

HAM RAG

Affiliated with ARRL

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



I hate to say I told you so, but that just may be the case. Following my discussion of the dwindling prestige of the amateur radio operator in last months HAM RAG, I noticed quite a few others are thinking the same way. Just pick up any of the September issues of ham magazines and you will find a related article. Now I know my editorials are not that well read. Anyway, a few days after the last RAG hit the streets, W9DDL sent me a clipping from a weekly paper "Electronic News" which circulates thru the business world. Some excerpts: "Suppliers of CB transceivers forecast a marketing boom should the FCC give the green light to a proposed new CB service. The market should hit \$250 million annually when in full swing, compared to present \$70-80 million CB market. Many manufacturer presently have operating models of gear designed for the new 220 MHz. CB. E.F. Johnson Co. estimates their transceiver will sell for \$200 initially but decrease in time. It is expected that users of the new service would support higher priced equipment, since many users would be of a business or semi-business nature as compared to the large contingent of hobbyists on class D. FCC watchers were doubtful that the petition filed by the EIA would go thru due to expected opposition from amateur radio proponents." Well, that, in a nutshell, is the facts that are circulating in the industry. They are basically interested in the money that can be made from this new service, and as you can see, it is BIG money. For more details on the proposal see the Sept. QST article. Anyway the point I want to make is the word I underlined above.. expected opposition. Who is going to oppose? The ARRL in QST said that interested amateurs should express their views. Is the ARRL going to express it's views? Is it in fact opposed to the plan. Wayne Green (73) is not. CQ magazine is not (they make big money on CB magazines). Now is the time to act. Are we going to lose another band? (And look what we lost it to.) Just where is the expected opposition going to come from?

de K9PAK

DX TEST RESULTS POSTED

Lest you forgot, way back last May, RARA participated in their first organized club contest effort (excluding Field Day of course) and fared very well for the first time out. As a club, we were in 24th place nationally, and that was with only 8 operators hard at work. Some clubs had as many as 75 entrants. Based on the number of members participating we came out #4 nationally. Not bad!! Special congrats to W9LVT who came out first place in Illinois, and second in the 9th call district. He also took top club honors. And that was in both the CW and Fone sections of the contest. Maybe the bug has bit some of our members and we can try another contest soon. How about it "contest committee"?

MINI HAMFEST

Everybody had a maxi-good time at the Mini-hamfest. Weather was good... attendance was good... and the bargains were good, too. Here's more good news: RARA members sold the largest number of advanced tickets with 321 sold, Big Thunder was next with 240, and then Beloit with 72 sold. Our split on the profits is based on those figures you know, so it looks like the Christmas party is ON. Thanks to all those who worked the gates, the food stand, and the advance ticket sellers. It was well worth the efforts. So, now the job is up to RARA to organize the next Hamfest. Lets hear some suggestions for next year while the ideas are fresh in your minds. By the way, RARA walked off with the top two prizes although a quarterback-sneak play was necessary. It seems that WB9ETH sold tickets to non-hams with the deal that if the ticket won, he would win \$\$ instead of some ol' ham radio gear. Well, his deal paid off, and Jim came up with the new Drake 2 meter FM rig and the actual winner quite a few dollars richer. W9VZ won second place with a Bird Wattmeter. Now Claude is trying to find out how to install it in the wren house in the back yard. Please let us know how many watts a wren puts out, Claude.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Since our ideas for a meeting program fell thru at the last minute, we've been busy trying to think of a good program for a meeting this month. SO.... instead of bringing in an outsider, lets have you, the members, be the meeting. It may turn out to be an old fashioned hen party, but let's just get together for a good rag chew. There are a lot of new members in the club who everyone should get to know. A good roundtable discussion of Ham Radio, in general, or of the RARA club in particular, might be interesting. And of course, the coffee pot will be on. So, come out next Friday nite, Sept. 10th, Rock Valley College Bldg. #1, 7:30.

AUGUST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

After a rousing business meeting, where we spent most our time talking public relations, we watched two movies which were also PR oriented. I think I would like to see HAM'S WIDE WORLD again. It was really good. (Perhaps we should look into buying a copy to circulate among the Rockford area civic groups and TV stations?) Next was the Alaskan Earthquake film which really showed ham radio in action. It really makes you shudder to see the damage caused by nature on the loose. Unfortunately, time ran short and WB9EEH was not allowed a great deal of time to explain the new repeater association. One item of importance that might have been misunderstood... the planned Rockford repeater is not a closed repeater. A closed repeater is installed by a cliche of amateurs who want the repeater for their own use. They want to talk to their own members only. Outsiders, even out-of-town mobiles are not welcome. That is not the desire of the Rockford group. If it was they would not have come to our meeting to publicize the group. SO... despite stories and rumors circulating on the air and in writing, the Northern Ill. Repeater Assn. extends a welcome mat for all.

FUTURE MEETINGS

There is a stirring of activity in the Chicago area about ham TV on 432 MHz. Is there anyone interested in hearing about it? Perhaps one of the fellows would pay us a visit if you are interested. Also we have had requests for a meeting on RTTY (teletype), but we have been unable to locate an active RTTY'er who will talk at a meeting. Any ideas? Your president talked to Phil Haller, ARRL director at the hamfest and he wants to come out for a meeting in the near future (probably to give your ol' prexy a jab with the Woulf Hong for writing those wild editorials.)

OTHER TIDBITS

The novice class will be starting soon at Rock Valley College thru their adult education program. The class is open to all ages tho. For more information watch the newspaper for class schedules or call Rock Valley. Since the tuition will be somewhat higher than RARA's classes, any thoughts of a scholarship arrangement for youngsters wishing to get started in Ham Radio?? Perhaps the club could back a couple of aspiring novices if the need exists. The tuition is expected to be \$12 to \$15.

K9WTS found out what lightning does to a new SB-201. The stroke of bad luck cooked his HAM-M too. Many vacationers have safely returned including W9MAP, K9QYY, who both took jaunts to the far west. K9PAK is leaving for a trip north on labor day.

LETTERS TO
THE
EDITOR

Dere Mister Editer:

Our Radio Club president reported he had been hamming amongst his ham friends ever night for a week and had a sore throat from hollering loud enough to get heard above his friends' TV sets. The friends' TV sets kept trippin the VOX makin matters even worse as then they doubled bout ever other transmission. Our presedent said he wasn't even shore if some of the members would recollect he was even on the air without rechecking their log, if they kept one they could read! But the good presedent admitted TV was here to stay, said he even was larning to live with it if Ben's TV could just keep it running.

We had some bad news lately with our presedent's doctor telling him he might be gettin ulcers. The doctor order him to take it easy and let the other "ham" members do more work. Our presedent sid all his members was working now, 4 was working *for* him and 30 was workin *again* him, but then they was ALL workin!

He also said him and a couple other members got out the records fer the last year to see how the work load was runnin and the record wasn't good. They showed that 15% was pushin the wagon and 85% was just ridin. It was that 85% he allowed, that mite be givin him ulcers. One of the other workin members looked at the things he had done and said he didin have no ulcers hissself but he was gettin tired blood and, after all that, he figgered he was just POOPED from PUSHIN!

Our presedent said him and the secretary decided to make another little survey to find out what that 90% of the inactive Radio Club "hams" was doing. They found 40% was pouting over somethin that had took place at an old meetin. These members couldn't recollect just what it was but they claimed they was so upset they couldn't get over it!

Another 8% was settin at their receiver keepin score on how many times some AM station would qrm them with carrier. One fellow, they reported, was keepin score by cutting notches in his mike. Twice his knife

slipped and he cut through his mike cord which only made him madder. Once he waited an hour for a station to identify but then he found out the carrier was from his 100 hz calibraytor which he had left on by mistake.

About 22% was figgerin out how to get rid of ARRL. They didn't have nothin special again ARRL but getting rid of anything like that was jist one of there aims in life. Now ever club has some of them kind! It sure takes a wise ham to know when he is fightin for a principle or merely defending his prejedice.

The other 20% of the inactive Radio Club group was just being gud listeners. They wood never think of hookin up there transmitter and participating. They just sat and listened to the others.

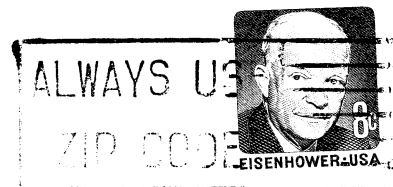
Our Radio Club bunch sure haven't done too well lately on new gear. Out of the duzens I talked too there warn't one that has recently got some new TVI gear. I always say,

The ham who has everything
Must need ONE MORE, no doubt,
A gadget that will explain to his wife
The "junk" he cannot live without!

After comin thru anouther holiday season it seems as if we measure the *joy* of our holidays by the number that gits killed on the highways and ever year it gets more *joyful*. So please try to *drive careful* with your *car full!* I'll promise to be especial careful while driving and hammin. These summer holidays can be *murder*.

Lookin back at what I rote, I can tell you I ain't got the litterary talent nor them easy flowin werds of them writers who usually have articles in your magazine. I shore hope that you git the main message of this here letter though. So, anytime, Mr. Editer, you want to know the state of the werld and how things is goin in the ham werld, just git me the werd and I'll poll the Radio Club delega-

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