



AMATEUR RADIO SERVING THE PUBLIC

# THE CMRA SQUELCH TALE

Newsletter of the Central Missouri Radio Association (a Not-for-profit Missouri Corporation), PO Box 283, Columbia, MO 65205

July 1991

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**146.16/.76**

## Meeting Minutes

The June meeting was called to order by Vice-President Jim Lawler, WYØB. There were 38 members and visitors in attendance.

The Treasurer's report was encouraging. Although club income from the Hamfest was substantially lower than last year due to higher costs, our net income was still quite respectable. The club budget seems to be safe for another year.

Mac McKenzie, K4CHS, reported on the new software that is in use with the repeater controller. The software provides complete information about current repeater status and allows more effective programming.

Discussion of the status of the antenna at the club station led to a discussion of the possibility of investigating other sites for the club station. No action was taken, but it was pointed out that the current site at the Red Cross has several disadvantages. Because of its location, it is a very damp environment that has already cause problems with the club station equipment. There is also a major problem with access to the club station after-hours. In addition, the basement location is not accessible for handicapped individuals at any time. On the other hand, we have a good relationship with the Red Cross and other locations that are rent free would probably be hard to find. It was also pointed out that even if the club station were to move, it would be possible to leave 2 meter equipment at the Red Cross for communications in emergencies. No decisions were made other than to have the club consider the possibilities available.

Jesse Bowen, WMØY, delivered a final report on the Hamfest that is summarized in a separate article.

Four new members were voted into the club: Lori Burnett, Ray Gauthier (KBØIRV), Lowell Hunter, and Ray

Rowland. A membership application was received from Joe Muscato and will be voted on at the July meeting.

WMØY announced that the Kansas City MS150 Bike Tour will be held Sep. 7 and 8. Help from hams in our area is being solicited, especially on Sep. 8, a Sunday. The tour begins in Lee's Summit and ends in California. Over 4000 riders will participate and it is expected that over \$1 million will be raised for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. If you are interested in providing communications as a public service for this event, contact WMØY for details.

For the evening's program, WMØY presented a video of last year's Field Day effort at Rock Bridge State Park in order to whet the club's appetite for this year's Field Day. John Turner, NDØN, then presented plans for Field Day and asked for volunteers for various assignments.

## Field Day Success

Despite a few disappointments, this year's Field Day effort sported a variety of successful activities. Both the CW and phone stations racked up significantly more QSOs than last year, and there was generous coverage of the event by local media. Over 30 club members turned out to either help with set up or to operate one of the stations, and some new antenna technology made its appearance this year.

One of the disappointments involved problems with the weather balloons that were supposed to raise an 80 meter full wave delta loop. Planned by Don Campbell, KBØCDS, and John Turner, NDØN, the upper vertex of the loop would have been lifted to about 100 ft. by several weather balloons filled with helium. Unfortunately, the weather service apparently doesn't use balloons very often anymore, and the balloons obtained courtesy of the local National Weather Service office had deteriorated. Two tries

at inflating the balloons both ended with miniature explosions just a few inches from John's face. Talk about starting Field Day with a bang! Problems with stability of the balloons may have later developed in any event because of the windy conditions throughout the Field Day period.

Most other operations went smoothly. Setup started at 1300 local time. Both stations were on the air after an hour or so with wire antennas. A bit of new technology (for our club, anyway) was applied this year, when Doug, NØIKD, used a bow and arrow to launch lines over trees for both of the center-fed all band dipoles used by the stations. Later in the day, a triband rotatable dipole was erected on a 30 ft. push-up mast for the phone station. Jim, WYØB, obtained the use of a pedal-powered generator from Boone Electric  
*continued next page*

## VEC Exams

ARRL VEC exams will be available after the June meeting. Contact John Turner, NDØN, for more details (657-2391).

## July Meeting

The July meeting will be at 7 pm on **Tuesday, July 9** at the Boone Electric Coop, 1413 Range Line St. The meeting will include a final Field Day report.

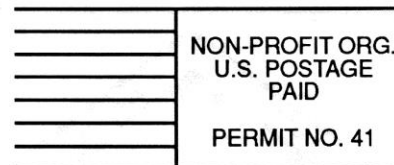
### STAFF

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The CMRA *SQUELCH TALE* is published monthly by the Central Missouri Radio Association. To be put on the mailing list or to submit informational, editorial, or technical articles, contact the editor at 1915 Blue Ridge, Columbia, MO 65202 (474-7674). Equipment ads by individuals can be accepted if space is available.

# Central Missouri Radio Association

P.O. Box 283, Columbia, Missouri 65205



## Field Day (continued)

Coop to give us bonus points for natural power.

Coverage by the media included a story with picture in Sunday's Columbia Tribune, television coverage on KOMU Saturday and Sunday nights, and radio spots on KBIA. In addition, Tom Koenig, WAØDMI, made a 49 minute video that was broadcast twice the following week on KXI. Hats off to Eric Hoehn, NØNLY, who arranged for the publicity. He also initiated requests that resulted in proclamations declaring Amateur Radio week in both Columbia and in Boone county.

A number of new hams and new club members came out for Field Day and seemed to enjoy the experience. Things look good for next year's effort!

Because of threatening weather, this year's planned picnic was rather sparse. Although it rained briefly on Saturday afternoon, the weather for the most part cooperated. However, a few CW ops ended up wishing for ear muffs in the early morning since the CW station was in the open and the wind was steady all night.

Thanks to all who participated this year, whether you helped set up, clean up, or operate, or if you just came by to lend moral support. Here is a partial list (limited by the editor's memory, as usual) of those who participated: NDØN (chairman), NØIKD (phone station chairman), KBØCDS, K4CHS, WAØR, WBØLDJ, NØLXP, NØKYW, KBØIRV, NØNLY, WYØB, WMØY, WXØK, AEØS, NØMYX, Joe Muscato, Jeff Muscato, Jerry Niemeier, Charles Mitchell,

NØNMB, Gerry Arthur, KBØJGY, WAØDMI, WMØH, KBØEEG, KFØGE, NØNCK, NØNMA, Bill Orrey, NØJZC, KAØOKS, KØONL, and NØJSS. Ann, WBØTEG, was present in spirit since she kindly provided a tent for the phone operation.

## Hamfest Report

The 16th annual Columbia Hamfest was held June 1 at Midway Expo Center. Attendance, based on admission tickets purchased, was 1041, a 6% increase compared to last year. A total of 66 indoor or covered flea market spaces were sold. There were 67 outdoor flea marketers, and ten commercial vendors.

Compared to last year, net income to the club decreased by about 30%. This was due to higher costs that were not offset by the slightly higher attendance. We contracted for over twice as much covered or indoor space compared to last year. This increased our rental for the facility by one-third. The covered areas were popular with flea marketers, especially in light of the threatening weather. We also prepared and mailed nearly twice as many Hamfest flyers compared to last year. Therefore, advertising costs were over \$300 higher.

About 35 people participated in this year's Hamfest. This approaches 50% of our active club membership. Planning for next year's event should start immediately. If you have an interest in helping with any aspect of the Hamfest for next year, contact the club president, Dale Huffington (AEØS). Dale is in the process of considering appointees for next year's Hamfest committee.

## Ozark Regional Hamfest on Aug. 10

The hamfest, sponsored by the Southwest Missouri Amateur Radio Club, will be held starting at 8 am in the University Plaza Trade Center in Springfield, MO. Special guests scheduled are Roy Neal, K6DUE, and Ken Cameron, KB5AWP, pilot of the recent STS-37 shuttle mission. Exams will be given at 10 am and talk-in will be on the 31/91 repeater. Contact WMØY if you desire more details, or write to: SMARC/ORH, PO Box 11363, Springfield, MO 65808.

## Washington Hamfest July 21

The Zero-Beaters ARC is sponsoring the Washington Hamfest on July 21, from 6 am to 3 pm, at Bernie Hillerman Park (Washington Fairgrounds). There will be refreshments, a flea market, and exams. Admission is free and flea market parking is \$2. Talk-in will be on the 147.84/24 repeater.

## Central Missouri Emergency Net

CMEN meets every Wednesday at 9 pm on the WDØDVG 146.16/.76 repeater to handle traffic, practice emergency net procedures, and make announcements. Everyone is welcome to check in. For more information, contact the net manager, Ann Guptill, WBØTEG.

