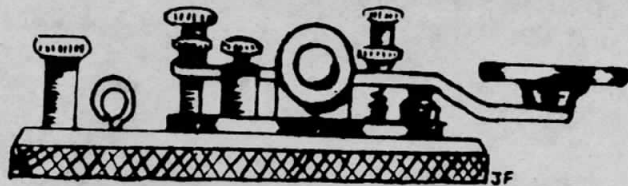


RIVER



CITY

RADIO RAG

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

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VOL. VI, No. 4 April, 1979

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT.....

Hi! Well, here it is time again for a few things of interest with Field Day coming up in June. We've got two places we tentatively can use, I guess. (There's a few more details that've got to be worked out.) Kent Park, which is west of town, and Scott Church Corner, which is the same place that we were at last year (about 5 miles east of Iowa City on Highway 6).

A Novice station is most welcome. It is a freebie as contacts go because the contacts we make on the Novice station are added to the list of contacts, and the extra transmitter does not add to the class of stations running at the time (If we have two transmitters running and the Novice station, we are still in the two transmitter class).

We would like to see more operators all night. Bring your tent and sleeping bag. Come and camp out under the stars with all the bugs. From 1 AM to 6 AM there's plenty of room for operators. We ran short last year. I think that we had or two that were trying to keep awake and running. If we had a couple or three more, it sure would help to keep things going.

This year it looks like it's going to be another one of the great Field Days. We've got some tentative plans to put up some pretty good antennas again, and we're gonna run a little power on the bands this year, so when we call WØJV somebody ought to come right back. We should make lots and lots of contacts. More at the next meeting, so don't miss it!

DE WBØZXU

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QST: EXERCISE TWISTER- May 6th is the date for the disaster drill sponsored by the Johnson County Civil Defense and the Iowa National Guard. The event will run from 1 to 3 Sunday afternoon. There will be three tornado sites- Coralville American Legion, West High School, and the Hills ball park. The tornado "victims" will be sent from these locations to the area hospitals (Mercy, University, and Vets). In addition, there will be an aide station set up at the National Guard Armory. The communications control point will be at the Coralville Police Station. Amateurs are needed in all the above locations. If you have an opportunity to participate, please do so. If you are not able to, perhaps you would be willing to lend some equipment to the cause. All amateurs are invited to attend. Please see our Emergency Coordinator, Dennis, WBØMCX (337-4777), for further information.

OPERATING NOTES: CONTESTS

Well, I guess I'm running out of things I know about, so it's time to plagiarize! Anybody out there an expert on anything? Not an expert? Either way, we'd be pleased to print your comments/article/discussion....

At any rate, Field Day is coming up in a couple of months, so it seems appropriate to say something about contesting. Not interested? Well, you better be, because there aint no way to avoid them unless you stick to two meter FM (even then occasionally competitive). On many weekends, most notably Field Day, non-contest operating seems to be of a secondary or almost nonexistent activity in the HF spectrum. If you can't lick 'em, join 'em!

Upon deciding to participate in a contest, the logical question is, "How can I win?" There are two ways: You can win by winning (very difficult), or you can win by losing (easily done). We'll try to give some indication of both methods here....

How to win (1): Take an inventory of your current holdings: Power, antenna (gain, directivity, height), receiver (selectivity, sensitivity, dynamic range), stamina (physical, emotional, mental), understanding of spouse, work area, padding on chair, and (if so included) booze and cigarettes. Got it? Double all of these (within legal limits) and you would be extremely lucky to win. Add 8 times your present operating skill and you have a chance

Now, those things you're supposed to double, can be with enough planning, time, budgeting, etc. The hooker is the operating skill. That can be gained by losing contests. What's lost in points and multipliers is gained in experience, which brings us around to our second way of winning....

How to win (2): Jump in ther and give it a try. A few hours of November Sweepstakes (CW and phone) participation will improve your copying ability due to the complicated exchange involved. Field Day boosts operating efficiency and immunity to QRM. The open CD party gives you a chance to learn from the best. Novices and Techs can participate in most contests, as well as the Novice Roundup. All of these, plus numerous other U.S. and DX events, have the fringe benefit of possibly picking up a new state or country. Best of all, it's fun.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (WØIO) met on March 6. The topics discussed included current funding of the club and plans for the upcoming year. After much discussion it was voted to expand the capabilities of WØIO with a two-meter multi-mode rig. This is to be obtained as soon as possible.

DE WBØYAX

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EVER WONDER HOW THE BUGS SEEM TO KNOW what was planted in your garden almost before you do? Earl, WDØAWF, has an article on the communications system bugs use. For instance, perhaps the spiny skin of the creatures serve as elaborate antenna systems. They transmit to each other (for mating purposes), and can receive the "wavelengths of radiation given off by your garden, telling them what's to eat and where it's located". The article explains how in the future, farmers may use transmitters to do the job of pesticides. Very interesting. If you're interested, see Earl or find a copy of the March issue of Organic Gardening.

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FROM HR REPORTS: DXing should continue to improve for 8-5ers with 14 MHz western Asian paths improving most noticeably. West-bound circuits on 21 & 28 MHz should be yielding some fine Pacific and Far Eastern treats.

FOR SALE: Cushcraft 22 element two meter beam, vertically polarized with rotator. \$50. Call Ray, WØWVG, 338-2880

WANTED: 20 meter beam or tribander. Call Wesley, KAØBYJ, 338-3084.

FOR SALE: Yaesu FRDX-400 RCVR, 160-10 meters, 2 meter FM, Oscar Freq., and CB. \$225. Call Wesley, KAØBYJ, 338-3084.

FOR SALE: 40 ft tilt over home built wood lattice tower with rotor plate for Ham II. Call Craig, KØCF, 351-8258.

WANTED: Temporary editor for the club newsletter. Appt begins with the June issue and ends with the August issue. Hours are not bad. Pay is crummy. But the satisfaction is great. Apply with Mary Ann, WDØGDL, 337-7678.

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ACCORDING TO ANCIENT INDIAN LEGEND and custom, when a brave wants to take a wife, he goes hunting for big game; skins the animal he kills and presents the hide to his intended. This story is about three of these Indian braves from long ago.

The first brave went out and killed a deer and presented the hide to his squaw. The second brave killed a moose and presented it to his squaw. The third brave was from a very wealthy tribe and chose to travel far away to Kenya for his hunting expedition. This third brave came home triumphantly with a hippopotomus hide.

The three couples settled down very happily and time passed. The three squaws in time gave birth to their first born children. The squaw of the deer hide had a beautiful baby boy; the squaw of the moose hide had a beautiful baby girl; the squaw of the hippopotomus hide twins- a boy and a girl! That proves that the squaw of the hippopotomus is equal to the sum of the squaws of the other two hides!

DE MARILYN, KB5DA

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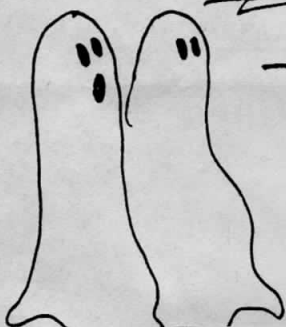
THE NEXT MEETING OF THE IOWA CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will be held on Wed. April 11 at 7:30 PM at the First National Bank, Towncrest branch. Gary, WDØAWH hopes the weather will permit the scheduled program. He says the program will be a "surprise".

WØIO meets the first Tuesday of the month in the shack, rm 4900, Engineering Bldg at 7:00 PM.

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"LOOK OUT!

HERE COMES THE SHORT WAVES."



transcribed

MURPHY'S CORNER

Murphy's Law of Circuits and Components:

If a circuit cannot fail, it will. A fail-safe circuit will destroy others. Components that must not and cannot be assembled improperly will be. The most delicate component will drop. A transistor protected by a fast acting fuse will protect the fuse by blowing first.

DE WØLFF

They'll Do It Every Time

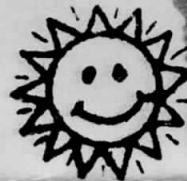


THE HUMAN FUSE

There once was a careless nitwitter
 Who accidentally sat on his transmitter
 When he shorted to ground
 He issued a sound
 Like the croon of a loon exmater.

(epitaph on the tomb of the unknown operator)

(DITS N DAHS)



Have a
 Nice Day

DE WOLFF

DE WBYAX

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THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE: Can you figure out the date the following statement was made? And on what day is this person's birthday?

"The day before yesterday I was twenty-two, but next year I'll be twenty-five."

SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE about the CW traffic handling operators....

The message was received at 10:01 AM since it was received while W5MNO had the curtain down to keep the sun out of his eyes. W7DEF worked all day, so he couldn't receive it. W8GHI was on the air from 9-11 at night only. The message was sent at 10:00 and received at 10:01, a total elapsed time of one minute, or a speed of 30 words per minute. Since W6ABC couldn't copy over 15 words per minute he is eliminated. W9JKL was nearsighted, therefore he couldn't have noted the time from across the room. W5MNO was eating crackers in bed. W7PQR received it. He had no job and could be on the air at the proper time.

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Iowa City Amateur Radio Club
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