

Holmesburg

Amateur Radio Club



Newsletter

146.685 MHZ

.....
VOL.1 NO. 2 MARCH EDITION
.....

.....THE PREZ SEZ

NOW THAT THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER FOR MARK WE ARE PLANNING A BETTER ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE THE CLUBS ACTIVITIES FOR 1981. WE WILL STRIVE FOR A LARGER MEMBERSHIP AND WITH THE ADDE FUNDS WE WILL TRY TO EXTEND TH N.E. HT COVERAGE. A PRESIDENT CAN NOT DO THIS ALONE , BUT IT TAKES THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP TO HELP FIANCIALY AS WELL AS TECHNICALLY. I WISH TO THANK ALL THE MEMBERS WHO WERE ACTIVLY INVOLVED LAST YEAR AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO 1981 BEING A BETTER YEAR FOR HARK
THANKS RICH WA3AOP

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THE NEW BOARD IS THE FOLLOWING
PRESIDENT WA3AOP RICH
VICE PRESIDENT WB3BDC RON
TRES. WA3IFY JAY
SEC. K3HIN RICH
ONE YEAR TRUSTEE K3AIJ TOM
TWO YEAR TRUSTEE WB3BYM JOHN
THREE YEAR TRUSTEE WB3ADN BOB
CONGRADULATIONS TO ALL!!!

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THE HOLMSBERG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED EVERY MONTH FOR THE MEMBERS AND THEIR FRIENDS TO BE INFORMED ABOUT THE CLUBS ACTIVITIES AND OTHER HAPPENING IN "HAM RADIO"

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HOT NEWS HOT NEWS HOT NEWS HOT NEWS HOT NEWS

THERE WILL BE A FAMILY PICNIC SOME TIME THIS SUMMER WE WILL GET BACK TO ALL AS SOON AS WE KNOW THE TIME AND DATE
THANKS : TOM K3AIJ

THE AUTOPATCH IS NOW EXTENDED OUTSIDE OF THE 215 AREA CODE IF YOU USE IT PLEASE LET JAY WA3IFY KNOW WHEN AND WHERE YOU CALLED.

EVERY THURSDAY AT 8:00P.M. THERE IS A TRAFFIC NET AFTER THE BULLETIN NET SO TUNE IN AND LEARN HOW TO CONDUCT TRAFFIC PROPERLY
THE NET IS CONDUCTED BY STEVE N3AZT

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Courtesy on the bands

Bob McGarvey, WB2EVF

Tuned down to about 28.480 MHz the other night and sat in on a pileup in reverse. Instead of being involved in it on the shouting end, I was just listening, which is what the law requires since the 10-meter American phone band doesn't go below 28.500.

A station in Havana, Cuba, was QRZing calls from Japan. Cuba and the rest of the islands, as well as Central America, are considered good DX by the Japanese amateurs.

At first it sounded like 11 meters, so many were calling, but then the differences became apparent.

When the Cuban operator picked out a call

from the thousands talking at once, dead silence followed except for the Japanese station being recognized.

The other Japanese amateurs shut up and let the fellow who was lucky enough to make the contact exchange information without accompanying chants from the 2s and the 5s, which is the American way of doing it.

The Japanese are courteous and good operators. Since they outnumber even Americans on the amateur bands, it's a good thing they have good manners.

It was a pleasure to listen to the competent Cuban handling literally hundreds of calls in the course of one evening.

All the exchanges were in English -- most of it spoken very well.

— *The Home News*

The fickle finger factor

Part 1: "Rotors never break when the weather is nice."

Part 2: "The same goes for antennas."

Part 3: "The higher your beam the surer it is to break."

Part 4: "He who buys a new piece of equipment usually sees it on sale in the next issue of QST."

Part 5: "He who wants rain should take his new rig out for Field Day."
— *TRWARC, Redondo Beach* □

..... SWAP SHOP

HEATHKIT TUBE CHECKER~ COST \$90.00 \$25.00

MILITARY TUBE CHECKER~ TV - 7B/U \$ R40.00

..... EDITORS NOTE!- PLEASE LETS HAVE THE JUNK YOU WANT TO GET RID OF. YOU NEVER KNOW WHO MIGHT WANT IT... SO ADVERTISE!COSTS YOU NOTHING!!!!!!!

I WISH TO THANK JAY WA3IFY AND TONY K3UKW FOR THERE UNDYING HELP IN GETTING US ARTICLES FOR THE PAPER.

Young amateur does it again

On 16 September, Neil Rapp, WB9VFG, finally got his Advanced license — at the ripe old age of 9. He had a rough time with the Advanced because of the new tests that have come out in the past two years, but finally mastered it at Louisville, Kentucky, his favorite testing site. Neil has many ham friends in the area, and chats with them on 2 meters when he gets in the area when going for testing. His favorite ham friend Ken Cundiff, WB9ZHL, was on hand to congratulate him at the FCC testing in Louisville. Ken recently arranged an escort (a county sheriff) to the motel and a congratulatory sign on the motel marquee in his honor.

Neil enjoys many phases of Amateur Radio. His favorite one now is sending and receiving messages. He has been involved in balloon flight traffic and boy scout convoys, enjoyed RTTY for a short time, and he and his Dad — Delbert, WB9UKG — are now getting into slow scan.

Neil is a 5th grade student at LaSalle Elementary School in Vincennes, Indiana. His other interests include being a Webelo Scout, playing the organ, doing magic and puppet shows, and taking part in church activities. He very much enjoys hamfests and recently won the youngest ham award for the fourth time at the Hoosier Hills Hamfest in Bedford, Indiana.

Neil's first contact with his new Advanced interim CPG ticket was his friend Fran Hazelwood, WB9RXG, Parkersburg, Illinois.

One of the amateurs in the Louisville area — Mark Smith, WB9UNS — made the statement a couple of years ago that if Neil ever got his Advanced ticket, he would throw his rig in the river, but when reminded of it the day Neil made it, he couldn't seem to remember. Getting forgetful, I guess.

As of now, Neil and his parents are all Advanced class. His Dad is stuck on the Extra code and his Mom has Extra code credit and working on the Extra theory. Neil is not in a hurry to increase his speed to 20 words a minute, but is getting his interest renewed to work his cousin Doug Hayes, KA9JJS, Mt. Vernon, Illinois who just received his Novice ticket at age 14.

Neil and his Mom — Margaret, WD9HEE (Happy Easter Egg) — are QSL Managers for their missionary friend Bob Sheffler, 5N5RNS, in Cross River State, Nigeria, West Africa. Bob was previously EL1C in Buchanan, Liberia. Neil is a member of CARF (Christian Amateur Radio Fellowship) — a group of amateurs who help missionaries.

Magnetic mounts

Lou Kurkijan, K6MXL

The Larson Magnetic Mounts are among the most popular used by VHF/UHF enthusiasts. If you are like me, over a period of time you will accidently crimp or cut the coax by shutting an automobile window or slamming a car door. Once you do that and have to change the coax, it is time to incorporate a modification that will make coax replacement easy.

The recommended solution is to replace the rubber grommet with a BNC bulkhead receptacle. This is easily done by a small amount of filing to increase the diameter of the grommet hole to accommodate the BNC receptacle. To access the coax within the mag mount base, the aluminum foil must be carefully peeled away. After the coax within the base is soldered to the BNC receptacle, the foil can be reinstalled using contact cement. When you are done, you have a universal magnetic mount base that interfaces with any BNC cable. If weather protection is necessary, the connector and receptacles can be wrapped with black electrical tape.

— Anaheim ARA, CA

About the 'new' code tests

Students preparing for a FCC code test should be aware that the format has been changed from a 10 question multiple choice exam to a 10 question fill-in-the-blank exam. This has already been reported in several publications (including Worldradio). However, we at Bash Educational Services are finding that the "new" code tests have apparent deliberate misspelling in them.

For example, you might be copying the test and the tape may say that the sender's profession is a writer but it is speed "writtek". Later, on the written portion of the code test, you could be asked for the sender's profession. If you write down "writer" instead of "writtek" you will miss the question. This exam expects verbatim copy.

Another example to be alert for is the QTH. The tape might say that the QTH was "Miami, Florida". If you answer the question as to what the QTH was with "Miami, Fla." you will miss the question. Likewise, if the tape says "Miami, Fla." and you write "Miami, Florida" you will also miss the question.

This information is not intended to compromise the code exams but to alert you to be especially careful to write down what you hear and not what you think you should see.

HOW TO GET YOUR MONEY'S WORTH OUT OF YOUR NICAD BATTERIES

(Published in Modern Photography 1981)

The first two tricks are basically housekeeping procedures, but they will still add materially to your satisfaction with your batteries performance, and will more likely extend their life as well.

First of all, tiny amounts of vapors that manage to escape from all nickel cadmium batteries as they are operated tend to react with their plating on their end caps, causing a high-resistance film to form. To keep the film from interfering with current flow, just give each end of every cell a brisk wipe with a rough rag each time you remove it for charging or checking. Needless to say, this only applies to removable cells and not to ones that are soldered in place. Obviously, no film can build across a soldered connection if it's done properly.

The second housekeeping trick is to keep those batteries dry. They can get wet in a sweaty pocket, in a swimming pool area, in the rain or in any number of high humidity situations. They will also condense moisture, just like a lens does, when brought into the house from the cold outdoors.

The moisture itself doesn't really do any harm to the battery but it can trigger the start of a potential cell-weakening reaction. As you may recall, nicads use a solution containing sodium hydroxide as an electrolyte. Well, sodium hydroxide just LOVES water and will react with it given the slightest opportunity. At the small end of your AA's there is an elastic seal which allows the safe release of any gasses that may be produced by overcharging or other causes. Under the right (that is unfavorable) conditions, moisture on the outside of the seal can find a path into the electrolyte and actually draw small amounts of it out of the cell, where it is left as a white deposit after reacting with the beleaguered end cap. The obvious preventive medicine is to dry the batteries off whenever they get wet. This is important because lost electrolyte can't be replaced. It is also recommended to mark the cells as pairs. Call the first pair 1's, the other pair 2's or whatever. Since the batteries are usually charged in pairs in many chargers, keeping the pairs intact makes it easier to keep track of the history of the batteries' service.

