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THE MOUNT BEACON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
 POST OFFICE BOX 841
 WAPPINGERS FALLS, NEW YORK 12590

NEXT MEETING
 DECEMBER 16th 7:30 PM
 FISHKILL

WR2ABB Mt. Beacon 146.37/.97
 WA2JKN/R Poughkeepsie 147.645/.045
 WB2BQW/R Mt. Beacon 444.575/449.575
 WA2AHR/R Beekman 222.32/223.92 (under test)

DECEMBER 16th MEETING 7:30 PM
 MT. BEACON CLUB REFORMED CHURCH
 FISHKILL - (EDUCATION BUILDING)
 ROUTE 52 JUST WEST OF ROUTE 9

DEC 1979

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President	Gary	WA2UGO
Vice President	Walt	K2DPL
Secretary	Tom	W2GIJ
Treasurer	Art	WA2TIF
Dir. of Engrng.	Frank	W2GIO
Editor	Wes	WB20IA



FROM OUR PRESIDENT
 Gary WA2UGO



PUBLIC SERVICE - 1979
 Walt K2DPL

Well, 1979 is rapidly drawing to a close with our public service activities ended for the year. It was a good year both in terms of making the activities we supported successful and also in terms of the high level of support and participation from the membership. This year 33 members, or approximately 14 % of the membership volunteered their time and expertise. Typical examples of the events covered are as follows:

- American Heart Association Bike-A-Thon
- 7th Annual Marist College X-C Invitational
- Section 1 X-C Meet
- 1979 Intl. Aerobatic Club Competition

Our communications coverage has been very well appreciated and recognized as essential to make the events cohesive as well as being key in getting help, if needed, to the right spot very quickly. We are especially effective in covering activities which cover a large expanse where visual contact with the participants can't be maintained from some central location. Besides being appreciated and adding value to those events one can really have a fun time. Next year I'll be looking to further increase the participation and share the fun.

TREASURER'S REPORT
 Art WA2TIF

Members payments of dues since the last roster and to Oct. 29th include K2AHW (A), N2BFG (A), W2GS (F), WA2DCM (F), K2DNR (A), W2GAH (F), WB2JIV (F), WA2KPB (F), WB2SGG (F), W2TVK (F), and N2YL (Y).

Membership changes include WA2BGE (A→F).

Additional new members include WA2AEQ (A), N2BDW (F), WA2CWT (A), W2FNF (F), WB2HWK (F), WB3IGI (A), KB2JG (F), and WB2VXK (A).

As to finances, the club is solvent but could use more members for their dues towards our engineering activities.

Hello to all, and thank you for all the support in my new office. As most of you know I've been installed in this position in mid-stream. If it has not been clarified to all, Jerry WB2TZA had to resign his Presidency due to personal problems. I want to thank Jerry both personally and on behalf of the club for his service to us. By the way, Jerry has promised to be back some time in the future, - we sure hope so.

Some of the changes I plan to make initially follow below. I have given much thought to these additions and changes, have discussed them with your present officers, and hope to hear from the membership with their pros and cons.

The first thing will be to streamline the club's business, i.e., shorter time devoted to business at our meetings and more time to both socialize and have special speakers and demonstrations. One way in which these changes will occur is to add four more elected club officers called the Board of Directors. These four members together with our present five officers will take the burden of business away from the meetings and leave more time for other less boring activities. With this new change in club policy some By-law changes will be necessary, so please be at the December 16th meeting to voice your opinions.

We will also implement a new membership committee. This committee's job will be to promote new membership with mailings and on-the-air promotion. They will be supplied with membership applications and should help boost our current roster and bank balance.

Another thing on the horizon will be a new location for our annual hamfest. Both myself and our hamfest chairman met recently with the Director of the Dutchess County Fair Grounds. We have received permission to use their facilities for our annual hamfest and auction. Due to the massive size of the fairground and its proximity to large populated areas it could eventually become one of the largest hamfests in the Northeast. I urge each of you to give Fred WA2MEX your help in organizing and running the event. The returns should be immeasurable both financially and personally.

I'm now going to try to get as interesting a special topic as possible for our December 16th meeting. Hope to see you all there, and remember, we run on volunteers, -don't let a few guys carry your share. Volunteer and get involved, or the club isn't a club but a clique.

PUTNAM COUNTY REPEATER
Chuck KB2KW

In the past there has been very little activity in the Putnam County area for amateur radio operators in emergency communications. We have formed a new organization from the ground floor and are now implementing plans.

As the Emergency Coördinator of Putnam County I have been working with the SCM-ENY, Guy Olinger K2AV, to establish a working group of amateurs who are interested in public service to our community. We have adopted as our name the Putnam Emergency and Amateur Repeater League (PEARL).

The organization and present radio club works around the new repeater WA2URH/R on 144.53/145.13. At present the repeater is located in Carmel at the home of the trustee Bruce Wilson WA2URH and has been operational (off and on) for 3 months. [Ed. Note: See QST Aug. 1978 p. 112] Like all machines it has its problems, but Bruce is carefully working out all the bugs. We hope to have it fully operational shortly barring any further interruptions from Mr. "Murphy".

We plan to move the repeater to another temporary location, at N2BDW's in Lake Carmel, sometime in November. The tower has already been erected and the site prepared. At this writing all we need is an enclosure to house the repeater and a little relief from "Murphy".

Possible future plans include moving WA2URH/R to a permanent location, upgrading equipment, tone access, auto patch and sub-carrier RTTY, depending on membership and funding.

Providing repeater coverage good enough for HT use and emergency communications over all of Putnam County is one of the objectives, and we hope that all amateurs in this area will support this community minded project.

Another objective is to provide coverage from north of the Putnam ridges and south to White Plains area to serve those who commute this distance everyday.

Your interest and enthusiasm for helpful service is greatly needed. The next meeting of PEARL is on November 30th. Please contact

Charles H. Johansen, Jr. KB2KW
Emergency Coördinator, Putnam County
Woodland Dr.; Lake Carmel NY 10512
telephone 914/225-5352

VHF CONTESTING

Anyone interested in VHF contesting and hill-topping please contact Art WA2TIF or Ed WB2GXF. They are putting plans together for 50, 144, 220, 432, 1296, 2302 and 10 kHz.

COMMENTS ON 147.645/.045
Lou WA2JKN

The repeater was down for 2½ weeks in October for engineering changes. The transmitter power is now one-half of maximum in order to keep the machine on the air.

Autopatch policy has basically no change. You must ask for a control operator before making any call, including a test call, - the only exception is an actual emergency. I see this as the only way to comply with FCC regulations and still keep the patch available at all times for emergency use. A log of the phone call must still be sent to me.

This was the first event of its kind for the Mt. Beacon club to my knowledge. The hunt was moderately hard. The mobiles, of which there were only two, started on the early afternoon of Sept. 16th from the Holiday Inn just south of Poughkeepsie. Three fixed stations also participated, but did not help the mobiles per the ground rules of the hunt.

The hidden transmitter was located in Greenvale Park, slightly south of due east from the starting point, approx. 4 miles away. This park is located in the town of Pok. off rte. 376, approx. 1 mile north of Red Oaks Mill.

The winner of the hunt was Herb K2GBH & his XYL Barbara WA2KCL, with second place going to Ed WB2FJT. Both mobiles won ARRL publications. The hidden transmitters were Art WA2TIF and Ed WB2GXF operating on 146.52 & .55, respectively. Fixed stations were Wes WB2OIA, Doug & OM Elmer WB2KMY & WA2YSM, and Don WB2FAK. Those that participated had a good time (the mobiles helped OPEC!) and I believe a lot was learned by all.

Participation was too small and somewhat disappointing in our opinion. We wonder what it takes to get people out to this type of event, - maybe the readers can answer that one, we would appreciate feedback. There were not any other major local events that conflicted with the time or date.

The next hidden transmitter hunt should include mobiles and fixed stations working together. When should we hold another one?

[Editor's Note: The hidden transmitter hunt above clearly showed by the hours required by mobile units to succeed that a cooperating net of base stations might be an advantage in coordinating mobile efforts. I feel that what would be desirable would be a listing of 2-meter base stations with advantageous height at an outlying distance from Mt. Beacon as well as close in and with a good second mode of inter-communication. Those seriously concerned please comment to Art WA2TIF, Ed WB2GXF, and/or Wes WB2OIA.]

OAKLAND TRANSMITTER HUNT
Art W2ZYC

The Oakland NJ WR2AMI transmitter hunt of Oct. 14th involved ½ dozen participants, most using "Doppler" scan equipment. The transmitter was found in about ½ hour, but we were foiled because of its location, would you believe in a baby carriage complete with mother seated on a park bench guarding her Teddy bear, yes, Teddy bear.

The most difficult part, it seems, is the last few feet. Some of the locations previously used were hollow trees, piles of junk with reeds slid over the antenna to hide it, a culvert pipe, and even hoisted into a dense tree with a fish line.

A GROWING TREND ?

Marty K2MI uses a tone decoder for blocking audio to the speaker on 146.97, -access is via tone pad digit 6 held for 5 seconds.

Wes WB2OIA uses the circuit from HAM RADIO magazine of Nov. 1978 pp. 64-65 to block audio from 146.97 on weekends, -access is via tone pad digit 2 held for 5 seconds. This connects the speaker of a "Weatheradio" (Radio Shack 12-181A) modified per W2QAQ for monitoring on two meters.

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

Frank W2GIO

STOP PRESS

I guess everyone is asking how is the new repeater coming for installation on the hill. Well, here is the story. First we had to dream up what the whole system would look like. Several meetings were held with contributions from K2NW, W2RTE, W2HBY, WA2JKN, K2OIX, WA2QPP, WA2ZJZ, WB2ZVI, WB2JIV, K2JXU, K2BXE, WB2WQV, WA2EDN, AJ2J, WB2EUL, and KA2CGZ. The following projects and people are contributing to the new microprocessor controlled system (the .045 repeater microprocessor will be changed from a 6800 Motorola to a Z-80/TRS 80 compatible system).

Chuck K2NW is building a new CPU card for the .045 repeater for installation of the new Z-80 microprocessor. He is also modifying the program where needed. Chuck is also writing the program that will be used on the hill. Chuck is using his own TRS 80 to write the program. Barry W2HBY is building a TRS 80 interface card that will allow the new programs to be executed using the TRS 80 in place of the computer and memory card that normally controls the machine. The card cage should be ready soon along with Chuck's program (85 % complete now) allowing building to be started shortly.

Lou WA2JKN and Ken WA2NHB are working on a touch toneTM decoder card using a single crystal controlled chip instead of 567's.

Dick K2JXU is working on the audio switcher card design. This will allow linking between machines on the hill and common use of auto-patch on all machines. Dick will need some people to wire wrap several cards that will be identical.

Howie K2OIX and Ted WA2QPP are documenting the required audio and logic control levels needed to run the new Motorola MICOR .37/.97 repeater. Bill WA2AHR, Mark WA2ZJZ, and Brian WA2NKB are documenting the required audio and logic control levels needed to operate the 220 repeater. Ike WB2BQW is documenting the required audio and logic control levels needed to operate the 450 repeater. Knowing the audio and logic control levels of each of the 3 repeaters, Bob WB2ZVI will design an interface card for each machine to work with the microprocessor signals.

Bill WB2GOJ is building a 'PROM' programmer which will be used to write the control program into the microprocessor memory chips. George KA2CGZ is procuring and building the card rack and frame that will contain the microprocessor and audio switch cards, etc.

Al WA2NSM and Bill K2BXE are working on getting 12 volt battery back-up power to run the whole system on the hill if power goes out.

On other matters, Clay WA2KPB is working on our 10 meter repeater design, and he welcomes help.

That's where we are now. The Engineering Committee still needs more help, so if you see something you want to help with please contact me or whoever is working on the project.

We would also like to hear from people with four-wheel-drive vehicles; thanks to Mike WB2DKL for transportation on the last trip up the hill.