



LENOIR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



JIM ROGERS, N4EUX, EDITOR
ROUTE 7, BOX 481, LENOIR, N. C.

Volume 1, NR 8

August 1986

NEWS/VIEWS/RAMBLINGS

We, as people, often become routinized (venacular term...in 'a rut!) and as such, often narrowly channel our activities on ham radio to one particular aspect of our hobby to the extent that we can not converse with other hams in their particular field of expertise. There is no way, of course, to become proficient in all areas of ham radio and I am not suggesting such. However, when we limit ourselves to just 75 meters, or just RTTY, or just CW, or just 2 meters, or just SSB, or what have you, we are not gaining the full potential of enjoyment from our hobby. Naturally, we have our favorite bands, modes, etc., but why not try something new and/or different? We don't have to forsake our favorite hangout and it may surprise you to find out that a different method of operation may become your favorite! Why not try your hand again at CW if it has been a long time since using that mode. Or how about trying RTTY, or ATV, or how about joining a traffic net or maybe even participating in the pioneering work of Packet radio?

I know, in the years gone by, if I found myself molting in one particular aspect of ham radio, I would leave it for awhile, exploring some other type operation, and then when I returned to the aspect I had left, I found it fresh, invigorating, and once again...interesting.

Such was the case when I grew tired of SSB, 15 and 20 meters, DX'ing, phone patching, traffic net operation, and so forth. For awhile, I abandoned those things for an upstart called FM VHF, repeaters, and all the jargon that accompanied this "new" type operation on the ham bands (this was around 1969 or so). I enjoyed it immensely, and for awhile, all my operation was directed to six meter activities (AM and FM) and later to 2 meter operation when surplus Duke Power FM mobile equipment became plentiful (handhelds were around too, but they were converted commercial equipment too...and usually expensive. No synthesized scanning type handhelds to fit in your back pocket or shirt pocket as are available today!).

Eventually, I saw that I was becoming channelized on VHF as I had done on SSB on the low bands. This was no good either, so I made up my mind to "rotate" into different fields of ham radio, if for no reason other than to prevent stagnation in any one field. As a result, I like all modes of operation and all bands. Oh, to be sure, there are some parts of ham radio I have never touched such as ATV, DSCAR, and UHF. Nor have I ever really enjoyed 20 meters, or for that matter...10 meters. But I would be the last person to

ENJOY YOUR HOBBY...DIVERSIFY

In the July Newsletter, Alice McCoy (Mike's mother), was reported to have taken and passed her Novice exam and was waiting for her Novice ticket. In fact, it was the TECHNICIAN exam she stood and is now the holder of a brand new call, N4OJD. Sorry about that Mrs. McCoy! See you on two meters and the novice frequencies!

NOTICES/COMING EVENTS

The next regular meeting of LARC is August 1st, Friday, 7:30 PM, at Blackwelder Memorial Hospital (2nd floor). We shall have on the program that night a seminar conducted by Greg Sellars, WB4HRR, on the subject of "Hamwatch", "Skywarn", and other public service oriented activities. Greg is very dedicated to public service and serving his fellow beings through Ham Radio. It should prove to be an interesting program and your attendance is invited to lend your support to Greg and LARC. Thanks to Duane, N4AVU, our program chairman, for helping to arrange for Greg's appearance.

Also, at the September meeting of LARC, we plan to have a program presented by none other than our own Mike, N4FAX. As most of you know, Mike is the Emergency Coordinator for Caldwell County and his program will detail the activities of state-wide and local emergency work of the ARES. Mike also has connections with the local EMS and Sheriff's department. As such, he has been appointed as the chairman of our newly instituted Emergency Communications Team (aided by George, N4OJM, and Mike, AA4TW).

Incidentally, for those of you who (ahem) missed the last club meeting, we are affiliating ourselves (LARC) with the EMS-Sheriff's department and, as such, have a working agreement with them to aid in times of emergencies. We shall have a room at our disposal at their facilities (EOC) and we are currently in the process of procuring a 2-meter antenna to be mounted permanently atop the EOC building. This may tie in perfectly with a future Hamwatch program and working with the local authorities. Will keep you posted.

Well, the Breakfast Club is no more...not on a scheduled basis at any rate. Due to lack of interest and attendance, it has slipped into oblivion. Participation had been dwindling steadily (compared to the original 12-14 present when first initiated) to the point that only George, N4OJM, his wife, and I were the only ones that showed up the last two meetings (and we didn't find each other at the last one even though we were both there. Hi!). Oh, I will probably still go to SHONEY'S to partake of their excellent breakfast bar on the first Saturday of every month (except August). So feel free to join me at 8:00 AM (Right George?)

say that I wouldn't try or enjoy those things in the future. Right now, AMTOR and Packet look mighty tempting, although I am still enjoying 2 meter repeater operation, RTTY on 80 meters, and SSB. A return to re-sample six meter AM and FM is an interesting thought. Now let's see---where was that OST article on 220 and 440 operation.....

---Jim, N4EUX

HAPPENINGS/TIDBITS

First, an apology. Last month, in the newsletter, I inadvertently changed the meeting day of the July meeting of the LARC. I am sorry if this caused any inconvenience to anyone. I did go to the meeting place on the day it should have been but no one showed up that day for the meeting, so it is gratifying that members are reading and abiding by the newsletter. Hi. But to reiterate the correct regular meeting day of the LARC, and in accordance with the newly adopted Constitution & Bylaws, the meeting shall be on the first day of the month unless the first falls on a weekend or holiday in which case the regular scheduled meeting will be the following monday. The President is empowered by the Bylaws to change the regular meeting time, date, place, etc., but this would be only in unforeseen extenuating circumstances or special occasions.

Speaking of the Constitution and Bylaws...at the last meeting the second reading was conducted, revised, and then voted on by those present. We now have a viable set of rules for our club to guide us in our activities. If you don't have an up-to-date copy as voted upon at the July 7th meeting, please see the club secretary, Susan, at the next meeting or give her a landline for a copy. Our thanks goes to the now-dissolved Bylaw committee (chaired by Jewel, N4NJD) who compiled, revised, and edited the proposed draft(s). Jewel was aided by club and committee members Jean, Sybil, and Susan. Nice job!

A membership roster of the LARC is being attached to this newsletter. Please detach it and file it for your use in contacting other club members should the need arise. If any information is incorrect, please let me know! Thanks.

OK. They are in! The new calls for the group that stood examinations this past May 31 at Valdese are as follows:

James Bradshaw, N4NIN.....to Advanced.....No call change
Susan Bradshaw, KB4SFY.....to Technician....New call N4QJN
Mark Bradshaw, N4NJE.....to Advanced.....New call KJ4WY
George Fuderer, KB4SFX.....to Technician....New call N4QJM
Jean Ayers, KB4SFW.....to Technician....New call N4QJL

The next major hamfests within 75 miles of Lenoir for the months of August and September are:

August 30,31.....Shelby, N. C.

September.....None

The Shelby hamfest, often touted as the "granddaddy of them all", is rich in used equipment and tailgaters (the Charlotte Hamfest has much more new-equipment dealers) but it always proves to be a good fest. If you can't find the piece of used equipment at the Shelby fest, it can't be found. Hi. See you there! And dont forget the Asheville Hamfest July 26 & 27th!

Summer time is a bad time to try to schedule activities, ham radio or otherwise, and I suppose Novice classes are no exception. Sadly, the new Novice Class which was to begin at CCC & TI didn't "make" due to having only half the required number of prospective students to sign up. It was disappointing to those that did sign up (and to me!). Perhaps a new and more aggressive effort may be in the offing after the first of the year. Thanks goes to Mike, AA4TW, for his time, effort, and expense in publicizing the class here in Lenoir and surrounds and to Keith Proctor (LARC member) of Hickory who saw to it that the commercial radio stations there gave us a lot of free air time promoting the demised class. Thanks fellas.

CLASSIFIED

WANTED: Ads to be placed in this section. Whatcha got to sell or want to buy?? It's free and the only requirement is that it must be electronic in nature... Ed. (1)

FOR SALE: Atari 800XL 64K computer with built-in basic language. This unit can be your gateway to RTTY and computing. Unit is brand new and still in box. Originally listed for \$299, but I bought it as a "close-out" from an out-of-town store. Can be yours for only \$65. Jim Rogers, N4EUX, 758-5320. (2)

Note: To place ads in this section, please be sure I have the ad copy in hand no later than the 20th of each month since the Newsletter will be produced and distributed just prior to the monthly club meeting on the first day of each month. Place your ad on a 3 X 5 index card and either give to me at a club meeting, mail to me at Route 7, Box 481, Lenoir, N.C. 28645, or call me at home, 758-5320.

An ad placed in this section will automatically run for two months unless ad is cancelled earlier by person placing the ad. Thanks -