

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Iowa City Amateur Radio Club will be May 12th at 7:30 p.m. at the First National Bank at Towncrest. The program will be the planning of this year's Field Day. See you all there!

* * * * *

A WORD FROM
THE PRESIDENT

The real fruits of all the work that the club put into the Mall project are now becoming apparent. Our Novice instruction classes opened on the 20th of April with 64 students in attendance. After four class sessions this number has leveled off to just over 50. This is still a tremendous number of prospective amateurs for a town the size of Iowa City. If all of these people succeed in obtaining a novice license, it will represent a 50% increase in the amateur population of Johnson County. And, I understand from those teaching the code section of the classes, all are doing very well thus far. Again, thanks to all who have helped with the demonstration and the Novice classes.

This month our program at the regular club meeting will be a discussion of our plans for our Field Day entry for this year's tempting of Mr. Murphy. The discussion will be led by Ed Miltner, WBØOUP, who has volunteered to chair this year's effort. A fine time has been had by those participating the last several years, so why not come and join us this year?

See you at the May club meeting on the 12th at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the First National Bank at Towncrest.

--Mike Nowack, WBØHOG

* * * * *

FCC FORM 610, the application for an amateur license, is not currently available from the FCC in Washington. Their supply is exhausted and won't be replenished until a revised Form 610 that is currently being developed receives final OK and can be printed -- and that's probably three months off!

Both Ham Radio and ARRL do have some stocks of Form 610 and Ham Radio plans another printing "just in case." A photocopy or other reproduction of form 610 may also be used -- the only stipulation is that reproductions must be the same size as the FCC original.

--HR Report

Ed. Note: Locally FCC 610's are available from KØUJJ.

Vol. III, No. 5
May 1974

RIVER CITY RADIO RAG, page 2

JOHNSON COUNTY

EMERGENCY NET

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.

* * * * *

DAYTON HAM-

VENTION 1976

I had the good fortune to be able to attend the Dayton Hamvention again this year. The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Hamvention was held April 23-25 at the Hara Arena and attended by more than 12,000 people.

This year we cut the travel time to less than 1/3 of the normal nine hour drive in that we flew in aboard a Beech Bonanza and made the trip in 2 hrs 45 min. Pete Schutte, WAØYRX did the flying. Gayle, KØFLY and Al, KØVQM rounded out our group.

The hamvention was a conglomerate of forums, technical exhibits, banquets, manufacturer's displays and, of course, the famous flea market which occupied several more acres than last year.

We spent Friday afternoon and evening looking at all the more than 125 booths set up by the various manufacturers. High points for me were the new HF and VHF gear on display. Many of the exhibitors had technical people there to explain their goodies.

Saturday and Sunday we occupied ourselves by attending various forums and technical discussions interspersed with trips to the flea market.

As the World Administrative Radio Council approaches (in 1979), many of the questions turned towards the politics of amateur radio. There were many qualified people there to speak with authority, i.e. Charles Higgenbotham, W3CAH and John Johnson K3BNS (Chief of Amateur and Citizens Division of FCC) spoke on behalf of the FCC and Richard Baldwin, W1RU, General Manager of the ARRL and several of the League Directors gave us insight along those lines.

For the sake of brevity some offered thoughts were:

- 1) The Communicator class of license as outlined in Docket 20282 is dead. The FCC does not want another licensing 'spectacle' like is happening in the Citizens Service.
- 2) The Citizens Service proposed in 220 MHz is probably dead.
- 3) Citizen Band expansion will probably be in the 900 MHz range where "skip" won't be a problem.
- 4) Immediate upgrading at time of examination is probable very soon. i.e. as soon as you successfully complete the exam you can use the new privileges.
- 5) FCC has gone to a "message content" type of code test and away from "perfect copy" test, i.e. copy code and then take a multiple choice test over your copy.
- 6) ARRL is pushing towards a program whereby a prospective novice completes an approved course, he then could be licensed without taking an FCC written exam.
- 7) FCC has okayed two letter type calls i.e. WØAA, for Extra Class License holders.
- 8) The consensus was that amateur radio will not have major problems holding on to our bands in the HF spectrum but that we may be in for trouble in the VHF area. The main reason for this apparently is that

RIVER CITY RADIO RAG, page 3

most of the communications push in the developed nations is in the VHF range with satellites, etc. Along these lines, we may have a shot at a 10.1 MHz band. On the other hand, 146-148 MHz is in serious jeopardy as the aviation service in the U.S. is pushing hard for this segment.

- 9) The FCC announced that on 1 September 1976 it plans to publish which programs it plans to endorse for the 1979 WARC. So we may have a real good glimpse at what's ahead at that time.

All in all the Dayton Hamvention 1976 was an entertaining and informative weekend. If you ever have the chance of attending one I would encourage it.
73,

--Steve Towle, KØSVW

* * * * *

A new voice on the Iowa City repeater is Tom Vorwald, KØGBG (just what we needed to add to the confusion--now we have KØGVB, KØVBG and KØGBG using the repeater at various times). Anyway, nice to hear you on two, Tom!

* * * * *

TWO LETTER CALLS FOR EXTRA CLASS

Extra Class Licensees who've been on the air at least 25 years will be the first to have their choice of open call signs as a result of FCC's Report and Order on Docket 20092 released late last week. The Report and Order, which becomes effective July 1, gives first priority to Extra Class licensees already eligible for a one-by-two (e.g., KLAA) callsign for a three-month period starting July 1. Then, after all those eligible during the first period have exercised their options (if they wished to) a second group, which includes all additional Extra Class licensees who were licensed as Extra Class by November 22, 1967, will be eligible to apply for the remaining callsigns of their choice.

Two additional three-month periods, the first for all who received their Extras on or before July 2, 1974 and the final for those who were Extras by July 1, 1976, follow. After that, presumedly, and Extra Class licensee no matter how short a time he's been licensed will be able to apply for the available callsign of his choice.

--HR Report

* * * * *

Seems to have been a flurry of rig-swapping in Iowa City as of late. WØOWG bought KØSVW's Brimstone 144, WBØQFQ sold his Brimstone 144 and bought SVW's Multi-2000. Rumor has it that SVW has ordered Kenwood's new do-everything 2 meter box, the TS-700. WBØHOG bought a Wilson HT from WNØRJA (who won it at last year's Cedar Valley Hamfest). And of course, KØGBG has a new Wilson HT (see stray above). Now if that isn't enough to get everyone totally confused, I don't know what is!!

* * * * *

HOME SECURITY, though perhaps not as dramatic a subject for Amateurs as mobile rig ripoffs, is none-the-less a major problem area. Home burglaries, like other crimes, are increasing at a rapid rate so a tip-filled pamphlet -- "Home Security Starts at Your Door" -- should be of interest to Amateurs as well as others. It's free from Consumer Information Center, Boulder, CO 81000.

--HR Report

RIVER CITY RADIO RAG, page 4

PROPAGATION

MAY 3 - 18

Current DX conditions should satisfy even the most demanding northern hemisphere DXer as we again pass through another period of good propagation. Oak explained the bonanza is mostly the result of seasonal effects combined with a period of exceptionally quiet geomagnetic conditions to enhance polar path propagation, source of much of North America's choicest DX. MUF's have not been abnormally high -- in fact they have been rather low, disappointing 21 and 28 MHz buffs -- but they have been just right for 14 MHz and lower frequencies.

Asian paths have been open both mornings and evenings and should continue to be through May. No particularly energetic sunspot groups are predicted and the last returning group was less active than expected, but frequent subflares will continue to enhance the low bands. Though 10 meters will get even worse for long hauls it'll be seeing more short skip popping through.

After the minor disturbance that should be just ending, conditions are expected to remain fairly stable throughout the period. Though it's a little early to tell at this point it does look like good conditions will continue for the Russian CQM contest coming up May 22-23.

--HR Report

* * * * *

The Iowa City community is losing another of its hams -- Jan Smith, WNØPXH, and his family will be moving to San Antonio, Texas in July. We are sorry to see you go, Jan, but wish you the best of luck in your new endeavors.

* * * * *

A solution to the co-channel interference problem between the Iowa City and Eldridge repeaters is promised as a result of the Iowa Repeater Council Meeting in Iowa City last Saturday. The Eldridge group will attempt to change their antenna pattern to reduce radiation in the direction of Iowa City.

* * * * *

REMEMBER the Iowa City Amateur Radio Club meeting Wednesday evening, May 12, 1976 at 7:30 in the First National Bank Community Room, 1117 William Street, Towncrest. Program: Field Day planning. See you all there!

* * * * *

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

LAST ISSUE FOR
Ø3-76 LABELS

Ø1-77

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