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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is a publication of the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Anything that is printed in this paper may be reprinted providing the proper credit is given.

Deadline for Articles: Delivered to the P.O.Box 6253 address by the 15th of each month. You may send directly to the Editor at 585 Kismet Road, Phila. PA 19115.

Editor reserves the right to edit, reject, reduce, etc. all items to be published. WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT!!

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-HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.NEWSLETTER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

bels, I found out that I had made a very

As I was preparing several batches of la-

grave error on some ones name; the person proceeded to send not I but someone else in the club not one, but two letters telling the party that it was wrong and should be corrected at once if not sooner. The person does lots and lots of work for the club and got very upset, which was not necessary. I don't know why some people in this club think we get paid for this. One letter was enough, the correction when it is given to me takes several months - if you want to know why give me a call. We also have one or two members that go around telling other members that they can't come to board meetings, etc. These members are the biggest pain in the a--; they cry the most and are always calling someone at their business or home to complain.

In finishing, let me say this, if you feel that we are not doing a good job "PLEASE" take over the job and if anyone tells you that you can't come to a board meeting tell the pompass a-- that you pay dues also.

Rich, K3HIN

Re your article in March HARC newsletter. The RDF idea is a good one. I would be glad to get some gear (doppler or other type) to be part of the team. Two problems have to be solved. What kind of alerting or signaling system could we develop to get the bearings and not reveal what was going on; and, after we get bearings and go right to the offending QTH, what could we do? FCC won't act unless they hear the guy and if we do anything the local police will defend the offender!! Maybe there are ways I'm not up on! At any rate, count me in. On call books, I have latest foreign and domestic on hand for reference until Club gets its copies. A good idea. Why not have the tail end of weekly net used for stations needing call book information. Station could mention they need info when checking in or during comments and NCS could re-call those stations after regular net is closed. NCS could hold call books. Okay, you heard from me.

73, George, W3HK

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THIS MONTH IN THE HARC NEWSLETTER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
The Prez Sez
BREAKFAST MEETING
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR
DUCKLESS , Paul Rothman, K3RBO
Buy-Sell-Trade
Back Cover Graphics, Paul K3RBO
7

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NEWSLETTER

THE PREZ SEZ

Over the last few months I've attended several large gatherings of ham operators, including the DAYTON HAMVENTION at the end of April. There is something of interest to share with you.

Are you aware that current ranks of ham radio operators is down by 70,000? There seems to be a lack of newcomers as well. Generally, ham radio dealers report that new equipment sales is off by 33.3 to 40 percent. Some manufacturers are, no doubt, beginning to work closly at ROI (Return on Investment). The market is shrinking drastically and some of the importers are worrying about when manufacturers are going to conclude that servicing the ham market isn't worth the investment.

Recently, DRAKE dropped out of the market; next year, who knows?

The ARRL is undergoing a tremendous restructuring and have offered a special incentive to our club to bring in new blood and people to our hobby, during 1985. To summarize, the treasury will benefit if we take action and participate in this program. For each new member we sign up, we will receive \$5.00 and points to qualify for incentives through the year from the ARRL.For each renewal or a membership we will receive \$2.00, so take a few minutes and join or renew and do it through the HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, Inc.

Please come out and participate in the General Membership Meetings and make this activity worthwhile. Keep in mind that the meetings have been streamlined to appeal to your interest (I hope) offering something of an educational, fraternal or social atmosphere. If you would prefer to go a couple of rounds, our trainings are wide open to you at the Director's Meetings. Call our attention to your request either in person, through the mail or to the attention of an Officer... the people you elected to do the job.

Tony Musero, K3UKW President

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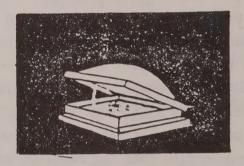
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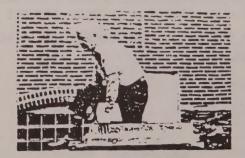
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TO ROOF

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DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE JUNE 9 MEETING?



FAST MEETING WITH
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ATLANT IC DIVISION
MANAGER
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POSSIBLY THE MAYOR
OF PHILADEL PHIA.
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

If you think this is a skimppy issue of the MARC Newsletter your right! The reason is that not enough people contribute articles and I am tired of having to constantly beg people to contibute articles for publication. We desperatly need someone to summerize club news from board meetings news of members etc. We need equipment review articles. We need a public service editor. In short we need writers! I feel that if the present trend continues I will not be able to serve as editor of the MARC Newsletter. Please HELP!

73

Mark Rothstein ,KC3JV

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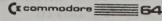
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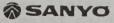
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HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. NEWSLETTER

DUCKLESS

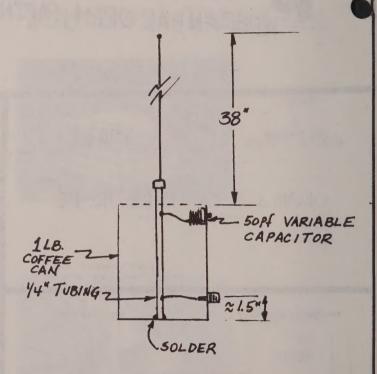
Have you had a rough time getting in to the repeater with your 1.5 watts and rubber duck antenna? It is not an uncommon problem, and should not be a mystery. I am more surprised that the the side of the can. Don't connect fool rubberized contraption works at all. It is the saddest immitation of an effective radiator of radio waves ever conceived by modern man. It has very limited application, much as two tin cans tied together with string. And it makes for good conversation-"I'm only using an HT with a rubber duck, am I making the repeater?" Chances are that you are not! Notice how you say "only a rubber duck"?

But there is an answer, and many of you have seen and heard my solution. A coffee can. .. Yes, you heard me, a COFFEE CAN. I am not claiming to have discovered this very effective antenna. Credit goes to a ham who published his invention in '73 magazine in May 1983. But I have built the half wave coffee can antenna, and I can happily report that it is one of the few articles in the mags that lives up to its expectations. This antenna has the following advantages over a rubber duck:

- · It has gain.
- · It can be positioned in the best location for good radiation.
- It does not require a ground reference, like most ground planes, 5/8 wave antennas, etc.
- · It is cheap to build
- It is portable(I have taken it on camping trips and worked repeaters 30 miles away with 1.5 watts).

So, here is the coffee can special. It requires a one-pound coffee can (any brand will do), a miniature air variable capacitor (50pf), a length of 1/4" copper tubing, a coax connector, and a 36" whip, such as used for a CB antenna (excuse the expression). As the figure below shows, the tubing is soldered into the bottom of the can (drill a 1/4" hole first). The coax connector is next mounted through a

hole about an inch from the bottom of the wire to the center conductor yet, as some adjustment of the position of this "tap" is required for lowest SWR. The variable capacitor is mounted as close to the top of the can as possible, and a wire is attached to the center conductorat the top of the can. About two inches of the tubing should extend outside the can, as the radiator has to be 38" long.



CAN SPECIAL

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After assembling the unit, attach a length of coax, and connect an SWR bridge. With the bottom "tap" connection temporarily connected to the center conductor about 1.5" from the bottom, apply power and adjust the capacitor for minimum SWR. If the dip is not low enough, try moving the tap point up or down until a good match is obtained. After you are finished. connect up your HT, and place the antenna on your window sill. You are now ready to blast everyone's ears off, and the only time you'll ever be heard saying you're using a rubber duck is when you're at the repeater site.

Here's listening to ya,

Paul, K3RBO

