



**HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.**  
**P.O. BOX 6253-PHILADELPHIA, PA., 19136**  
**(a non-profit corporation)**

# NEWSLETTER

MARCH

**THE PREZ SEZ:**

**1983**

First off, thanks to the rest of the club for allowing me to be the one to write this column for the next year.

We face a very interesting year to come. Many suggestions have already been made concerning such things as the meeting and net times, club activities (anyone for a HARC, Inc. hamfest?), changes to the repeater, and so forth. Please take the time to fill out and return the questionnaire in this issue.

Congratulations to those who have recently upgraded. Good work!

There are a lot of good things for HARC, Inc. on the horizon and I look forward to help from all of you in making those good things happen.

On behalf of myself and the rest of the Board of Directors, thanks for your faith in us, and see you at the banquet on the 26th.

73 de: WB1AOF/2 (/3?)

"HAM" for radio buffs is contraction, one theory holds.

A recent issue of the Gazorche edited by Doug Moore, KA2JUR, of the Rome Amateur Radio Club traced the origin of the word "ham." Reminded of the many times readers have asked where the name ham came from and the various stories about it, I believe this report is one of the most plausible.

This version reveals the word "ham" as applied to amateur radio, dates back to 1908 and was the call letters of the first amateur wireless station operated by some members of the Harvard Wireless Club. They were Albert S. Hyman, Bob Alny, and Reggy Murray.

They first called their station Hyman-Alny-Murray, but tapping out such a long name in code called for a revision. Thus they changed their sign to Hy-Al-Mu, using the first two letters of each name.

#### CONFUSED WITH THE MEXICAN SHIP

Early on, some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless HyAlMu and the Mexican Ship Hyalmo. The boys then decided to use only the first letter of each name and it became HAM.

In the early days of radio, amateur operators picked their own frequency and their own call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations.

The resulting confusion and interference finally came to the attention of Congressional committees. They gave much attention to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur activities.

Reprinted from Ecars by WA3IFY

**146.685 MHz**



Nuts, Bolts, and other loose things

I've been asked to write a monthly column. When I inquired of the subject matter I was told, "anything you care to write about would be fine." Such daring-do should not be ignored. Anyone leaving the barn-door THAT wide open deserves to be taken.

So for a while, you will read a pot-~~forri~~ of things until we get our feet planted firmly upon something of substance (as if that will ever happen). Your suggestions and contributions will be greatly appreciated.

Some random thoughts while turning the dials: What if the Indians had 2 meter FM and our repeater during the 1800's? Would they have beaten the U.S. Cavalry? Custer was a banana. If electricity is nothing more than the flow of electrons- how come they don't leak out of the wall socket when you pull the plug? Why is bad weather the best time to do antenna work? It must be-everyone does it. How come the hams I know with the most and best equipment don't use it much? Did you ever wonder why a ham breaks into a QSO only to tell all he doesn't have anything to say? Why, after 3 days of troubleshooting a problem, is it fair for a friend to walk in and put his finger on the one component you didn't check; and fix the rig? How do wives know just when to call you for dinner? Usually when you're almost sure of making a great BX contact, that's when.

Ran a fever one night. High enough to keep me home from work the next day but not enough to keep me off the air. Woke up next morning with laryngitis and couldn't talk. Soap operas are terrible. So is my CW. Went through my junk box yesterday and threw out a lot of stuff. I'll need all of it tomorrow. The stuff I kept- I'll never use. Why, when you start saving for a new rig, do they raise prices just when you almost have enough?

Buyer Beware! In my short time as a ham I've learned the following: MINT condition means it was dropped only once. FAIR means the knobs are lost and there is no manual- and still dropped only once. NEEDS A LITTLE WORK means it comes to you loose in a cigar box but all the parts are there... I think.

Have you ever noticed that most of our members have expensive hobbies- including ham radio? Have you also noticed they can't afford them- including ham radio? Ray-WB2NBJ(of You can call me Ray or you can call me Jay-fame) had a cute line one day on the machine. He said his mother used to tell him she would trade him for a Bag of Rags if he was bad. Anyone collect lines like that? My mother wouldn't trade ME for a bag of rags. She gave me to the Gypsies, instead. Three times, to be exact. They kept giving me back. While with them, I did learn the most secret recipe for Chicken Lips, which I swore to take to the grave, so please don't ask for it on the repeater. Of course if you will give me your VISA account number I'm sure we can work something out.

Enough of this silliness. While I have your attention, may I thank one and all who were concerned about my grandson, Jonathan. He's doing super-good and is a joy to us all. How one little guy can affect so many lives is a wonder. Do you think it's too soon to send him an ARRL study guide?

Maybe I'll see ya next month. 73 till then

Dick, WB3EYI

HARC NEWS BRIEFS by K3RBO

Well, hello again readers! You will be pleased to know that through the acquisition of a "new" typewriter, you will no longer have to squint to read my article. It still makes no sense, but at least the letters will be clear. Well, I have a lot of news to report, even though the Banquet will have occurred after this is written. (I don't think I will be sober enough to read or write after the Banquet, and the deadline is the 15th, so I am writing now).

First of all, there's the election. What a squeaker! I never thought I would make it, but I guess that in the end, the members saw that I was the only logical choice. After all, Edwin Muskie wasn't running. So, at any rate, you have a very hopeful and dedicated slate of officers who will do their best to keep the club moving forward. You will make that extra difference. You will find a questionnaire in the newsletter, which should be filled out and returned. If enough people want to change the meeting day, time, or format, it will be done, because this is your choice. Likewise with the weekly nets. We would like to set up some acting net control stations, who can take over the net if Jim, N2BVA cannot make the net for some reason. It would also be great, if we could get someone who receives W5YI report, or the ARRL bulletins, to bring these to the net, so that Jim's job would be a little easier.

Well, on to other nonsense... I understand that Dick, WB3EVY was highly indignant over being called the club comedian. Wait till you read his article elsewhere in this issue, and see for yourself if I wasn't telling the truth.

Next comes the into the barrel of slop, out with the diamond ring story. It involves Bernie, our resident legal expert who is too good for Buffalo (too eloquent? That's rich). Anyway, here's our hero, Bernie, coming home from a lawyers convention, when in the airport, suddenly has an adverse reaction to the food he has eaten. He begins a panicky trip to the rest room, to relieve his distress. Just at the critical point, the door to the Men's Room, a silver haired gentlemen is blocking his way. Bernie yells for the man to let him by, but the urgent request is ignored. Well, needless to say, the man was given Bernie's autograph. Which was good, too, because the victim was none other than a veteran showman, Captain Kangaroo. And after the Captain had cleaned of his pants, even relented to giving Bernie his autograph. I guess fair is fair.....

Did you hear Lou on the air making a trip to the National Aquarium in Baltimore? If you add two and two, because of Lou's continual involvement with boats and fishing, you will realize that Lou was visiting relatives at the aquarium. Glub, Glub!

Well, this month I have ticked off the general membership by being elected in charge of Vice, and WB3EVY, WA2BAK and W2FVJ in particular. I'll wait for my letter-bombs to arrive.

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
**BUY/SELL/TRADE/WANTED/JOBS**



SALE: 2Meter TRANSCEIVER

KDK FM-2016A, PLL Synthesized 144- 148 MHz  
 4 memory channels, w/scanning of memories  
 Hi/Lo power (1/15W), RIT, Disc. meter,  
 many more features. Also complete with  
 Touch tone mike ALL for \$190.00

Paul K3RBO 215-671-0268

SALE: MICROCOMPUTER, SINCLAIR ZX81, complete with 16K RAM  
 pack, video switch box, all cables and power supply.  
 Also comes complete with owners manual and three  
 ZX81 texts. Also three Sync magazines devoted to the  
 computer. Just connect it to any TV set and you are  
 ready to learn computing. A real bargain at \$100.00  
 for the entire package.  
 PAUL- K3RBO 215-671-0268

AUCTIONEER K3YLL / HARVEY

REMINDER \*\*\*\*\*

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR ODDS AND ENDS TO THE MARCH MEETING!  
 WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A "WHITE ELEPHANT SALE. TURN YOUR UNUSED  
 EQUIPMENT INTO CASH OR BUY THAT LITTLE GADGET YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.  
 JUST BRING IT IN, TAGGED WITH YOUR CALL LETTERS, AND A MINIMUM PRICE.  
 SOLD A BARGAIN!

**BE THERE!**

Heard Island, the DXCC country that has  
 been on just about everyone's "need list,"  
 has been invaded by two separate DXpeditions  
 as we've reported in the last two issues.  
 DXpeditions operating 20-meter phone almost  
 always use frequencies near the bottom of the  
 American phone band (14.200 MHz). On at  
 least two evenings last week VKØJS was  
 transmitting near 14.190 MHz and listening  
 between 14.200 and 14.220 MHz. As might be  
 expected, the pile up was incredible with

contacts going to the skilled operators and  
 those with strong signals. Meanwhile, VKØHI  
 from the other DXpedition was located on  
 14.284 MHz, listening and transmitting on the  
 same frequency. Few of the DXers realized  
 he was there. Often he called CQ two or  
 three times between contacts because no one  
 was answering him. He worked stations using  
 dipole antennas with 100-watt class transmitters  
 and some running as little power as 2  
 watts. Meanwhile, back at the ranch...



# THE ARRL LETTER

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Volume 2 Number 4

February 17, 1983

## ☆☆ E.C. DISCUSSES NO-CODE OPTIONS ☆☆

The ARRL Executive Committee met February 12 in Burlingame, CA (San Francisco) to discuss and act on an agenda of 14 items.

The committee discussed at length the options open to the amateur community in light of the FCC's apparent determination to create some form of no-code license. Deciding there were numerous options open to the ARRL, the EC directed the staff to prepare an "options paper" cataloguing possible responses and to circulate this paper to the ARRL Board. The Board will determine the official course of action at its regular meeting the week before the deadline for filing comments (April 29).

Counsel Imlay reviewed the status of local litigation and regulation of Amateur Radio (tower and zoning cases). Cerritos, CA has placed a four month moratorium on granting construction permits for antenna installations, which was imposed while a new, reportedly more restrictive ordinance was being drafted. Local amateurs filed suit to overturn the moratorium. The Federal judge dismissed the suit, in part, because the moratorium would be more than half over before any judgment could be rendered.

The EC concluded that the position of the Cerritos City Council appears to be unlawful. The committee resolved to entertain a request for "matching fund" financial support to fight any ordinance adopted in Cerritos which is substantially more restrictive than that originally adopted by the City Council on December 2, 1981. This ordinance was a compromise between the City Council and the local amateur community.

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**Attention personal computer owners.** Compuserve's HAMNET will feature a discussion of the Fort Lauderdale (FL) packet repeater system February 27 at 7 PM EST. It will be hosted by WA4FIB and K4GFG.  
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.....  
This list (released February 15) shows the last call sign in each group to be assigned for each district, as of the first of February.

Dist.	A	B	C	D
Ø	KYØC	KDØEZ	NØELW	KAØPQU
1	KO1A	KB1GD	N1COG	KA1JWN
2	KY2V	KC2WI	N2ECW	KA2RIZ
3	KM3V	KC3GD	N3DQG	KA3KPL
4	WM4A	KF4SF	N4IHS	KB4EAF
5	NE5M	KD5WE	N5FQQ	KA5QBM
6	NS6D	KF6KK	N6ICO	KA6YUZ
7	NB7B	KD7GL	N7EYK	KA7PJB
8	NA8D	KD8DJ	N8ERG	KA8ROK
9	KS9P	KC9XN	N9DTA	KA9OZM
HI	WH6H	AH6EO	KH6WR	WH6AVQ
AK	WL7Q	AL7ES	NL7AD	WL7AYX

A violation in one radio service can result in the loss of another radio service license. That's what Jerry J. Wells, ex-KØMGQ; Walter Norman Russell, ex-WA6WPN and Bernard J. Winner, ex-WD8CMB found out on February 9.

All three amateurs also held CB licenses. Wells and Winner were cited for violations of amateur regulations and Russell violated CB regulations.

In all three cases, Administrative Law Judges and the FCC Review Board had previously said that the Commission lacked the authority to revoke a license in one service for a violation which occurred in another. The Private Radio Bureau requested that the Commission review the cases, and the Commission agreed with the Bureau's reasoning. The Commission and the Private Radio Bureau believe that willful violations of the FCC rules in one service would ultimately lead to violations in another service.

Editor.  
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## The Way You May Take Future Tests

The FCC recently released the full text of its Volunteer Exam Proposal, PR Docket 83-27. There are few surprises, the major difference between FCC and ARRL proposals being the proposed creation of complete exams by the Commission -- ARRL wanted to create an infinite number of tests by computer sampling. (Docket 82-727 treats changes to the Novice examination system).

The FCC will act as the Big Brother of the program, overseeing its operation with minimal cost and involvement. It proposes to

\*accredit Volunteer Exam Coordinators (VECs) to interface between Volunteer Examiners and the Commission.

\*design examinations based on publicly issued lists of approved questions.

The FCC may also continue to administer exams itself, and it may refuse to accept the services of any Volunteer Examiner.

Volunteer Exam Coordinators (VECs) will be entities of a national scope, such as the ARRL, QCWA, IEEE, and others. They will

\*accredit Volunteer Examiners.

\*assemble, print, and distribute exams for the FCC.

\*keep records of exams and certify successful completion.

\*screen for accuracy and forward successful applications to the FCC.

\*grant interim, 90-day operating permits.

\*grant code-element credit.

Volunteer Examiners (VEs) will actually give exams throughout the FCC's jurisdiction. Their services will be "voluntary and uncompensated," and they won't be considered Federal employees. VEs must be accredited by a VEC and will

\*specify exam times, dates and location.

\*be present and observe candidates throughout exams.

\*stop the exam at any impropriety.

\*prepare send-and-receive code tests.

Exams will be administered by a team of three accredited VEs. The team chief, an Extra Class licensee, must keep records for one year of each exam he or she gives. VEs must hold higher class licenses than the test they are giving, except that Generals can't administer Technician exams. In the case of Extra Class exams, all VEs must hold Extra Class licenses. Examiners will grade tests immediately, with 74% still being the minimum passing grade. VEs will submit applications within 10 days to the VEC. VEs must be at least 18 and unrelated to the applicants. They may not be an employee of or hold a significant interest in Amateur Radio related enterprises.

Comment deadline for this proceeding is April 8; Reply comments are due on May 9.

ARRL will supply the complete NPRM text to anyone requesting it with a business-size s.a.s.e. with 54¢ postage.

On January 26, the FCC's Review Board overturned Administrative Law Judge Joseph P. Gonzalez's order revoking David Hildebrand, N6BHU's, Amateur Radio license.

The case is of urgent interest to radio amateurs because it holds that cases establishing the illegality of "indecent" language in the context of broadcasting cannot be carried over to private radio matters. This would make it almost impossible for the FCC to revoke an amateur's license for indecent or offensive language.

The Private Radio Bureau, which handles amateur and CB matters, plans to appeal to the full Commission. The ARRL will assist the Bureau in reversing this dangerous precedent.

THIS SPACE WAITING  
FOR YOU TO FILL IT.



# HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER

## H.A.R.C. QUESTIONNAIRE

Well, members, never let it be said that H.A.R.C. is not democratic. You will again have your chance to tell the officers of the club what your interests are, and what activities you would like to see. It is also your chance to offer some of your time to help out with some of these activities. Please fill out the attached questionnaire and mail it to H.A.R.C. P.O. Box 6253, Phila., Pa. 19136

### PRIMARY INTERESTS (Yes or No, or check those that apply)

I joined HARC primarily for the following reason(s):  
The repeater \_\_\_\_\_ The Autopatch \_\_\_\_\_ Club activities \_\_\_\_\_  
Public service events \_\_\_\_\_ Ham radio theory \_\_\_\_\_

### MEETING TIME

I like the present day and time of the HARC meeting \_\_\_\_\_  
I would prefer the following day of the week for meetings \_\_\_\_\_  
I would prefer the following time of day for the meetings \_\_\_\_\_  
I would prefer quarterly meetings \_\_\_\_\_

### NET ACTIVITY

I like the present night and time for the weekly bulleting net \_\_\_\_\_  
I would prefer the following night and time for the net \_\_\_\_\_  
I would like to be a net control station on an occasional basis \_\_\_\_\_  
I would like to present bulletins or information to the nets \_\_\_\_\_  
Things I would like to hear more of during the nets \_\_\_\_\_

### MEETING ACTIVITIES

Things I would like to see more of at the meetings \_\_\_\_\_  
Would you like to see : Talks \_\_\_\_\_ Slide shows \_\_\_\_\_  
Building projects \_\_\_\_\_ Code practice \_\_\_\_\_  
Auctions \_\_\_\_\_ Theory lessons \_\_\_\_\_

### SIGN ME UP :

I'd like to help out with the:  
Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Programs \_\_\_\_\_  
Nets \_\_\_\_\_ Special Events \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_

remove  
with care

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# NEWSLETTER

month  
year

MARCH

1983

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$3.00 PER YEAR

LISTING ITEMS IN "SWAP SHOP": FREE

Deadline for Articles: 15<sup>th</sup> of Month

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### CLUB OFFICERS

THIS SPACE TO BE REVISED NEXT MONTH TO INCLUDE YOUR  
NEW OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES.

remove  
with care