



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

November 1991

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WDØDVG Repeater
146.16/.76

Meeting Minutes

Dale Huffington, AEØS, presided over the October club meeting. Bill, KFØKC, read the minutes from the last meeting and Doug, NØIKD, delivered the Treasurer's report.

Club Station Antenna Jim Lawler, WYØB, reported that the HF antenna was installed at the club station and seems to be working well. Members who helped out were KFØKC, NØIKD, NØNMB, NØNMM, NØOUT, and NØNKC. The ladder truck and personnel from Columbia Fire Department Station #3 were also on hand to provide a "skyhook" to lift the antenna into place. The club voted to send a letter of appreciation to station #3 thanking them for the assistance.

Technical Committee Mike Baker, NØLBA, informed the club that the city of Columbia is improving the RACES facilities at the Joint Communications Center. They are going to purchase a new VHF antenna for the RACES station, which should be a big improvement over the current antenna which is cut for a commercial frequency and consequently has an SWR of about 2.5:1 on 2 meters. The city is also going to provide a replacement computer to be used for the packet station.

RACES On another topic, Mike related that there was some confusion during a recent attempt to call up the RACES members, partly because of equipment problems with the beepers for the RACES members on call. The equipment problems will be checked out during the next month. There was also some discussion concerning recruitment of new RACES members to stand call. RACES personnel need to be available whenever an emergency arises, so it is not a responsibility to be casually assigned. Members who can make this kind of commitment and are interested in emergency communications can contact

the Emergency Coordinator, George Hessenbruck, NØIMS, or CMEN Net Manager Ann Guptill, WBØTEG.

Club Station Since the new antenna is now available, why not put it to good use? Jim, WYØB, discussed operations during upcoming contests that interested club members could work from the club station. With a good triband beam at 80 feet and an amplifier, the club facility has the potential to be a serious competitor in contest operations. Jim announced that he plans to have the station open on Monday evenings for familiarization with the equipment. Monitor the WDØDVG repeater on Monday evenings for details.
Club QSL Cards John Turner, NDØN, announced that he would like to pass on the task of handling club QSL duties. Don Campbell, KBØCDS, volunteered to handle the club QSLs. By informal count, the club has about 50 countries confirmed, so with even modest effort during contests or when the station is open, DXCC for WDØDVG should not be too difficult to obtain.

Holiday Banquet The annual Holiday Banquet, held annually in place of the December meeting, will take place this year at the Red Lobster restaurant on Business Loop 70 on Tuesday, December 10. This event is always enjoyable and families are welcome. Mark your calendar now and plan to be with us to celebrate another year of CMRA operations.

Hamfest Report Mac McKenzie, K4CHS, announced that the Columbia Hamfest and Computer Expo will be held on Saturday, June 13, at the Hearnes Center on the University of Missouri campus. The move to this site will allow us to stage a completely indoor event with all activities under the same roof.

VE Exams NDØN discussed recent controversies about the practice (at VE sessions other than our own) of some examinees who write down dots and

dashes during Morse code exams and later translate them. Although not a problem at any of our test sessions, the club passed a resolution to support the VE team in their decisions dealing with this issue.

New Members Welcome to Bill Orey, NØOSI, of Hartsburg, who was voted into membership. New membership applications were received from Gerald Arthur and Matt Arthur of Rocheport, from Tom Hendrix, WAØE, of Prairie Home, and from Al Kullman and Gerard Rabalais, of Columbia. These applications will be voted on at the next meeting.

Nominating Committee A Nominating Committee was formed to formulate a slate of officers for presentation at the January club meeting. The committee will consist of President AEØS, past President Jesse Bowen, WMØY, and the following club members: Jim Lawler, WYØB, John Turner, NDØN, Lori Burnett, NØOSJ, and Bill Turner, KFØKC. The committee will meet during December. If you are interested in serving as a club officer, please contact one of the committee members.

Repeater Commands For new members or members new to 2 meter operations, a list of repeater commands and procedures is available from Ann Guptill, WBØTEG.

KØSI Memorial Fund A memorial
(Meeting Minutes continues on next page)

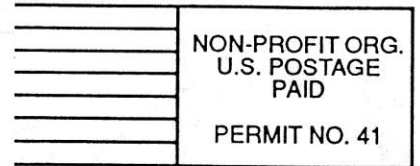
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The CMRA *SQUELCH TALE* is published monthly by the Central Missouri Radio Association. To be put on the mailing list or to submit informational, editorial, or technical articles, contact the editor at 1915 Blue Ridge, Columbia, MO 65202 (474-7674).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

Central Missouri Radio Association

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scholarship fund has been established by the Department of Pathology at the University of Missouri School of Medicine to honor Dr. Pete Stewart, KØSI. KØSI was a long time club member who became a Silent Key in 1988. He made many contributions to the CMRA and the local ham community. The club discussed making a contribution to the scholarship fund from the club treasury, combined with individual contributions members may wish to make. The club will discuss the contribution at the November meeting. Program Eric Hoehn, NØNLY, presented the program after the club meeting. He led a tour of the KFMZ radio transmitter site in Ashland. This site is also the location of the WØDQJ (146.685) 2 meter repeater and antenna.

CMEN

The Central Missouri Radio Association meets every Wednesday evening at 2100 local time to practice emergency net procedures, handle traffic, and make announcements to area hams. For further information, contact Net Manager Ann Guptill, WBØTEG.

VE Exams

VEC exams will be available after the November club meeting. Check with John Turner, NDØN, for details.

November Meeting

The November meeting will be at 7 pm on **Tuesday, November 12**, at the Boone Electric Coop, 1413 Range Line St.

FCC Clarifies Position on 'Business Communications'

(The following is excerpted from The ARRL Letter)

A recent story in the *WSYI Report* has created some comment in the amateur community. The story was to the effect that Private Radio Bureau Chief Ralph Haller had spoken at the ARRL National Convention about revisions to FCC Rules and negotiations with the ARRL. The story quoted Haller as stating that the Amateur Radio Service has "excess capacity", taken to mean that there are larger frequency allocations than are needed for routine amateur communications. The story said the extra frequencies could be put to good use by handling messages now transmitted on crowded commercial bands. The story made it appear that the ARRL endorsed the use of amateur bands for commercial activities, which could lead to commercial users making claims on amateur allocations. Clarification of these issues has since been obtained from the ARRL and the FCC.

ARRL Directors attending the Haller speech stated they never heard the phrase "excess capacity", and were assured by the FCC on Oct. 9 that these words were not used, although they had appeared in a *draft* of Haller's speech and were later edited. Haller indicated that he eliminated the words because of sensitivity to possible misinterpretation. He indicated the term is standard at the FCC and refers

to the capacity of a frequency at different times, and not the the amount of spectrum available.

The discussions about "business communications" refers to the FCC desire for increased public service communications. There have been continuous questions about nonemergency public service and personal affairs in which a business is somehow involved; for example, ordering a tow truck for a disabled motorist vs. ordering a pizza. Other recent questions have arisen about incidents such as the 900 number that was posted on a packet bulletin board, the Iditerod dog sled race in Alaska (in which there were on-air discussions of check-point reports and dog food logistics), and messages to an ARRL section manager, some portion of which could appear in *QST*.

In discussions, the ARRL and the FCC agreed on two key points: 1) strong rules against business messages on amateur bands are necessary to prevent exploitation for nonamateur purposes, and 2) the current rules governing public service may be more strict than necessary. As a result, there has been some discussion of changes to FCC rules that would provide more flexibility in public service and personal communications while still prohibiting communications for hire, for financial benefit of a control operator, or for direct benefit of one's own business or an employer's business. Any rule changes will be considered through normal FCC procedures that require public "Notice and Comment".

