tour of MARS Communications Van)
- May 16th.... Rock River Radio Club, Dixon, Hamfest at Amboy
- May 23rd.... Yellow Thunder Hamfest at Dellview Hotel, Lake Delton, Wisc. (this is N. of Madison near the Dells)
- June 6th.... Starved Rock Hamfest at Ottawa, Ill.
- June 26 & 27... Field Day



- For Sale: Hallicrafters SR-160 SSB Transceiver, 75, 40, & 20,
Like new... 3 hours use, D.C. supply is included.
Call Gary, K9MFN, 398-5667
- For Sale: Eico 720 CW transmitter (Novice) w/ crystals \$70,
Allied 2515 All Band Receiver \$50, Gil, 633-3756.
- For Sale: Knight Span Master II Rcvr \$20, Heath GR81 rcvr \$17,
Call Art, 633-3647.
- FOR SALE: Heath HW-16, key, and six crystals. Full 90 watts CW,
or 75 watts for novice. This is a complete station,
xmtr and rcvr in one package. Full break-in CW.
Call Jerry, 963-8621.
- FOR SALE: Another Heath HW-16, includes many crystals and a
VFO for when you get a general ticket. \$100 takes all.
Call Bud, 399-6375.

SHORT SUBJECTS

The July meeting will feature an expert on VHF and solid state techniques. Learn about the state of the art. Then in August will be our big family picnic. Interested in getting on 2 meter F.M.? We have some rigs available at \$50 each. They have 110 and 12 volt power supplies... 30 watts output. Call Dave, K9PAK, 399-1344, for details. Order going in soon! Many interested so far. How about a shirt for club meetings and hamfests. We have arranged to have the club emblem stencilled on white short sleeved shirts for about \$1.25 a shirt. Emblem is on front page of this paper but will be in color and about 10" high. Your call is also stencilled on back, and name on pocket. Bring a shirt to the next meeting.

Rockford Amateur Radio Association
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FIRST CLASS