



AMATEUR RADIO SERVING THE PUBLIC

CMRA Newsletter

P.O. Box 283 Columbia, MO 65205

April 1990

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Board Member-at-Large Don Blenden, NU0T

WD0DVG
Repeater
146.16/.76
Antenna atop
Paquin Towers
at 1023 ft. ASL

MARCH MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 by President Jesse Bowen, WM0Y.

Repeater Mike Baker, N0LBA, reported the new repeater is installed. The EOC console has been rebuilt. He plans more work on coax and grounding at the repeater site. The next priority will be ATV. **Hamfest** the committee reported first, second, and third prizes have been arranged through Missouri Radio. First prize will be an Icom IC2GAT.

Club Station Jesse, WM0Y, named Don Campbell, KB0CDS, manager of the club station at the Red Cross Building.

Program Mike Harmon, WB0LDJ, said that the April program will be presented by Bill McGranahan, ARRL section manager. The meeting will be at Boone Electric Coop in the community meeting room.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

President's Corner The severe weather on March 14 gave us an excellent chance to practice our emergency procedures. Fortunately, the practice came at a fairly moderate cost since the wind damage was confined to relatively small areas and there were no injuries. All operators who checked into the Central Missouri Emergency Net are to be commended for devoting their time and energy to community service. Especially noteworthy were N0FPE at the National Weather Service, Net Control Stations WB0TEG and

NU0T, and EOC personnel (N0BEF, N0IMS, N0LBA).

As always, though, there is room for improvement in our response. A small amount of self-criticism now can yield future benefits that make our operations more efficient and thus more useful to the Weather Service and other public officials. Toward that end, we should keep in mind the following points.

1. CMEN is a "directed net", which means that **all traffic is controlled by the Net Control Station (NCS)**, much as automobile traffic is directed by a police officer. All stations on the net must call the NCS with traffic for other stations, and should never call other stations directly.

2. **All transmissions should be as short as possible.** Only necessary information should be sent. For example, during a severe weather emergency, stations do not need to report the absence of severe weather unless specifically addressed by NCS. Transmitted information should be objective and concise. For example, a report such as: "Wind 40 to 50 miles per hour and heavy rain with no hail" takes less time and is more specific than: "The wind is really blowing now and the rain is fairly heavy, I guess, and there doesn't seem to be any hail yet."

3. **Stations should not give complete call signs during every transmission.** Since only NCS is normally addressed, the station to be called can usually be omitted. The attention of NCS can be requested by stating the last two or three letters of the call sign (for example: "ABC", "DE", or "7F"). NCS then recognizes the calling station, which then

conveys information or a request. Of course, a complete ID must be made every ten minutes or at the end of a series of transmissions. Phonetic call signs should not be sent unless NCS indicates it was difficult to understand.

4. **Stations checking into the net should be sure NCS knows their location.** Once checked in, it is assumed a station will remain on frequency until excused by NCS. Requests to be excused temporarily or permanently are addressed to NCS.

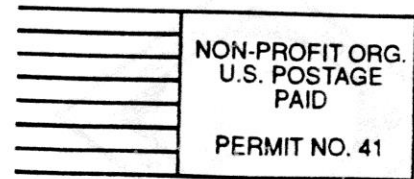
5. **The flow of information on the net should be primarily to the Weather Service and EOC.** Requests from stations to these offices for information must have the lowest priority.

These guidelines are paraphrased from the ARRL Public Service Manual and the Special Events Manual. We gain speed and accuracy if we use them. A disciplined net also portrays us as communications professionals to those we serve, even though we are volunteers and "Amateurs".

The CMRA Newsletter is published monthly by the Central Missouri Radio Association. To be included in the mailing list or to submit informational, editorial, or technical articles, contact Dale Huffington, AE0S, at 2709 Cimarron Drive, Columbia MO 65203 (875-6170). Equipment ads by individuals can be included on a space-available basis.

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WEATHER STATION

The program, presented by Tom Goebell, the meteorologist on duty at the Columbia Weather Station, dealt with severe weather. Two video tapes were shown with additional commentary and instruction by Mr. Goebell followed by discussion.

The first tape, on a tornado that hit Wichita Falls, Texas, in 1979, stressed the destructive power of tornadoes and the need for a disaster plan. The narrator commented on the help given by trained amateur radio operators serving as severe weather spotters. The second, Tornadoes and Thunderstorms, described the anatomy of severe storms and gave examples of particular formations to help observers identify them.

In his speech following the videotapes, Tom Goebell reviewed specific aspects to look for and report: In addition to actual funnel clouds, or rotating wall clouds, we should report penny-size or larger hail, wind speeds over 40 miles per hour, and actual damage. When calling in, we should report where we are, where the event is, where it is going, and the exact time we saw it. It is important to let the Weather Service know as soon as possible.

In the discussion that followed, there was much interest in the plans for doppler radar. It was noted that their coverage, from St. Louis, Springfield, and Kansas City, will provide only fringe coverage of the Columbia-Jefferson City area. The effective range of doppler radar is 125 miles with full detail; (up to 250 miles for large storms.) However, due to curvature of the earth, as the radar beam goes out, the horizon drops: the doppler radar stations planned at St. Louis, Kansas City, or Springfield will not be able to see anything under 8,000 feet in the Columbia-Jefferson City area. The doppler effect is useable only to 75 miles from the transmitter, and tornado signatures are visible only out to 50 miles. (Snow storms are typically under 8,000 feet and would be invisible to those radar stations.) The actual effective range of the weather radar is from 15 miles to 50 miles out. Under 15 miles out, detail is difficult to see due to ground clutter.

With the planned cutbacks, the Columbia-Jefferson City area would be left without adequate radar coverage. While the station at the Columbia-Jefferson City airport will probably be staffed for some time, due to the needs of the pilots using the airport, in the long term the station may be phased out unless support can be found for keeping it and upgrading the equipment.

VEC EXAMS The CMRA will offer ARRL/VEC exams for all written elements following the April Meeting at the Boone Electric Coop. Because of the recent changes in FCC rules and regulations, some study materials may need to be supplemented by updated manuals. If you have questions about study materials or how to get started, call John Turner, ND0N (657-2391) or Jesse Bowen, WM0Y (474-7674).

CMEN REPORT In February, the Central Missouri Emergency Net held four practice sessions with XX check-ins. The net meets every Wednesday at 9 pm on 146.16/76 to handle traffic and practice. Net manager is Ben Smith, K0PCK. All hams are welcome.

April Meeting The next club meeting will be at 7:00 on April 10 in the Community Meeting Room of the Boone Electric Cooperative, 1413 Rangeline Road. The program will be presented by Bill Grannahan, ARRL Section Manager. Visitors are welcome.

For Sale Kenwood 750 with manual. In good condition. Call NU0T evenings at 442-7831.