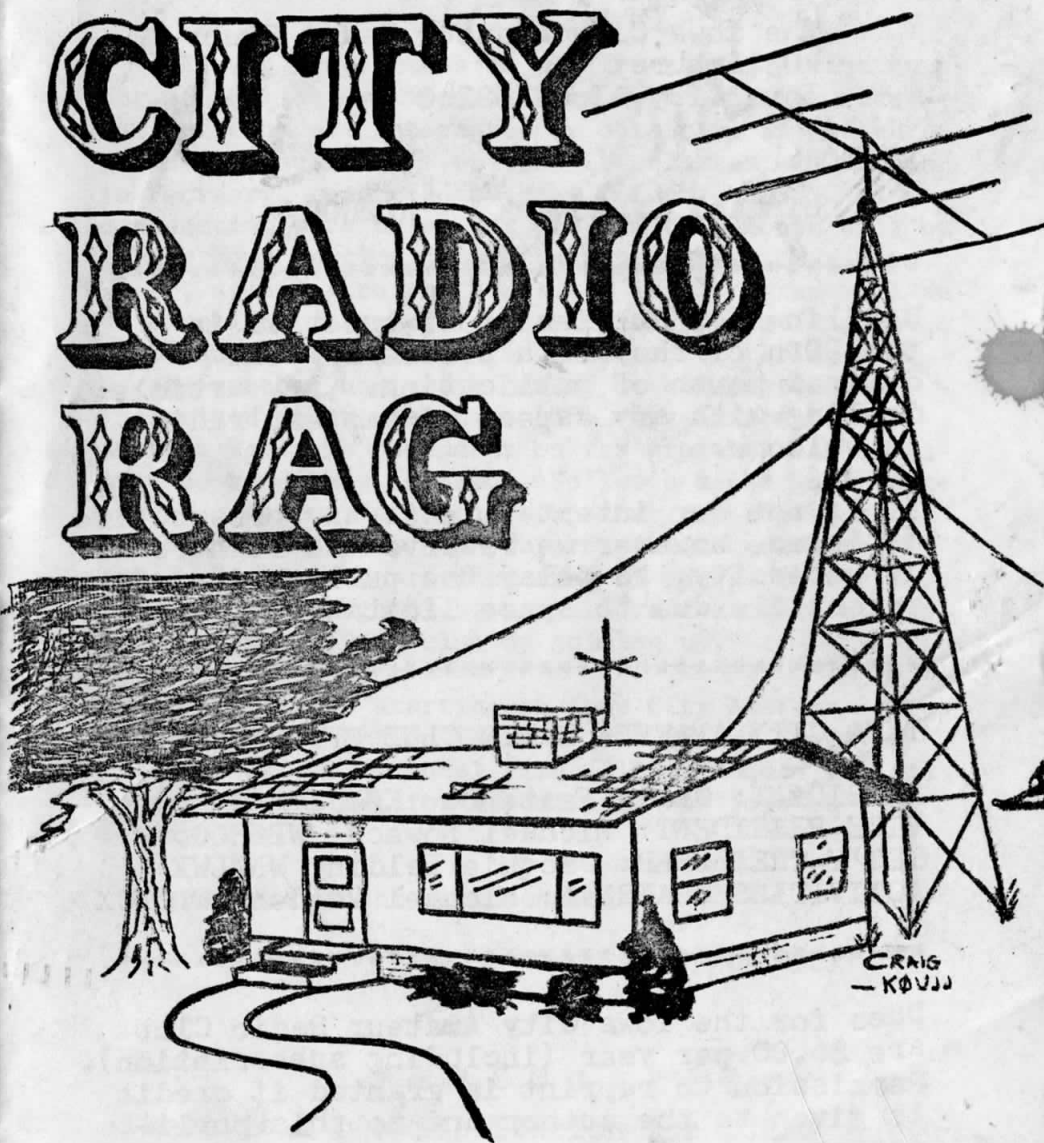


RIVER CITY RADIO RAG



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
IOWA CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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Michael L. Nowack WBØHOG

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desired month of publication. Any article
dealing with any aspect of amateur radio
is welcome.

It is not our intent to edit any prospective
articles, however we reserve the right out
of necessity, to delay the publication of
an article due to space limitations.

IOWA CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OFFICERS 1975

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PREXY'S PAGE

de KØUJJ

First, many thanks to all for the excellent turn-
out at the last meeting. There were many new faces--
many of whom are interested in obtaining an amateur
license. Toward this end, novice classes will begin
in February, conducted by Mike Valdez, WNØNCX. In
conjunction with this, our program this month will be
by the Iowa Section Communication Manager, Max Otto,
WØLFF, speaking on the A.R.R.L. This program will be
an excellent introduction to Amateur Radio (and the
club) and we are encouraging everyone to bring a
guest--another ham not a member or someone who is
interested in being a ham. The very existence of
Amateur Radio is dependent on its growth; each of us
must do something to help. So let's see a good turn-
out of prospective amateurs so they may register for
the Novice Classes. To you prospective amateurs,
these classes are provided free of charge by the Iowa
City Amateur Radio Club, and all we ask in return is
your support of our club by joining us.

We are also starting an Iowa City Amateur Radio
Club Two Meter Net on 146.28 - 146.88 MHz Sunday
evenings at 7 p.m. local time (0100 Z Monday). This
is an informal net for a good time--so join us next
Sunday!

See you at the next meeting.

73 de KØUJJ

* * * S T R A Y * * *

There is a new institution for ICARC members.
After each meeting all members are invited
to adjourn to a local pub for a brew and chat.
Last month we went to Happy Days Pizza.
Craig will announce our spot for next month
at the meeting. See you there.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The regular January meeting was called to order by our new president, Craig KØUJJ, following which everyone introduced themselves. Mike WBØHOG, our vice-president, proposed that the club continue to receive the H.R. Report at a subscription rate of \$12 per year. The motion was seconded, voted on, and passed unanimously. The contest coordinator, Steve KØSVW, announced the Novice contest coming up, and also the first Dx contest for 1975. He suggested that the club have an HF Worked All States contest in February and March, with the prize being a U.S. Callbook and/or a year's subscription to a ham magazine. This motion was seconded, voted on, and passed unanimously. Steve also suggested a special deal for people, like students, who would like to receive the Rag but not become members of the club, where they would pay a suggested fee of \$3.00 to receive the Rag but have no member-privileges, such as voting. There was one dissenting vote on that issue, which was passed by the rest of the Ayes. There was still more discussion on the difference between mobile and portable operation, and the issue is still not settled completely. New business included the fact that Craig KØUJJ has appointed a three-person committee to study the FCC's proposal for restructuring the rules, and to be in charge of any correspondence concerning this matter; the committee is comprised of Dave KØLUM, Paul KØRLT, and Gene KØCKX. Gordon WØAYH's term as trustee expires in March, and since no one else wished to be the next trustee, he will continue for the next five-year term. The business meeting was then adjourned, and was followed by a very good program by Paul KØRLT on antennas and transmission lines.

de Jacquie WNØLWX

GRIDLEY AND THE DIPOLE

by

Robert O. Lucas

A couple of days ago the doorbell rang, and I yelled downstairs, "C'mon in! I'm upstairs in the shack!" I was just finishing a QSO with Arnie, a 4X4 I talk to quite a bit when the rare stuff isn't on. He commented again on my outstanding signal. "OM, your signal is the finest I am hearing here. That new Blauphenspiel amplifier is FB here. Glad to hear you got the new 6-element 20-meter beams up, too, OM. Cheerio, 73, WAØDXZ de 4X4ZZZ, clear."

Ahhh, another great report! Buying this house was a brainstorm that I had never regretted. Yeah, the place was a little run down, maybe; but I'd get the new roof on next fall; and if you were careful, you could make it up to the shack without falling through the holes in the stairs. The wiring was redone at once, of course - 110V, 220V, and even 440V for the big linear. So the house is still standing, probably held down by the huge new 2kW Blauphenspiel Linear which seemed to make the floor sag a bit more than even I thought it should. But the height! The highest point in the county, probably one of the highest in the midwest! DX heaven! The winds were ferocious, and I usually spent several hours after each storm checking guy wires and stuff. Seems like the wind averages 25 knots even on a "calm" day. Convincing those neighbor kids to climb the 120-foot tower for a bag of Oreos wasn't easy. May have to step up to ice cream cones next time.

I heard a loud crash on the stairway and turned to look. It was Gridley, my young neighbor, waving something in his hand as he tried to pull his foot out of the hole in the stairs where he fell through. I couldn't hear exactly what he was saying, but I got the gist of it; and it would seem a 15-year-old boy shouldn't know language like I thought I heard just then.

Gridley and the Dipole, cont.

"When are you gonna fix this place up? This place is a national disaster area. They should have the National Guard out here to clean up and look for survivors!"

I tried to calm him down. "Oh, it's not really that bad, Gridley. Just a little rearranging to do. Have a seat, my boy. What's that in your hand?" He began to sit in the wicker chair near the automatic "CQ-DX" sending machine. I jumped up and screamed at him, "No! not there, Gridley! That chair isn't..." CRASH! Too late. I had meant to redo the caning in that chair for months. Cheap chairs, can't support the weight of a hundred-pound kid. Not my fault. I helped him up again. "Sorry about that, Gridley, but I tried to warn you. You have to be more alert. What do they teach you in school nowadays, anyway?"

"Never mind that. I'm OK. Think I'll stand if you don't mind." He held the piece of paper up to me. "Here it is! I got it! Finally! My Novice ticket, WNØHUH!! I'm a NOVICE!!" He jumped up and down, his arms waving wildly, holding the ticket in his hand.

"Watch it or you'll get into the high voltage on that new amplifier!" I had been meaning to cover that HV supply for a week now. "Well, listen, kid - got that rig all ready to go?" I had lent him an old rig I had sitting around, a Novice Gallon, 75 watts of Super CW. Well, he could tune it down to 75 watts. What's a few watts, anyway, at that level? Might run 100 or even 120, I don't know; but he could tune it down if he had to. I decided not to tell him about those few extra watts. Why are Novices always such sticklers for the rules?

"Yeah, that's why I'm here. My antennas aren't up yet, and I thought maybe I'd ask you about it. I thought maybe a little dipole for 80, and..."

Dipole? I searched back through the old brain...yes, now I remember - Dipole, Novice antenna. Had one of

WHO IS WHOM de WØMIE

This month's who's whome is Mike Nowack, WBØHOG.

Mike was born in Moline, Illinois and went thru the school system there, being graduated Rock Island High in 1960. Mike then traveled to Ames, Iowa where he attended Iowa State University in Engineering.

After leaving Ames, Mike went to work for the Bendix Aviation Corporation in Davenport where he spent three years working on the fuel loading system for the Saturn V booster system.

At the end of three years, Mike heard the famous quote, "Go west young man, go west" and went to work for Grinnell College designing testing equipment for the Psychology Department. Mike forgot the quote of Horace Greely in a years time and ventured east again to the University of Iowa where he joined the Physics department in 1967 where he works in the area of space physics research.

Mike recently moved to a new home at 403 Amhurst Street where he resides with his wife Arlyce, one son John, and two daughters Stephanie and Michelle. He also shares the home with a Yaseu FT-200 (Tempo one) and a 3 element triband beam with which he works the world. Mike is also active on 2M FM with a TR-22.

* * * * * S T R A Y * * * * *

Jack, WØMIE, has been named Picnic Coordinator. He did such a good job last year, that we are going to have two picnics this year, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. He might even come up with something for the Summer.

When the Iowa City repeater (WRØACU) is in use and you have emergency traffic to pass, what do you do? At present we do not have a formal procedure to cover this situation and perhaps we should give some consideration to this potential problem. A situation that requires the transmission of emergency (priority) traffic occurs rarely, however an amateur is of little or no use if he cannot pass the required information quickly to its proper destination.

In some areas repeater users never use the "Break" except in cases of emergency or for priority traffic. In our area as in much of the country the "Break" is used on 2 meters as it is on the HF bands. I would like to suggest the following practices to be used when in QSO on the Iowa City machine. Repeater users should allow a brief but definite pause between transmissions. This will serve a twofold purpose. It will allow other stations to break in, whether it is to join the conversation, or to conduct emergency communications. Secondly it will allow the three minute timer to reset, avoiding the possibility of timing out and being cut off. Stations with emergency or priority traffic should break in with "BREAK BREAK" or "BREAK BREAK BREAK". The user stations upon hearing this should give immediate recognition to the breaking station and render such assistance as may be required. This assistance may be of any form, but could be as simple as relinquishing use of the machine to the breaking station. The habit of pausing between transmissions is an easy one to form and could be of immense value in the future.

The term PEP stands for peak envelope power and it is one of those technical terms that carries very little meaning in itself. The popularity of ssb among the radio amateur fraternity created problems of interpretation of FCC regulations regarding legal power limits and brought to life the term PEP which few people care to define. You read one day an add indicating that 2 Kw PEP output linear amplifier is legal and the next day our beloved President tell us, commenting on the new FCC proposal, that 2 Kw PEP output represents 3 Kw DC input. We get confused and start asking ourselves questions. We find that both statements are correct simply because the relation between the DC input and the PEP output is not a constant of the transmitter. This relation is dependent not only on the efficiency of the stages providing power to the antenna but on the wave form factor of the modulation.

Imagine a CW transmitter with the key shortcircuited. If the transmitter is working properly, the output will be a perfect sinusoidal RF wave. The power that the transmitter delivers to the antenna is not constant but varies from instant to instant. If we make an average of the power delivered to the antenna, we arrive at a value, called the average power output of the transmitter. The DC power input, as measured with common instruments, remains constant and have a simple relationship with the average power output. This relation becomes a constant of the final stages and it is called the efficiency. All this is very nice and clean but a CW transmitter working in AØ has very little practical use. (For those of you who took your Novice test more than a month ago, AØ means unmodulated continuous carrier).

When we modulate the carrier, there are two possibilities: the amplitude of the resulting signal can remain constant as in FM, or the amplitude can vary as in AM. If the amplitude of the output signal remains constant, the average power output is equal to the DC input multiplied by the efficiency of the final, which is in the order of 0.6 to 0.8. Then, 1000 watts DC input produces 600 to 800 watts output, average power output. PEP has not yet come into the picture. This is the case of FM or RTTY.

In the case of a CW transmitter the signal varies in amplitude, following the dots and the dashes, but we have a very simple way to measure the DC input to the final stage at the moment the amplitude of the output is a maximum. This is to hold the key down. Here is the first time we run into PEP. The definition of PEP is exactly that: PEP is the power contained in a sinusoidal wave with the same amplitude as the peak of the signal under consideration. Now you can understand why our President said that 2 Kw PEP output is 3 Kw DC input. He was referring to FM or RTTY and he was assuming 66% efficiency of the final. The average power output for FM and RTTY is equal to the PEP output. Since the amplitude of a CW signal varies from a maximum to zero, the average power output is less than the PEP. The relation between the average power output and the PEP depends on the dots and the dashes. If the transmission consists in evenly spaced dots, a square wave, the average power output will be 50% of the PEP. In actual code transmission, this relation is very close to 50%; in another way, the PEP output is twice the average output. Now, this 2 is the wave form factor, CW characters in this case, forming the envelope of the

Con't on page 16

The ARRL International Dx Competition is upon us again. This is probably the most prestigious Dx Contest of the year. The object is for U.S. and Canadian amateurs to work as many different Dx stations in as many different ARRL countries as possible. The contest is grueling, with two 48-hour weekends on phone and two more on CW. The exchange is the RST and your section. The phone weekends are Feb. 1-2 and March 1-2, while the CW weekends are Feb. 15-16 and March 15-16. Complete details available in Dec. '74 QST. This is a good chance to gain contest experience, improve your fist, or pick up some "new ones" for DXCC credit.

I would also like to announce the first ICARC Worked All States Contest:

Period: 1 Feb - 31 March, 1975

Object: Work as many of the 50 states as possible from the Iowa City area.

Winner: The person who works the 50 states first or who has the most worked at the end of the contest period.

Eligibility: Any member of the ICARC who holds a valid amateur license.

Power: Limited only by your license class.

Frequency: Any amateur frequency.

Prize: Winner may choose a 1975 stateside Call-book or a one-year subscription to the ham magazine of his choice.

Deadline: Submit list of states worked, call signs, and date to KØSVW by 10 April, 1975.

This contest is open to all classes of license and because of the nature of the contest should appeal to novices and extra class ops as well. Good Luck.

73,

Steve KØSVW

NOVICE CLASSES

A course to prepare for the FCC Novice License Examinations will start February 18, and it will meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Engineering Building, Capitol Street, Room 3405. Classes will cover sending and receiving International Morse Code, radio and electronics fundamentals, FCC Regulations, and amateur radio operation practices. Every student will be assumed to have a very strong desire to learn, and that he or she will devote at least an hour a day to this purpose. Students will need:

Notebook, pencils and scratch paper
ARRL License Manual
Code Practice Oscillator
Telegraphic Key
Cassette Recorder and 30-min cassettes
40-meter receiver or transceiver
40-meter antenna

It is understood that the completion of this course does not automatically provides for the Novice License, since it can only be issued by the FCC. The course will give all the necessary knowledge and volunteer examiners will be available when students are ready to apply for their License. Course instructors will not act as examiners or collaborate in any form in the examinations. Persons interested on this course should register at the Club meeting, February 12, 1975.

* * * S T R A Y * * *

For those interested in the latest DX information, you might monitor or check into the Southern California DX Club Net which meets at 0400 Z Thursdays on 14.265 MHz (Wednesday 2100 local).

Gridley and the Dipole, cont.

them once for a couple of weeks, when I got my Novice ticket, til I got the first 3-element, 15-meter beam up. Dipole, yes!

"Great idea, Gridley, great. A dipole, yes!" I searched for a place to sit, finally settling for a box of old 3-500 Z's I had used for spares in an old contest linear. I leaned back, careful not to touch that high voltage. "Yeah, we could run it over from your place, maybe over this way somehow. Plenty of room." I had bought six acres, plenty of room for the 7 towers and antenna farm. I must have a spare place the kid could hang one end on.

He beamed. "Good! Thanks! Now, about the length. I have it all figured out. All set, here in the Handbook. Let's see...126'4", I think. I have some wire. Can you help me with it sometime?"

I knew he meant now, the way he was clutching that new ticket. "Yeah, sure. Let's see, we need wire, insulators, co-ax. I think that stuff is all in the garage workshop. Or did I bring it up here? I can't remember exactly..."

"Listen," he whined, "I've got everything. I got some good 18-gauge stranded wire at the hardware store, and..."

I blanched. "EIGHTEEN GAUGE? You're kidding, aren't you Gridley? Eighteen gauge wire couldn't possibly work!" God, they must have made that Novice test easier than it used to be! I had given it to him, but couldn't remember all of the questions. Something about length of a dipole began to run through my mind...oh, never mind. "Listen, take this coil of wire downstairs and unroll it while I get the insulators..."

"Don't worry, I've got those, too!" He looked up hopefully at me, and I hated to disappoint him again. Ceramic eggshell insulators? Forget it!

"Listen, kid, those won't work...too small...RF will jump..."

Gridley and the Dipole, cont.

"But it said in QST that these were perfect for Novice..."

"Never mind. I think I have some of those Super Heavy Duty DX Specials, about 8 inches long, gray, made of some kind of plastic. Lift up that pile of DX Bulletins, will ya? I think they're under there...yeah..." He pulled one out of the pile of papers. Beautiful, if ya gotta have one of those dipoles, this is the insulator! Listen, kid, take good care of these. They cost me five bucks apiece."

"Five bucks? I got these perfectly good ceramic egg-shell insulators at the hardware store for ten cents each, and..."

"Kid, listen, they won't work. Ya gotta use the right materials for these things. Remember, the antenna is the most important part of your station. Well, next to your amplifier, maybe. Anyway..."

He looked up at me, kinda confused. "But you said it was all so simple...some wire through the trees, some egg insulators, a few feet of RG-58U..." his voice trailed off.

"RG-58!! You can't use that stuff for this! Why, that skinny stuff won't work for FIVE watts! Your line loss would be...let's see here, where is my Handbook?" I heard a noise and turned. He was running down the stairs, jumping over piles of old DX callbooks and some run-of-the-mill, garden variety UAl and 5Y7 QSL's. "Hey, kid! Listen, I haven't even told you about the balun. Did you get a balun?"

He stopped and turned, "A balun? A balun of what?" He knocked a box of IRC's over with his foot, and they tumbled down the stairs ahead of him.

"You know, a balun: for a 1:1 SWR, kid..." I shouted at him as he opened the door to leave. "And don't forget one of those fancy center insulators, either. Only

Gridley and the Dipole, cont.

\$5.95, worth every cent. Gotta keep the moisture out..."

He slammed the door as he left, running across the yard, between my guy wire anchors, toward his house.

A few minutes later I saw him out in his yard, as happy as could be, putting up the worst looking dipole you've ever seen, using that little, bitty wire, those egg insulators, and that lousy RG-58 stuff. Surprised he didn't use kite string. Hard to believe. Just a minute... there's a 9Q9 calling someone...lemme turn the beams... let's see. 9Q9, what heading is that? Where is that chart? Let's see, 2kW should do it, get the old keyer out here...what frequency is that, anyway? 21,122??? Isn't that the Novice freq...?"

"WNØHUH de 9Q9ZZZ...FB OM UR SIGS 589 HR GUD SIGS NAME IS..."

* * * * * S T R A Y * * * * *

Many of us have equipment for which we no longer have use. This is specially true with our novice gear. New novices have sometimes trouble buying new equipment they will use for a short time. If you have any equipment you want to get rid of, give us a list. The equipment can be sold, loaned, given away, or whatever you want. We will not enter into that part of the deal. We only want to bring together those who have and do not want with those who want and do not have. This also works with non-operating equipment that can be repaired. Think that in this way you can help some other ham and get some extra coins without the XYL knowing it.

BRAINTEASER OF THE MONTH

de WBØHOG

A label on which the four digit number 3025 was printed was accidentally torn in half and the owner noted with curiosity a peculiar thing. One half of the label had the number 30 on it and the other half had the number 25. He noted that if you add these two numbers together ($30+25=55$) and square the sum, you get the original number as the result ($55 \times 55 = 3025$).

Now the problem is to find another four digit integer number number that can be treated in the same manner giving the same result. The four digits in the number must all be different, i.e. only one 2 or only one 5.

Answer in next month's RAG.

Answer to last month's puzzle: The mason's stone ball would be 6 feet in diameter in order for the surface area to be equal to the volume.

* * * * * S T R A Y * * * * *

A show and tell meeting is being planned for some time this year. If you have any gadget you built or designed, if you made any interesting change in your equipment, or if you have anything you want to show and/or tell, have it ready but be sure to tell Mike, WNØNCX, so he can start planning for a date.

* * * * * S T R A Y * * * * *

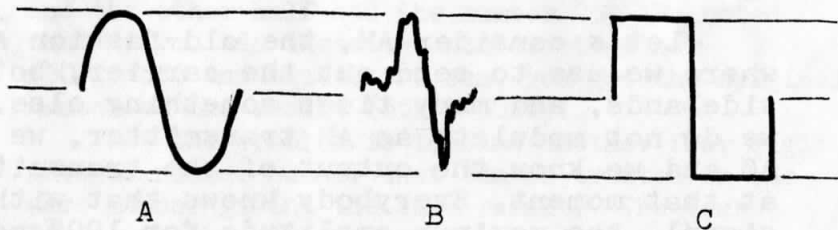
The idea of the DX Alert Program is catching up, and so is the idea of using channel 42 simplex as a DX calling channel. Have your information ready for this meeting.

signal. Nobody ever paid any attention to the average power in CW because there is such a simple way to measure the PEP. Any old timer can remember that a transmitter working on CW can be "loaded" more than the same transmitter working in AM.

Let's consider AM, the old fashion AM where we use to send out the carrier, both sidebands, and many times something else. If we do not modulate an AM transmitter, we have AØ and we know the output of the transmitter at that moment. Everybody knows that with AM signal, the maximum amplitude for 100% modulation is twice the amplitude of the carrier (this is the definition of 100% modulation). Then, the PEP in AM is four times the output without modulation. The output without modulation is equal to the DC input without modulation multiplied by the efficiency. Then, in AM, 1000 watts DC input without modulation produces say 750 watts average output and, when the transmitter is modulated 100%, the PEP output will be 3000 watts. Nobody ever care to think in these 3000 watts. We only care that we need 500 additional average watts to produce 100% modulation, that is, 3 Kw PEP output.

When we go into single sideband, we have an AM signal without the carrier and one of the sidbands. The nice relations above do not hold anymore. What is worst, the final amplifier is no longer class C but class B, which might have a "resting" current; that is, a DC input into the final that does not produce any output. The output is only present with the modulation.

Consider figures A, B, and C. A represents, or tries to represent a sinusoidal wave; B is close to a speech waveform, and C a square wave. If these signals represent the envelope of an ssb signal, they all will



have the same PEP, but it is evident that the average power of C will be larger than A and this larger than B. That is, C will sound the lowest and B the weakest. Putting it in another way, if we want to have the same average power input to the transmitter, the PEP output when we modulate with C will be the lowest and the PEP output with B will be the largest. It is clear that the relation between DC input and PEP output depends, not only on the transmitter, but on the modulation we are using. The relation between the PEP with speech and with the sinusoidal wave, for the same average power output, is the wave form factor of the speech. This wave form factor can be from 2 to 3 or even more. Note that a sinusoidal modulation in a ssb transmitter produces the same type of output as a CW transmitter with the key down. Then, for the same transmitter, the PEP output in ssb can be 2 to 3 times higher than in CW, for the same average power. That is to say, 1 Kw DC input ssb amplifier will put out 600 watts average output and, if this power is in the form of speech, it will represent in the order of 2 Kw PEP. That is

what is implicit in the add for the linear amplifier: they are talking about ssb. If you read the fine print you will find that the PEP for CW is probably 600 watts.

In summary, we cannot compare transmitters by talking of PEP alone. We have to indicate directly or implicit what type of modulation we are talking about and what wave form factor we are using. Important things to remember when you consider that FCC seems to worry about PEP but when you buy equipment you have to pay for both, the average power output and the PEP.

* * * S T R A Y * * *

A group from the ICARC and their wives recently got together for an evening of frolic. The evening started at Mike's, WBØHOG and from there moved to the Hoover House for a fine meal followed by spirits a la Yorgo's. Another outing is planned soon and all are invited. For more info see Fred, WAØHFW.

* * * S T R A Y * * *

The next meeting of the Iowa City Amateur Radio Club will be held on February 12, 1975 at 7:30 PM in the community room at the First National Bank at Towncrest. This month's program will be on the basic organization of the American Radio Relay League and its function. Refreshments will follow the meeting and all interested persons are invited to attend. Since this meeting is aimed at introducing non-amateurs to the hobby, all members are encouraged to bring any friend or other interested person to the meeting so he can be introduced to the hobby.

Field Day '75

Although there is snow on the ground, and blustery winds from the north chill us to the marrow, the rains and ravages of June are just around the corner. Field Day is a mere 152 days away. So try to remove yourself from the winter doldrums, Jeeves, and lend an ear.

Last year unseasoned ICARC operators risked life and limb (and marital harmony) to participate in this classic event. Field Day was a successful venture in spite of adverse weather conditions and peer band openings. This year the ICARC is going to split into two competing teams.

Team A will have the call W4JV and will be headed by Mike Nowak. The proposed site will be the same as last years location. Team B will be led by dauntless Craig Fasten under the call K0SVW at a site near Oxford. Each team leader will organize his own group as to equipment, antennas, "natural" energy source, messages, and publicity. I will, unless there are severe, valid objections, assign members who wish to participate to the teams. This will be done as we find out who wishes to participate. Besides adding spirit to the contest, I think this scheme will allow more people to participate and I believe it will also improve scores. Some sort of prize could be arranged for the high scoring team, i.e. a keg of beer to be bought for the winners by the losers!!

This contest is for everyone. New novices and grizzled OP's will find this contest unique. So if you think you would like to tangle with mosquitoes, trees, generators, tents, tornados and Murphy

make plans now to join us June 28 - 29. Let me know if you would like to participate. Each month we will have further announcements in the Rag. Next month we will publish a list of team members.

de WA0HFW

* * * S T R A Y * * *

FOR SALE: Trio TR-2200 2M transceiver with carrying case, nicads, and crystals for 16-76, 76-76, 28-88, 88-28, 52-52 and 94-94 all installed and on frequency. \$188. Also a pair of Hygain 8-el 2M beams, assembled and tuned for 146-147MHz. Approx 14.5 db gain over a dipole. Boom length 14 feet. Will sell as a pair for \$32. See K0RLT, Paul phone 338-5549.

* * * S T R A Y * * *

FOR SALE: Swan 350 with AC power supply. See K0OBU, Chuck at 354-1286.

* * * S T R A Y * * *

FOR SALE: EICO tri-band transceiver model 753 with HP-23 power supply, \$125. See K0GBG, Tom Vorwald at 351-1622.

* * * S T R A Y * * *

K0UJJ and wife Joyce celebrated the new year by bringing in a new jr op, Diane Marie on 5 January 75. The ham shack is now a nursery and diapers will replace DX. Congratulations! Diane was born at University Hospital where pop is a medical electronics engineer and mom is a staff nurse.

* * * S T R A Y * * *

Fred, WA0HFW, recently added an eleven element Cush Craft 2M beam and a Heath VHF SWR bridge and wattmeter to his station courtesy of Santa and the XYL, Judy. How's that for good training fellas? 20

* * * S T R A Y * * *

Chuck WBØNNI/Ø was visiting and working with Dick Plummer WAØVFP over the holidays. He is a senior student in EE at Purdue. Hope to hear him on 2 meters often.

* * * S T R A Y * * *

From the Cedar Valley ARC newsletter, The Bandspread we note with interest the following item:

"Steve, KØSVW; Craig, KØUJJ; and Mike, WNØNCX came up from the Iowa City Club to provide the CVARC with a very fine program in December. One club member sort of spoke for us all with this comment; "Those guys can come back and do that again anytime they want." Another members comment worth mentioning, "That's the first club program in a long time that was too d___ short"."

* * * S T R A Y * * *

Some recent DX catches made by Iowa Citians include Ghana 9G1, St. Helena Island ZD7, British Virgin Island VP2V, Guatamala TG9, and St. Lucia VP2L. Propagation has been mediocre to good in recent weeks. Solar activity idices for January, February and March are 23, 22, and 21 respectively.

* * * S T R A Y * * *

The second ICARC hidden transmitter hunt will be upcoming shortly. We suggest those interested should start getting their loops, attenuators and other gear in order. The hunt will be conducted on 146.52MHz and for those interested in building a loop we plan on repeating an aticle which appeared in the Rag last spring. By a time honored tradition, Paul KØRLT as winner of the last hunt will be the fox. What say Paul?

* * * S T R A Y * * *

A recent ARRL bulletin gives notification of a reduction of Amateur Radio Services fees by the FCC. New applications and renewals will be \$4.00, modifications will be \$3.00 effective on 1 March 75. Applications received before that date must include funds under the old rates. Overpayments made after that date will not be refunded.

* * * S T R A Y * * *

Also from a recent ARRL bulletin; While few amateurs will be affected by new FCC rules to impliment the environmental protection act, all applications for station licenses after 20 january 75, must so affirm by including a statement to the effect quote this is not a major application as defined in section 1.1305 of the Commission's rules Unquote. This assumes an antenna less than 300 feet high, or a dish less than 30 feet in diameter, and a station location other than in a wilderness area, wildlife preserve, national historical area, etc. Check with ARRL Hq if any question arises.

* * * S T R A Y * * *

The 20282 Docket Committee looks forward to receiving comments on the proposed rule changes from all. Written statements are preferred but the committee is willing to also listen. So read the docket carefully and make notes, then let your views be known. Copies of the complete docket are available from club members and it will also appear in the February issue of QST. Committee members are KØCKX, Gene; KØLUM, Dave; and KØRLT, Paul.

* * * S T R A Y * * *

Would anyone be interested in tackling the job of Johnson County Emergency Coordinator? If so see Arnie WØLIJ in Cedar Rapids.