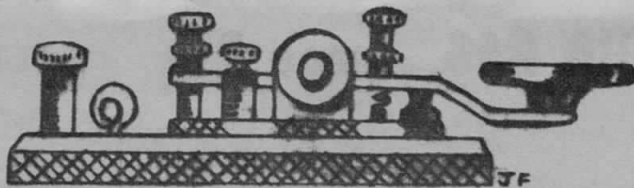


RIVER



CITY



RADIO RAG

PUBLISHED BY **THE IOWA CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**
AND **THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA A.R.C.**

PRESIDENT: Mike Nowack, WBØHOG
V. P. & EDITOR: Craig Fastenow, KØUJJ

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Max Otto, WØLFF
PROGRAM CHMN: Jan Smith, WNØPXH

A WORD FROM
THE PRESIDENT

I would like to take this opportunity as President to extend to you a personal invitation to come and join us at the next meeting of the Iowa City Amateur Radio Club. The date is April 14 at 7:30 p.m., in the meeting room of the drive in bank at Towncrest. This will be a very special meeting and will give you a chance to learn more about what amateur radio is and also more about our club and its activities. Details of the upcoming beginners class will be discussed and you will have the opportunity to sign up for them at that time. Many of the "hams" from the local area will be there and you will have the opportunity to meet them.

If you are already a licensed amateur and not a member of the club, you have received this newsletter on a special county-wide mailing. This invitation includes you also as we would like to have you come and be a part of our club. Maybe you have been inactive or just haven't had time to come out to a meeting before. Well, why not make this the month and April 14 the date. See you there. 73,

--Mike Nowack, WBØHOG

* * * * *

THE IOWA CITY
AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB

As Editor of the River City Radio Rag I would like to introduce the club to those of you who are unfamiliar with it, and to give you some idea of the activities that the club sponsors. The Iowa City Amateur Radio Club has much to offer you, not the least of which is personal contact with other amateur radio operators. There is nothing like an "eyeball

QSO" to build enthusiasm and generate interest in new facets of this broad and wide ranging hobby of ham radio. The Club also offers programs of interest to all hams--encompassing such things as technical subjects, operating activities, travel, etc. Some examples of programs over the last few months includes such things as an extremely interesting slide show and talk about South Africa by a native of that country (Dr. Jan Smith, WNØPXH), a technical program about basic operation of VHF repeaters and the autopatch on the Iowa City repeater, a slide show and talk about two DXpeditions, one to Marcus Island and the other to Iwo Jima. So you can see we do have an interesting variety to offer. Membership also includes a subscription to this newsletter, which is published monthly, just prior to the Club meeting, and contains news of local and nationwide amateur radio news, much of it months before it is available in the national magazines. Operating events sponsored by the club are interesting to many. These include such things as 2 meter hidden transmitter hunts, WAS and DX contests all with a handsome club certificate as first prize. Field Day in June is also a big event for the club, with a majority of the club members turning out for at least part of it. The club also sponsors a Picnic during the summer for the whole

(continued on page 2)

RIVER CITY RADIO RAG, page 2

(continued from page 1)

family. Last, but far from least, is not just what the club has to offer you, but what you have to offer the club--your support of your local club is supporting amateur radio in one of the two best possible ways (the other is belonging to the American Radio Relay League). Local clubs are the very lifeblood of ham radio and your support is vital to the continued health of the hobby. Well, enough of the introduction to the Iowa City Amateur Radio Club. Read on and enjoy the rest of the newsletter. You will find scattered throughout various activities in ham radio engaged in by various local amateurs, hopefully to give you some small idea of the breadth of amateur radio. 73.

--Craig Fastenow, KØUJJ

* * * * *

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT The regularly scheduled meeting of the Iowa City Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Mike Nowack, WBØHOG. Visitors were welcomed and everyone introduced himself. In the absence of Max Otto, WØLFF, minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer's report were read by Craig Fastenow, KØUJJ. Newsletter costs were \$11.51. Minutes were approved as read.

The Mall project was discussed at length. A motion was made and seconded to mail newsletters to all amateurs in Johnson County. The estimated cost is \$40. The motion was approved. Bob Lucas, WAØDXZ, reported on pictures to be taken for the display as well as for publication. Jerry Cooper, WNØPLZ, stated he has been unable to obtain insurance for the weekend project. It was suggested he contact the ARRL and also the CVARC to find out how they have handled situations such as this in the past. Jim Brady, WBØLKW, explained plans to have newspaper coverage in all papers throughout the county using pictures of local hams wherever possible. He will be writing to all schools in the area to inform them of the upcoming novice classes. He also will have as much radio and TV coverage as he is able to arrange. After the demonstration he will provide followup coverage. Dave Christ, KØLUM, reported on the progress of his committee. He is still looking for some equipment. There was no news from the antenna committee as yet. It has been estimated that we will need at least three operators at a time to work in shifts on both days so a paper was circulated for volunteers. Novice Classes will start on April 20. We need people to teach both code and theory. Classes will meet twice a week for six to eight weeks.

It was mentioned that we still need more local support for the Johnson County Emergency Net Sunday Evenings.

Another hidden transmitter hunt was suggested and since our last winner has moved, it was decided to draw names from a hat to select the fox. No date was set. Field Day is coming up. Ed Miltner, WBØOUP, volunteered to chair this group.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. After a short break we had the program for the evening. We had many good items for show and several good tells to make up an interesting evening which all enjoyed. Later, those interested moved to the Annex for a social hour.

--Arlyce Nowack, WNØOQX, Acting Secretary

* * * * *

FOR SALE: Tempo One (FT-200) and power supply, new final amplifiers. Regency receive crystals (2 Meters) 146.94, 146.46, 146.88, 146.76, 146.52. Bob Lucas, WAØDXZ, 351-1488.

RIVER CITY RADIO RAG, page 3

OSCAR Bob Lucas, WAØDXZ, is probably the most active on OSCAR (Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio) of any local Amateur. Bob has at last report worked 32 states via the OSCAR Satellite, using modest equipment giving about 10 watts output and a conventional 10 meter receiver, with a rotating dipole antenna. It needn't cost a fortune to work OSCAR!

* * * * *

JOHNSON COUNTY The AREC (Amateur Radio Emergency Corps) sponsored Johnson County Emergency Net meets each Sunday Evening at 7:30 p.m. local time on the Iowa City Repeater, 146.28-.88 MHz, with an alternate frequency of 146.52 Simplex in case of Repeater malfunctions. All Amateurs in Johnson and surrounding counties are invited to check in. Please join us and do your part to support emergency communications in your community.

* * * * *

SSTV Slow Scan Television is a rapidly growing facet of Amateur Radio, and perhaps one of the most intriguing. SSTV permits the transmission of pictures on any standard voice channel, telephone included, as compared to standard television which occupies the same space in the spectrum as would be required for about 1,300 single sideband voice signals. Of course you don't get something for nothing, and the trade-off here is that you only get one picture in eight seconds instead of thirty per second. So the pictures are not "movies." Steve Towle, KØSVW, has been active on SSTV and has worked many DX (foreign) stations on SSTV, and has many interesting signals on tape. Steve's equipment will be on display at the Mall.

* * * * *

F.C.C. A late word on the cancellation of the civil service administered FCC exams as reported by HR Report, March 5, 1976, reveals that the EXAMS FCC will probably continue with the civil service exam procedure in Rock Island through June 30. They will then start the quarterly schedule in the Quad Cities, perhaps beginning in July. Applications should be sent to the Chicago office as usual and they will inform you of the exam date. The Kansas City Office is still giving the quarterly exams in Des Moines.

* * * * *

EMERGENCY The WRØACU Autopatch was recently put to good use for some emergency traffic. On March 7, 1976, Ed Miltner, WBØOUP, spotted an accident outside of town and relayed the information to Bob Lucas, AUTOPATCH WAØDXZ, who used the autopatch to call the sheriff from his car. The sheriff dispatched officers to the scene of the accident. Good use of the autopatch! For those of you unfamiliar with VHF-FM activity and repeaters a word or two of explanation may be in order. First, WRØACU is the Iowa City repeater located on top of the Physics Building, and its function is to re-transmit with greater power and range signals it receives on its input frequency. Since a phone is used for remote control of the repeater, it is convenient to connect the phone to the repeater in such a way that mobile stations using a telephone touch tone pad (dial) can dial any number in the local calling area, thus turning a 2 meter mobile rig into a mobile telephone. Very handy, wouldn't you agree?

RIVER CITY RADIO RAG, page 4

PROPAGATION

Solar Activity continues at a low ebb with no significant changes expected. Propagation on 21 and particularly 28 MHz, in spite of seasonal improvement, will continue to be disappointing.

MARCH 15-30

Polar path propagation at this time of the year on the lower frequency bands should be excellent. Disturbed periods are expected March 16-19 and 25-28, with the remainder of the forecast period (including the ARRL CW DX contest) yielding overall good conditions. The prognosis is not so good however, for CQ's WPX contest.

--hr REPORT

* * * * *

RTTY

There are many local amateurs active on Radio Teletype (RTTY), and they find it a fascinating mode of communication. Several of those active on RTTY include Mike Nowack, WBØHOG, Dave Christ, KØLUM, and Gene Weiner, KØCKX. Teletypes are available on the surplus market for very reasonable prices, often less than \$100. Connection to radio equipment is relatively simple, and many circuits for doing so have been published in the amateur radio magazines, and much commercial equipment for this purpose is available. Teletype equipment will be among that on display at the Mall, March 27 and 28.

* * * * *

VHF FM

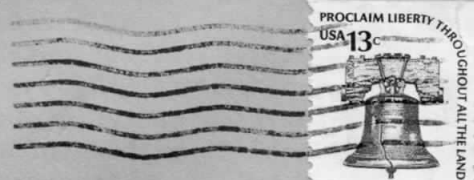
VHF is Very High Frequencies and is defined as that band of frequencies between 30 and 300 MHz. There are three amateur bands in that region, 6 Meters (50-54 MHz), 2 Meters (144-148 MHz), and 1¼ Meters (220-225 MHz). The currently most popular is 2 Meters, and repeaters (see the article on Emergency Autopatch) are what is making it so popular. With the aid of a repeater a 1 watt portable radio is capable of communicating over a range of 50 miles or more. Repeaters also offer such niceties as Autopatch. There are currently about 25 members in the Iowa City Repeater Association, which sponsors the Iowa City repeater, WRØACU.

* * * * *

REMEMBER the Iowa City Amateur Radio Club meeting Wednesday evening, April 14, 1976 at 7:30 in the First National Bank Community Room, 1117 William Street, in the Towncrest shopping center area of town. The program will be an introduction to Amateur Radio and the Iowa City Amateur Radio Club. See you all there!

* * * * *

IOWA CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
1207 Wylde Green Road
Iowa City, Iowa 52240



FIRST CLASS MAIL

01-77
KØLUM
DAVID E. CHRIST
RR 3 BOX 76
IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240