



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

December 1991

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146.16/76

Meeting Minutes

The November meeting was presided over by V.P. Jim Lawler, WYØB. There were 32 members and guests present.

Hamfest Committee Mac McKenzie, K4CHS, reported that plans for the Columbia Hamfest to be held on June 13, 1992 are proceeding. It has been approved as an ARRL event. A contract for use of the Heame's Center has been negotiated and the formal contract paperwork is currently being prepared.

Club Station Jim, WYØB, reported that the club station received some use during the recent CQ SSB contest. However, a problem has developed with the station's Kenwood TS430 display and repairs will be required. Jim has ordered a new microprocessor for the rig. If the problem isn't fixed by the replacement, we will need to send the radio to a repair center. There was discussion of which facility can provide quick and reliable service. If club members have suggestions, please contact Jim.

PL Tones on Repeater Scott Herin, NØKYW, brought up the question of whether we should have an alert system for the repeater that would allow continuous monitoring for emergency purposes without hearing all repeater traffic. Mac, K4CHS, pointed out that a PL tone system for emergency callups has been under consideration for some time and would be compatible with most modern VHF rigs, although some may require optional PL tone decoders. He made a motion that was seconded and passed that the club implement a PL tone callup system for the WDØDVG repeater. Watch for further details on how the new function will work and what you need to do to take advantage of it.

RACES Ann Gupull, WBØTEG, repeated her request for members who would be interested in serving as a RACES member. Members must be able to respond to emergency callups by the city Emergency Operations Center or the National Weather Center. Contact Ann or George Hessenbruch, NØIMS, if you are interested.

CMEN Net Control Stations Ann also announced that she is seeking additional Net Control Stations for the Central Missouri Emergency Net which meets every Wednesday at 2100 h. All that is required is to run the net once every several weeks. She can provide a script that will help with handling the net. Contact Ann if you are interested.

Thanks Phil Brooks, NØMYX, expressed his thanks for several stations that helped him put up a new antenna. Assisting were Mac, K4CHS, Bill Stroud, NØNMB, Earl Ebbe, KØONL, and Tom Taylor, NØOUT.

New Members Voted into membership at the meeting were: Gerald Arthur, KBØJHX, Matt Arthur, KBØJGY, Tom Hendrix, WAØE, Gerard Rabelais, NØPRQ, and Al Kullman.

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 Gupull, WBØTEG.

December Meeting

The December meeting will be at 7 pm on **Tuesday, December 10**. This will be our annual holiday banquet, held this year at the Red Lobster Restaurant on the business loop. A special area will be set aside for our use. Families are welcome. The January meeting will be held at our normal meeting place, the Boone Electric Coop, 1413 Range Line St.

VE Exams

Exams were held after the November meeting for five examinees. John Flood, KBØGIL, upgraded to Technician Plus. Mike Ayers qualified for a Technician license, and Al Kullman earned a Novice ticket. Tom Taylor, NØOUT, passed his General written exam. Congratulations!

New Calls

Gary LaForce is licensed as NØPBM, and Gerard Rabelais is NØPRQ.

STAFF

Editor: Jesse Bowen, WMØY
Newsletter Committee: Mac McKenzie, K4CHS; Earl Felten, KFØGE; George Hessenbruch, NØIMS; Brian Thomas, NØLXP

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.

*Remember, the December meeting
will be the annual CMRA
Holiday Banquet
Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7 pm
Red Lobster Restaurant
I-70 Drive SW
Families Welcome!*

Central Missouri Radio Association

P.O. Box 283, Columbia, Missouri 65205



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WMØY CMRA 1991 Member
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Roster Update

Lori Burnett, NØOSJ, and Andy Burnett, NØNMM, have moved. Their new address is: 441 S. Jefferson, Centralia, MO 65240. Their telephone number is 314-682-1532, and they relate that this will not be a toll call from Columbia because of a special service they have obtained.

Controversy over "Business" Use of Ham Bands Continues

As noted in last month's newsletter, comments by Ralph Haller, FCC Private Radio Bureau Chief, were interpreted by some, including Fred Maia in his *W5YI Report*, to suggest that ham frequencies could be turned over to business uses because "excess capacity" exists on the ham bands. The phrase "excess capacity" was edited out of the speech Haller actually delivered but was present in a written draft of the address. Alarm has been raised that the proposal to allow expanded use of amateur frequencies for public service uses is actually a grab for spectrum by commercial ventures. The ARRL contends that current restrictions on how hams can help non-profit organizations prevent valuable public service

when the rules are interpreted rigidly. The ARRL has suggested that current rules should be modified to return to the situation that existed before the current guidelines were adopted in the early 1970's.

How much of this controversy is due to attitudes about ARRL policies and how much stems from legitimate concerns about preserving frequencies for amateur radio is presently difficult to sort out. In any event, this issue is an important one for the amateur community. It has several political and practical implications for the future of amateur radio. The background surrounding this debate can be found in the "It Seems to Us..." column of the December *QST*, the Washington Readout column of the December *CQ*, and recent *W5YI Report* issues.

A crucial point to remember is that the ARRL is a representative body. All League members should make their opinions known concerning this issue.

