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ALWAYS USE
ZIP



TELSTAR

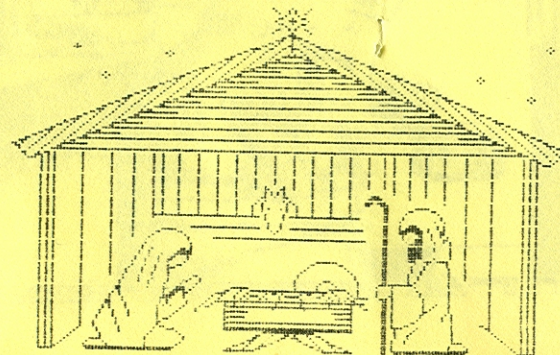
SouthTowns Amateur Radio Society

WE2ELW

December 1988 - #87

Business meeting = 5 December = 1930 hours = youth center
VOTING ON BY-LAW CHANGES
VOTING FOR OFFICERS
Board meeting = ? December = 1900 hours = youth center

MERRY CHRISTMAS



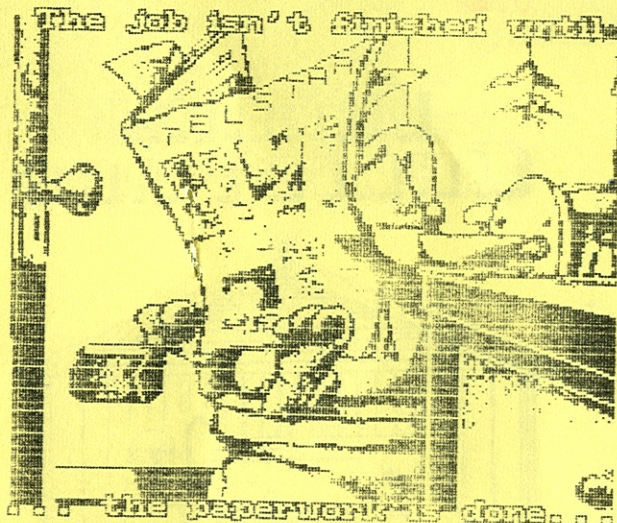
SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President = Bill Siska = N2GAO
Vice Pres. = Larry Shannon = K2KVS
Secretary = Dick Dukat = K2RDD
Treasurer = Mal Vallone = WA2VER
Fin. Secy. = Frank Modzelewski = WG2H
Director = Nick Stanko = N2IBC
Director = Voit Drankan = KA2WIO
Director (past President) = John Leitten = KA2RFT

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General Meeting = 1st Thursday = 1930 hours = Youth Center
Board Meeting = 4th Tuesday = 1900 hours = Youth Center
75 Meter Net = Each Saturday at 1000 hours = +/- 3925 khz
2 Meter Info Net = Each Wednesday at 1900 hours = 147.697.09
RAVE HOTLINE = 876 - 6593

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NEWSLETTER APPROACH



by Joe/N2BQJ

I find that this will be the last newsletter with me holding the post as editor. Did plan to hold this position until January but found that my success rate has bottom out so feel that there is no reason to continue.

Evaluation of Newsletters

What input is put into newsletters - minutes of their board and general membership meetings - various ARRL bulletins also appear. Kindly note that I am not knocking those who do as I have done the same thing at various times when I had to act as secretary. But for the most part no one seems to want to add their expertise or even their two cents worth to aid in assisting all the members.

what is said

what is done

One can hear at any meeting and/or gathering a descriptive eloquence of various activities related to the ham environment. Why can't these very same people contribute the same in an article to a newsletter and let everyone participate in your interests. Have heard many that are very humorous as well as interesting and am sure the greatest majority have not. Some of these are annual events which usually needs some assistance and perhaps your article could solicit some additional help. Too much input cannot depend on the editor as he or she is very narrow minded and seems to stick to their own interests.

Consolidation

Another approach in the newsletter field has occurred in many computer groups and that being to combine articles, ideas and so forth into one general newsletter to be sent to those very same groups. With that, they can take advantage, possibly, of bulk mailing rates, publishing expenses with each group paying its appropriate share as to membership, etc.

CONCLUSION

One minor note, I do not profess any desire to explore any possibility that could arise as I have been disappointed in the past



255 MAIN ST
MERRINGTON CT 06111



Entering the lobby of the main building what you immediately observe is the various antique equipment set in viewing cases. Just beyond all this appears the receptionist. At this desk can be purchased the ARRL manuals as well as pick up the freebies that are available. Should you wish to survey the premises, a guide is available and it is usually one of the staff. To my discredit, I failed to obtain the name of the individual who acted as guide. This building is the brainstay (ed note:- KA2LDL did not approve the use of this so-called term BUT I did) of the American Radio Relay League, and almost all of the operations of ARRL are carried on within its framework.

Here one can see how the layouts are prepared for the various publications and manuals, and all the other work involved. Here you can view how schematics are done as well as the circuit boards. Other items of interest = the room where much of the equipment is designed, built and tested = the testing of commercial built equipment = a room that is shielded to prevent any stray RF from entering and to insure quality testing of new and homebrew equipment for presentation in the various publications. At this point, one can also view all the various equipment that is used throughout this procedure.

Using QST as an example, everything is done here including the artwork, layout, etc., and then sent to the midwest for the actual printing and distribution.

Several copies are sent back here for review before the final printing and actual mailing. You have here an actual insight of all the offices that are handled by ARRL except its Washington DC office.

A huge computer framework is in operation to handle all the available data of the ARRL and it now in the process being updated to handle all future data it may need well into the next century.

Approximately 200 feet in front of this building and closer to

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the road sits station WIAW which houses various operating positions for use in an emergency, and so forth. In the center of this very same building is the main console which used for bulletins, code tests, etc. Another position present is a guest operating position that is available when WIAW is not in operation and the station operator permits it. More information can be obtained in the article appearing on page 49 on the October 1988 QST.

Because of time limitations, being there for about an hour as well as the fact we appeared close to their lunch hour many things were overlooked. Another good excuse (sound familiar?) is the fact I had not given any idea of writing this article so no notes were taken and this had been written from memory about two weeks after said event.

While on this tour we have had the opportunity of conversing with a ham from the Netherlands and came up with an interesting fact. It seems that it is prevalent among the foreign operators to form clubs which pay dues of about \$50 (U.S. equivalent) per year. The primary purpose for this venture is to obtain U.S., and other foreign periodicals and dues are used to acquire subscriptions to the various ham radio magazines such as QST, Ham Radio - to name a couple. All of these magazines are sent first class because of timeliness and with that the cost is somewhat prohibitive for the average ham to handle on his own. Copies are then made available to the respective club members and with that it makes it somewhat easier for all of the club members to partake of the various foreign (to them anyway) ham radio magazines that may attract their interest.



PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES



One of the proposed by-law changes deals with what I had already wrote up for the newsletter which would have gone out last month had I have gotten any input. The following is the contents of

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same:

BY-LAWS revisited

Have you read your by-laws lately? Believe me, I have and for quite sometime one particular by-law has plagued me and thought that I would voice my opinion regarding same while I still have the floor. The by-law in question is Article VI - Admendments. Will print the first sentence and it reads as follows: " This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING AND THE BY-LAWS MAY BE AMENDED IN THE SAME MANNER".

What follows is this - first and foremost - theoretically a non vote (member not voting) is a negative vote unless it is stated that a non-vote is an affirmative vote. Either way this is wrong as it is not imposing the will of those willing to vote. What has happened lately is that the by-laws that have been passed may not be the will of those willing to put time and effort into the organization. Apathy seems to be the norm and appears to be the rule of our organization.

The only thing now left is to change the by-law to read in part - "MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING, AND VOTING, ". Maybe that would be too easy but I feel that the membership who are interested should make the decisions and not some arbitrary and questionable vote that can be loaded and slanted. By-laws are meant to be changed according to the times and not remain stagnant. By the same token also feel they should be read at three regular meetings prior to action on same - by-laws should not be ramroded through.

While on the same subject how about Article IV - Meetings - Section 2 - Quorum? that, too, could stand some revision. In closing have you any thoughts on any of the by-laws.

The other proposal for a by-law change is to eliminate the twenty-five percent attendance of all members and set it at a figure of ten members. Many members are unable to attend meetings because of distance, work schedules, family obligations, and other priorities that may come to pass. At times, meetings were unable to be gotten underway because we were one or two members short of the required quorum. This proposal would prevent our club from becoming stagnant.

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Here it is December already, the last general meeting in 1988. The ballots are printed and ready to be used at the election. After the election is family night so bring the family and let them get acquainted with those that they have heard about. Also bring some finger food (potato chips, dip, brownies, cookies, etc.). Soft drinks, coffee, tea, hot chocolate will be supplied by the club.

We will now briefly review last years' activities. Nike base was opened Monday evenings during the summer but due to the 90 degree temperature there wasn't much action. One set of antennas was overhauled and working okay. There were some weekend activities when members came in early and operated the equipment.

The club participated in the bike-a-thon in the southern tier and enjoyed it very much. Some members joined the weather watch program and were invited to the weather bureau at the airport. One of our members started up a bulletin board on packet, if you have packet capabilities why not get on.

Our two meter antennas at the repeater site is getting an overhaul and am sure our two meter chairman will bring us up to date on that progress.

The two nets need more check-ins. The two meter net being held on our repeater every Wednesday at 7:00 PM and the 80 meter net meets Saturdays on 3.925 khz + or - QRM at 10:00 AM. STARS is a learning club and should you wish to take over the net let the net control operator know and you will be accommodated. It's fun, try it.

After all this time having a FB club paper, it was taken for granted that Joe, N28GJ, would continue the position of editor. Joe

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has found it impossible to continue. Does anyone want to take over? (ed note = if not, why not). I am sure that a club like ours can find at least one person who would volunteer to take up that position and continue along those lines for the club. Joe will assist, where possible, in getting it going so contact him.

The final report of Ham-O-Rama has not been made so hopefully it was a success.

Another important activity is the Volunteer Examination program wherein certain members are authorized by the ARRL to give the FCC Amateur Radio tests for upgrading. We are very fortunate to have Dick, W2UJR, as chairman of the VE program, in fact, he is also chairman of the Lancaster Radio Club and can coordinate tests sessions throughout the year so it presents no conflict. At present STARS has two sessions a year (April and November): Lancaster covers many oother months. If you wish to upgrade contact Matt, NS2M, or Guz, WB2EZU regarding any of the upcoming tests. This is all done on a volunteer basis they would enjoy seeing you upgrade.

Have you checked the expiration date on your ticket? REMEMBER the FCC does not notify you so it remains your responsibility.

Know that I have omitted other activities such as field days, speakers, etc. so please get involved.

Wishing everyone and their families a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Hope that Santa brings all a new transmitter.

See you all December 1st meeting.

FOLLOWING IS FROM THE
OCTOBER 1988 ISSUE OF QST

PAGE 41

TRAFFIC TOPIC

As traffic handlers, we pride ourselves in being ready for any emergency. Each and every time that we handle a message, check into a net, or perform some liaison function, it is the practice for the time when disaster strikes and "the chips are down".

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But there is a problem with this concept. We may be well-prepared and trained in the skills to handle emergency traffic, but will we be "on the air?" How many of the 1357 Official Relay Stations nationwide can relay anything when the local power company shuts down?

This lack of stations capable of operating on some form of emergency power is most acute in urban areas of the nation. Those of us who live in rural areas expect the power to go off several times a year. For a number of reasons, rural power lines are more subject to breakage than those in the cities. Conversely, since urban areas are less affected by power outages, the consequences are more severe and traumatic because of a lower level of preparedness.

The capability to operate independent of ac power lines means more than having a 2-meter handheld with a couple of battery packs. Traffic handlers would do well to look at the requirements for the Official Emergency Station appointment. While generally aimed at and applied for by those active in ARES, the rationale for this field appointment holds true for those of us in NTS.

I would suggest that any traffic handler should be able to operate a 2-meter rig, capable of ten watts ore more output, on battery power for a minimum of 48 hours. I am NOT talking about sitting in your car for two days, but transmitting from the comfort of your shack. Actually, this goal is relatively easy to accomplish. Deep cycle marine batteries and inexpensive trickle chargers are available from any auto parts store. In many cases, the cost of a battery and charger is less than buying the matching power supply for your rig. In addition, 12-volt accessories, such as clocks, can be run off this battery.

Likewise, thought should be given to running your HF rig off a 12-V supply. Here s, we should for the maximum battery capacity that we can afford. Again, batteries and trickle chargers are a viable alternative to buying the matching power supplies. A simple trick to extend battery life is to run your rig at less than its rated maximum output power. There is little difference in the reception of a 50-W signal versus a 100-W signal.

Of course, the ultimate would be a portable generator capable of running all your equipment. While this is the most expensive solution, it provides the greatest long-term capability for staying on the air.

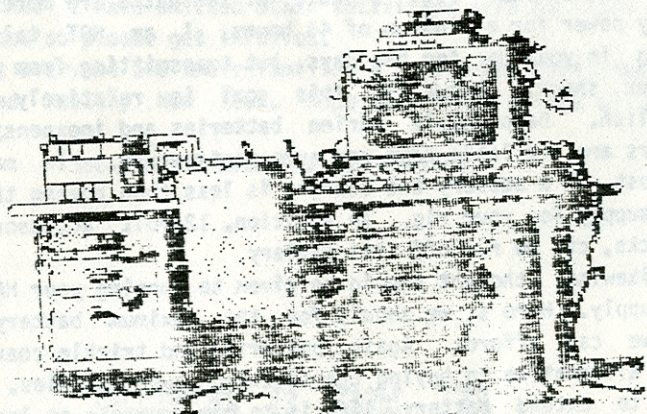
Let's work at equipping ourselves with emergency power. It would be a shame if all our training and expertise went for naught each and every time the commercial power went out.

Brad Wells, KR7L

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FOR STARS MEMBERS

YOUR ATTENTION IS CALLED TO THE CENTER SECTION FOR THE BALLOTS REGARDING THE BY-LAW CHANGES.



NO COMMENT

IN AS MUCH AS IT IS NOT KNOWN WHO WILL BE THE 1988 OFFICERS AND TELSTAR EDITOR

WILL BE PLEASE HOLD ALL NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENCE UNTIL THE SUCCESSORS ARE KNOWN

T-X-S J-E-N-E-E-L

HAPPY



NEW YEAR