



The Parasitic Emission



Volume 13, Number 10

Elections at this Meeting!

October 1985

Meeting Notice

by Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

The October meeting of the Quad County Amateur Radio Club will be held on Friday, October 18 at the DuBois High School. The meeting will begin at 7:30. On the agenda: Elections of all club offices will be held. Nominations may be made at the meeting. After the program, coffee and snacks will be served. Plan on attending!

QCARC

"It ain't easy" - Sez Ev, N3DEO

by Art Kunst, W3WM

Club member and VP, Ev Boden, N3DEO will present an interesting narration of the efforts to establish a new 2-meter repeater in the area. This repeater is now operating on 147.18 MHz in Emporium, Cameron County, and it is the newest addition to the local repeater scene in some time. Ev and his associates will tell you of their many experiences in the planning and construction phases. Many of their problems were quite frustrating and threatened the continuity of their efforts. If you have taken for granted the availability of the many 2-meter repeaters, then this program will be a real opener for you. You will agree funnily with Ev that it ain't easy to set up a new repeater but it is still a great adventure. So come along and have fun with us as Ev tells us his story with wry humor, and video tape segments. As usual invite your friends and come by the carload! It will be a fun evening for all.

And now a look at the November club meeting which is called Novice Night. This meeting is directed to the reinforcement of poor many ham radio novices in their efforts to become established as well as an opportunity to meet the new Novice Class which begins in early October. More details next newsletter.

Finally, looking back at September's program on YL Night. It was the most successful meeting of the club in years. We had the largest attendance and did not leave until 10:30 pm. It was a fantastic evening for which our own Shelly Cretti, KA3MYQ deserves our thanks for the superb job she did in putting it together. For a new amateur she displayed exceptional leadership and responsibility. FB job!

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Minutes of the September Meeting

by Bryan Simanic, WA3UFN

The regular meeting of the Quad County Amateur Radio Club was called to order September 20, 1985 by President WA3IHK.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

TREASURER REPORT- The current savings account balance after all bills were paid, \$259.83. The checking account balance, \$108.66. There are still some outstanding payments to be made from the picnic and the September meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS- The VE Team reported that no firm date has been set for the testing in November, but the probable date will be the 23rd. WA3IHK reported that Novice classes are to begin October 8. Classes will be held from 7-9PM each Tuesday night for 10 weeks. WA3IHK reported that Murphy's Law played a major part in delaying the September newsletter. He also reported that the Club should get in on the beginning of the planning stages for next year's Tom Mix Festival, if we are going to participate in the event. WA3UFN reported that he will be inquiring with the local police, if the Club is to assist in the Halloween Patrol. WA3IHK requested that anyone, in Jefferson County, that is interested in emergency services, contact him for a registration form for ARES.

OLD BUSINESS- NONE

NEW BUSINESS- Motion by KA3NUZ seconded by KA3DWR to open nominations for Club officers for the upcoming year, motion carried. WA3IHK was nominated for President. No other nominations were voiced

GENERAL- A general outline was given about the recent certification of the QCARC as an ARRL Special Service Club. With no further business for the meeting, a motion to adjourn was made by W3WM, seconded by WA3GNS. The motion carried. The members present adjourned for a program, by WB3EFQ, on YLs in Amateur Radio.

ATTENDANCE- (31) WA3UFN, WA3IHK, KA3MYQ, K3PS, W3WM, K3QEQ, K3LIX, WA3HSE, KA8REK, KA3MKY, W3ZYK, W3BGI, WB3HPE, WB3HTY, WB3OGC, WB3OGD, WA3GNS, WB3IQE, KA3FHV, KA3DWR, KA3NUZ, KA3OHH, WB3EFQ, W3BZN, WB3HUE, WB3IQD, N3EMD, N3DLJ, L. Bolstad, L. Rowles, A. Platco

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Shorts

by Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

HALLOWEEN PATROL. The DuBois City Police Department has again requested our assistance during the Halloween season. As the activity picks up, we will be notified by the dispatcher and will set up a base station at the police station, and dispatch mobile units to provide "extra eyes and ears" for the constabulary.

QCARC

TWO METER NET checkins are at an all time high recently. New net manager George Platco, Jr., KA3NUZ deserves kudos for a job well done. Keep up the good work!

QCARC

The RIDGWAY REPEATER is on the air following a change of location.

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UPGRADE EXAMINATIONS will be given on Saturday, November 23 at the DU BOIS HIGH SCHOOL. All exams will be on a walk-in basis. Exams will start at 9:00 am, so be early so you don't miss out! Further details will be published in next month's newsletter.

NOVICE CODE & THEORY CLASSES will start on Tuesday, October 22 at 7:00 pm. in room 203 at the DuBois High School. If you know anyone who would like to get an amateur license, get them to the classes. They'll thank you!

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FLASH! Wassil Slotnik, K3X informs us that in lieu of cold enough weather for antenna erection (see his article in last month's issue), recent experiments indicate similar results may be obtained by placing the antenna wire in the freezer compartment of a refrigerator overnight, then erecting it before sunrise the next day. Wassil says "... since the freezer is at approximately 0 degrees Fahrenheit, the effect is probably even better than that of nature at, say 20° F."

Everything I Know About DX
by Bob Netzlof, WB3IQE

It's popular to suppose that each country on the face of the earth has been assigned one or two letters, and that all of that country's radio call signs must begin with those one or two letters. That's close to the truth, but not quite true. There are a couple of other popular beliefs which are further from being true. One is "There's supposed to be only one number in an amateur call sign." Another is "The number in the call sign is supposed to tell you where the station is." The first one isn't true, and never was. The second is true in some countries, is true in parts of some countries, and never was true in a lot of countries.

The ITU assigned groups of 3 letters (not 2 letters) to countries. For example,

CMA-CMZ	Cuba
CNA-CNZ	Morocco
COA-COZ	Cuba
CPA-CPZ	Bolivia
CQA-CUZ	Portugal

This is a part of the Table of Allocation of International Call Sign Series, which I'll call "The ITU Table". The original idea was that a country could manufacture call signs as needed by hanging additional letters onto the end of these 3-letter prefixes. Thus Bolivia could issue CPA, CPB, CPC,... CPY, CPZ, and then start over with CPAA, CPAB, ... CPAZ, CPBA, CPBB, etc.

If a country wanted to assign call signs in some systematic way, such as CPA prefixes for Army stations, CPB for Navy ships, CPC for merchant ships, etc; that was fine.

As a working arrangement, one could think of these allocations as "two letters assigned to a country" but that's not exactly the way it was done. In fact, there are two instances in which two countries "share" the same letters. One of these (SSA-SSM Egypt / SSN-SSZ Sudan) arose because originally Sudan was the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and was administered as part of Egypt. Came independence and Sudan got half the call sign allocation. Anyway, you'll note that SS does not identify a country, it identifies one of two countries.

Rather early on, various people decided it would be nice to distinguish between "regular" radio stations, with serious business to conduct; and amateur and experimental stations, which no one should take seriously. The solution was to use the "regular" 3-letter prefixes for "regular" stations. For amateurs and experimenters, take the first two letters of one of your 3-letter prefixes, and hang a numeral on the end. Use that prefix for amateurs and experimenters. That made a problem, because in order to relate amateur call signs to the ITU Table, you had to assume that OH2 fits into the series OHA-OHZ. That is the numbers fit somewhere between A and Z.

For a very short time, things were nice. Amateur call signs had a number in them, other stations didn't. So, if an amateur heard CQ CQ DE OH3AJ, he knew he was hearing another amateur. If he heard CQ CQ DE OHAJ, he knew that it wasn't another amateur.

Unfortunately, a few countries did things a bit differently. The allocations included:

FAA-FZZ	France
GAA-GZZ	United Kingdom
IAA-AZZ	Italy
KAA-KZZ	USA
MAA-MZZ	United Kingdom
NAA-NZZ	USA
WAA-WZZ	USA

Instead of taking the first two letters of their 3-letter prefixes (like everybody else), these four said, "Well heck, anything that starts with an F (or G

or I or K) belongs to us anyway, so we'll just use F (or G or I or K) in our amateur call signs." Since France, the UK, Italy and the US were big, downtown places, they did what they did, and who was going to stop them?

Note however, that these single-letter, single-number prefixes are exceptions, rather than the rule. One should note also that of these four countries, two use the numeral to report the license class rather than station location.

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Items from the ARRL Letter
by Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

"State and local regulations that operate to preclude amateur communications in their communities are in direct conflict with federal objectives and must be preempted." So saying, FCC, on September 16, 1985, adopted a Memorandum Opinion and Order in PRB-1, granting ARRL's request for limited Federal Preemption over state and local regulations involving amateur radio facilities.

ARRL

Effective November 8, 1985, FCC has amended the amateur rules to eliminate the 30-day wait before an applicant for an amateur examination may retake a failed examination element. To update your copy if you do have a copy, don't you? - Ed.² of the FCC rules, revise paragraph (a) of Section 97.26 to read:

(a) Each examination for an amateur license must be administered at a place and time chosen by the examiner(s). The number of candidates at any examination session may be limited. Public announcement must be made before all examinations for elements 1(B), 1(C), 3, 4(A) or 4(B).

Paragraph (h) of Section 97.26 is removed and reserved.

ARRL

(Items reprinted from the September 30, 1985 edition, ARRL Letter)

IHK's Corner
by Joe Shupienis, WA3IHK

It is really gratifying to see the turnout at the September meeting. It seemed like old times to have that many people at a meeting, socializing and thoroughly enjoying themselves. I have often said that ham radio is a social activity, and indeed, most of the fun seems to come from communicating with other hams, be it by radio or in person.

I just reworked my 80 meter dipole (so I won't trip over it anymore), and even though the temperature was in the high 60's and no precipitation was in the offing, it now works reasonably well. I tried it out on a couple of QSOs, but soon I discovered something - when talking to a stranger, the QSO consists of name, town, RST, etc., followed by 73. Has "Don't talk to strangers" become the motto of amateur radio?

Tuning across the 75 meter phone band, I observed that every frequency had at least one net, where the same hams talk to each other about the same things every night, forever. I didn't hear a single CQ. Now, ragchewing is quite alright, in fact I'm a major proponent of the activity.

However, it seems to me that talking to the same people about the same things every night would get old, fast. Maybe that's why I'm not on the air very much any more.

It would seem, though, that to put the spark back into the hobby, all it would take is getting on the air, and calling a station you never talked to before. Engage him (or her) in an interesting conversation. Then call another total stranger. Or arrange a sked with an old friend some distance away whom you haven't talked to in years.

Think of all the money you've invested in your gear. How much return are you getting on that investment? Remember, letting that radio sit in the damp basement without ever turning it on and using it is not good for it at all.

Electronic communications by amateur radio can be one of the most rewarding hobbies in the world, and can provide endless hours of entertainment and relaxation. It is an outlet which has been enjoyed for decades by technically desanted men and women, and provides a public service to the multitudes.

Enjoy your hobby. Get involved!

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Newsletter of the
Quad County Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 352
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F 1985
WA3UFN

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