



THE WATT



CALVERT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
March 2013

ASSOCIATION QSO

The March 7, 2013 Meeting was attended by 17 members plus a guest speaker Carl K6CRS. Carl from Voice of America VOA presented members with information on MARS (Military Affiliated Radio System). Carl wrapped up his presentation by inviting CARA members to join MARS operators on the air on Armed Forces Day, May 11. Members interested in becoming a MARS member can contact Carl at aar3mm@crsradio.net for more information.

Ron WA4PRR provided cookies for the break and Dave KB3RAN won the 50/50 and donated his winnings to the Association. The members present, on behalf of the club thanked the organizers of the Fox Hunt antenna build project Brian KB3WFV, Ron WA4PRR and Shawn N3AE as well as Dave W3PQS for editing a video of the build. The video is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rAZLoFRoPM>

All of the bills for last year's repairs and upgrades to the repeater have been paid. Club President W3PQS asked members for donations to replenish the association funds. Check your email for a letter sent to all members with this request. If you can help offset the cost of repairing the repeater please contact club treasurer Dick W3RBR with your donation.

The meeting wrapped up with Peter KB3SXB volunteering to be the cookie monster for the April meeting,

Volunteers are Needed!

Committees are now forming for CARA events. It is the dedication of CARA members who work on these committees that continue to make CARA one of the best amateur radio clubs in Southern Maryland.

Help plan these events and volunteer to join a committee today.

Contact any CARA board member to join an event committee.

Thank you for supporting the Calvert Amateur Radio Association.

Please remember that membership renewals are due. If you have not sent in your dues please bring them to the March 7th meeting. If you know of someone that may be interested in CARA please encourage them to join CARA.

The next general meeting will be held April 4th 2013 at 7:30pm at the County Services Building in Prince Fredrick.

Be sure to check out the CARA website at www.k3cal.org or keep an eye on the newsletter and an ear on the repeater for more information

73 – KB3WFV

Calvert Amateur Radio Association Offering a Technician Class April 17 through June 5

Calvert Amateur Radio Association (CARA) is holding a technician class for entry-level ham radio. This class will cover Technician License exam, basic regulations, operating practices and electronics theory, with a focus on VHF and UHF applications. **Morse code is not required for this license.**

With a Technician Class license, you will have all ham radio privileges above 30 MHz. These privileges include the very popular 2-meter band. Many Technician licensees enjoy using small (2 meter) hand-held and car radios to stay in touch with other hams in their area.

Calvert Amateur Radio Association has a 2-meter repeater that covers all of Calvert County. You will earn the privilege to operate on this repeater after taking this class and passing the final exam. The Technicians may operate FM voice, digital packet (**computers**), **television**, **single-sideband voice** and several other interesting modes. You can even make international radio contacts via satellites, using relatively simple station equipment.

Calvert Amateur Radio Association also has a club station in Sunderland, MD, at the Mt. Hope Community Center, located at 104 Pushaw Station Rd. After you receive your entry-level technician license, you will be able to use the Club's radio station and make contacts around the world with both voice and digital communications with a computer. Classes will start April 17th and run through June 5th. The class will meet once a week for eight weeks. The final test will be given on Saturday, June 10. The class will be held at the County Services Building at 150 Main St., Prince Frederick, Maryland. Class will start at 7 PM and go to 9 PM on Wednesdays.

If you would like to sign up for this class, please contact David Weaver at 240-882-0484 or Bill Hackett at 443-404-1047 before April 17. If you would like to visit the Club station or attend a meeting, please call or visit our website at WWW.K3CAL@org

David Weaver
W3PQS

Fox Hunt Antenna Project –

The March 2nd Fox Hunt antenna project build meeting was great fun. About a dozen CARA members met at the Mt. Hope Community Center in Sunderland Maryland and assembled the 3 element yagi using tape measures and pvc pipe. In the weeks that followed several of these antennas were heard on the air checking into the CARA net.

Dave W3PQS and Brian KB3WFV performed some testing with the antenna and a fox transmitter. The results were very positive. CARA plans to hold a practice Fox Hunt on April 20th @ 2pm at Hollowing Point Park in Prince Fredrick. The Fox Hunt will be held on May 4th.

Bring your HT and the tape measure beam or a hand held directional antenna and learn some tips and tricks to Radio Direction Finding.

Fox Hunt Practice
April 20th
2pm
Hallowing Point Park



Hope to see you there
KB3WFV

CQ CQ CQ – CARA news and announcements

- The time has come for membership renewals. Membership renewals/registration forms have been sent out by e-mail. Please be sure to fill out the forms and send in your club dues. Don't have the forms ? You can find the membership application forms and more information about a CARA membership on the CARA web site or click on the link provided for you here: [K3CAL Join CARA](#)
- Be sure to join the CARA net every Monday night @ 7:00 pm on the 146.985 repeater, negative offset with a 156.7 PL.
- CARA breakfast meetings are held every third Saturday of the month. At Dream Weavers in Prince Fredrick
- The next Association general meeting will be held April 4th 2013 @ 7:30 pm at The County Services Building in Prince Fredrick Maryland.

- Up Coming CARA Events

April 17th **Technicians Classes (every Wednesday thru June 5th)**
April 20th **Fox Hunt Practice**
May 4th **CARA First Annual Fox Hunt**
June 22 - 23 **Field Day**
Aug 10 - 11 **Maryland QSO Party**
Aug 17 -18 **ILLW Lighthouse weekend**

On The Air – How to Stuff a Ham

In December of 2012 CARA held their annual Holiday Party. CARA members and their families enjoyed several selections of great food prepared by fellow club members. Bob N3PPH and his Wife Terri collected some of the recipes for the dishes that were served at the party and have compiled them into the list below.

If you have a recipe that is sure to Stuff a Ham radio operator please email it to me at kb3wfv@yahoo.com and I will place it in an upcoming newsletter.

Enjoy!

Snausages

From – Shawn & Marge Donley

3 cups Bisquick
 1 lb hot sausage
 3 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese

Combine all ingredients and form into balls.
 Bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 min until light brown.

Brie and Apricot Appetizer

From – Shawn & Marge

One wedge or round of Brie cheese
 3/4 cup of apricot jam (less if using a wedge of cheese)

Take skin off top and sides of Brie with knife
 Put Brie in an oven safe dish or bowl

Generously spread apricot jam over the Brie
Heat at 375 deg for 10-15 minutes until Brie is soft but not runny.
Can also microwave if desired.
Serve warm with assorted crackers for dipping

White Trash

From – Bob & Sally Balint

You can use any kind of snack mix or cereal of your choice
(I used 2 different kinds of Chex Mix and a can of peanuts.)

You also need:

2 bags of white chocolate chips

1 Tablespoon oil

Mix the snack mix together in a bowl

Put the white chocolate chips in a microwave safe bowl

Add the oil and heat for about 2 min.

Pour the chocolate over the mix and stir until covered.

Spread the mix out on waxpaper until it hardens.

Break into pieces and enjoy.

Cheesy Potatoes

From – Bob & Sally Balint

2 bags of frozen hashbrown potatoes

2 cans of cheese soup

1 can of evaporated milk

1 can of french fried onions

Mix the potatoes, cheese soup, milk, and half of the onions.

Cook in a crockpot for 4 hrs. (high) or 8 hrs. (low)

Add meat if desired. Add remaining onions before serving.

Almond Roca Candy

From – Dave & Cammie Weaver

1 cup butter (keep cold)

1 cup sugar

4-5 oz. whole almonds

- 3 Hershey Bars
- 1 cup finely chopped pecans

Heat in an iron skillet (a regular skillet will do) butter, sugar, and almonds, over medium-high heat. Stir constantly. Ingredients will melt and gradually blend together. Keep stirring. When mixture thickens and becomes a medium tan/toffee color (10 to 15 min.), pour onto a cookie sheet. Spread the mixture with a spoon. It won't cover end to end. Place broken pieces of chocolate bar on top, allow to melt, and then spread evenly over toffee. Sprinkle with chopped nuts. Chill at least 2 hours and then break into pieces.

Pumpkin Dip

From – Bob & Terri Sheskin

- 1 (8oz) package of cream cheese softened
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 (15oz) can solid pack pumpkin
- 1 Tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1 Tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 teaspoon frozen orange juice concentrate or orange extract

In a food processor or mixer blend cream cheese and confectioners' sugar until smooth. Gradually mix in the pumpkin. Stir in the cinnamon, pumpkin pie spice, and orange until smooth and well blended. Chill until time to serve. Serve with – ginger snaps or graham crackers

73- KB3WV

ARES REPORT – Dennis Bowling - N3QHC



The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

The Following are notes on the ARES meeting from Dennis

CALV ARES MEETING

The March 2013 ARES Meeting was attended by 8 members.

Bill/N3XMZ, RO, reviewed a Power Point presentation for NIMS 100b to the group. There were 3 members present that has not completed this R.A.C.E.S required NIMS training. These three individuals will study more at home then take the NIMS 100b test online. The review of NIMS 100b was an excellent review for the rest attending this training.

Dave/KB3RAN, has completed NIMS 100b and NIMS 200 recently via successfully completely these courses at home. Congratulations Dave!

It is required of our R.A.C.E.S. team to complete NIMS 100, 200, 700 and 800 to be compliant for ALL having a Calvert County R.A.C.E.S. Badge. If you have not started your course work please do so quickly. We need to have ALL CALVERT R.A.C.E.S. members compliant by completing these courses. When you do receive your Certification Certificate, please send copy to Sandy Gott at the EOC as well as RO Bill/N3XMZ and EC Dennis/N3QHC.

Another topic of discussion was how to fill out a SITREP message. Our weekly ARES Nets will include at least one SITREP exercise message on our weekly nets. We will attempt to go slow so everyone can copy the message. Speaking slowly giving a message is not an easy task. If you like to hear an example how quick messages are being passed, listen to next COMMEX* on the Central Region Net, CRN, on the SECOND TUESDAY at 1930-Hours (L) on the AARC repeater, 147.105 MHz, (+), PL 102.7 kHz. On our CALV ARES Nets we will begin by going slow and give an opportunity to send SITREP messages over the next few months.

There is also three other messages or record keeping we will be discussing in the near future. For example, NIMS suggests that we keep radio logs during an event so if the radio operator is relieved the next operator can read the log to answer questions if asked. We are taking little steps to get everyone up to speed. We just need you to attend these training sessions at our meetings and on the nets to be better communicators.

The COMMEX Drill is the monthly RACES Drill among the MDC Central Region EOC's only. In other word, listen at your home but do not transmit. You can listen to the one hour per month that R.A.C.E.S. can practice according to FCC Rules & Regulations.

Jim/K3UGA brought the new ARRL Hi-Visual Green vest to show at the meeting tonight. CALV ARES is requiring anyone participating in an Exercise or Public Service event that is working on or near a road to wear a green hi-visual vest. Maryland SHA requires this color to be worn when near roads. You can use any manufacture of these vest as long as they are the hi-vis green color. In addition,

having a vest stored in your vehicle provides added safety in case you need to be outside your vehicle with traffic nearby.



Examples of two types of vest from the [ARRL Store](http://www.arrl.org).

Jim/K3UGA said anyone interested in taking the ARRL course in Emergency Communication can do so by visiting >

<http://www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog>

* COMMEX Exercises operated from September to April. No COMMEX Exercises occur in May, June, July or August.

SKYWARN – Jack KB3WUM



Many Americans feel the effects of severe weather every year. To obtain critical weather information, NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, established SKYWARN

SKYWARN is a volunteer program with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

Spotter classes for our area have been canceled until further notice but for now here is some useful information.

SEVERE STORM REPORTING

Reporting Severe Thunderstorms and Tornadoes

When to call

Hail:

A thunderstorm is producing hail (stones of ice) larger than a pea. Use coins to compare your hail size. A severe thunderstorm begins at quarter size or one (1) inch. Once hail becomes larger than coins, compare it to balls such as a golf ball (1.75 inches), tennis ball, softball, etc. On rare occasions, thunderstorms can drop enough hail to begin accumulating like snow. You might report that you have pea size hail but it is now 3 inches deep on the ground!

Wind:

A thunderstorm is causing winds to gust to 60 mph (50 kts) or greater. Estimating winds is difficult. We prefer a measured wind report using an anemometer. If you do not have one, report any wind damage such as to trees (large branches down, trees snapped or uprooted) or damage to property (shingles torn off, etc.) If considerable damage has occurred, if possible, report how large an area seemed to be affected or if you witnessed it, the events that you saw and heard.

Tornadoes and funnel clouds:

On rare occasions, thunderstorms will produce funnel clouds which sometimes touch down as a tornado over land or a waterspout over rivers, lakes, and the bay. A wall cloud is sometimes a precursor to severe weather. A funnel cloud appears as a pendant (or funnel) lowering from a thunderstorm cloud and it is spinning or rotating. Report this! If the rotating winds are touching the ground, it is a "tornado". The funnel cloud need not be visibly touching the ground for a tornado to be on the ground. Look for rotating debris rising up from the ground. Report this immediately!

Damage:

Any storm related damage should be reported. While it is best to have the report close to the event so we can use the information to assist us with issuing warning, the damage report is also important for publishing storm data and research purposes. Therefore, we want this information regardless of how old it might be.*

Who to Report to

You can send an email to LWX-Report@noaa.gov To leave a report but call 800 253 7091 if it is a wind, hail, or tornado report .

I'll try to keep you informed of any Skywarn class rescheduling dates.

73 KB3WUM

The Amateur Behind The Microphone –

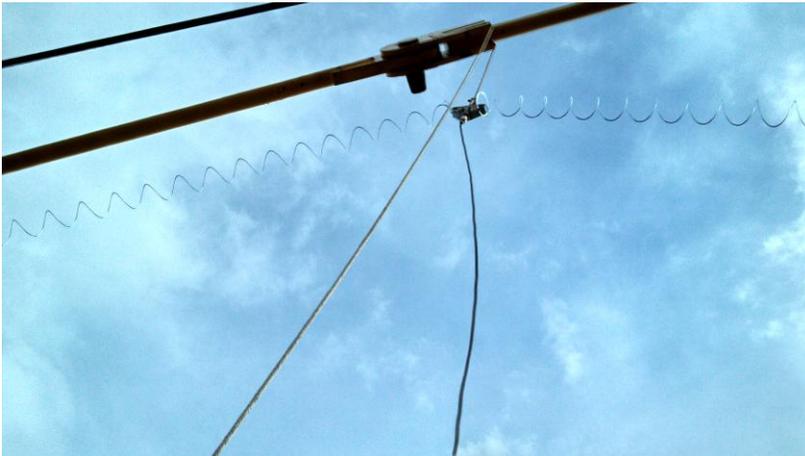


Many of you already know that Jack KB3WUM is crane operator. His current job assignment has him operating a tower crane on a job site in downtown DC. Sitting in a crane 200 feet above the street in a ham radio operators ultimate shack. Jack has passed a long some photos and a brief description of the antenna(s) and radio set up in the tower crane ham shack.

Jack KB3WUM writes.....

The photos show the Icom IC-706MIIG, the Opek HCS-100 and the center fed Slinky dipole. I left out photos of the little biddy 1/4 wave magnet mount 2 meter antenna sitting atop of my cab because it's just not sexy enough.

The Slinky antenna started out as a horizontal dipole but when it didn't want to play nice with the AT-180 I changed it a little to make it an inverted V and that made enough of a change to let me tune 40,20,17,15 & 6 meter bands. Some of the higher frequencies don't tune very well so the vertical HCS-100 has to take the lead on 10,12.



I have had the radio and antennas set up for a few weeks now and they are a lot of fun. Many contacts have been put into the log and I have yet another reason to go to "WORK"

The crane is located at the National Gallery of Art, downtown Washington DC. Total height is 180 feet above the street level (ASL). That is also the height of the mounting point of the HCS-100 vertical antenna for a tip height of 198' ASL. The feed point to the Slinky dipole is an estimated height of 168' ASL and comes down at approximately 35° angles. Not shown in any of the photos is



the 1/4 wave 2 meter antenna on top of the operators cab at 150' ASL.

I love my job and I love my hobby and feel very fortunate to be able to combine the two most of the time. I think my next antenna project will be in end fed random length wire to try to pick up 160 & 80 meter bands. Wish me luck.

73 de kb3wum, getting high for a living.

The Blind Side – Stray RF and White Noise from KB3WFV

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Everybody Lighten Up!!!

By K4ZDH

I've been listening to several big contests lately, checking in to a number of nets and generally just listening around during this season where I winterized everything around here that's going to get winterized, and the days fly into the Christmas.

This is also the season when 40 meters gets a little fluky and often changes within half an hour. So I'm hearing all the whining about contests, mostly from those who apparently have no interest in the contest free WARC bands. It occurred to me that it may be time to remind everyone of what I said at the Dayton Hamvention in 2007. You **STILL** need to "lighten up." All of you can learn from each other. And you need to work together more and show a little more respect for your diverse interests and for the service as a whole. It isn't about you. It's about amateur radio, and what we need is a little more kindness.

Every time you get on the air, you need to decide what's most important to you---the best interests of amateur radio as a whole, or your own pride or ego or "rights". On the air you need to be more cooperative and less argumentative. Although that concept is a lost cause in this decade generally, from the shopping malls to Congress, that doesn't mean you can't try to maintain the tradition on the Ham bands. I can't really say it any better than Dave Sumner did in May 2007 QST—Page 9,: "Most of the unpleasantness that erupts from time to time on the most popular HF

bands can be avoided if we're willing to be flexible in our frequency selection."

There is an element of Amateur radio that too often reflects present society generally. Whatever the phenomenon behind Road Rage—that's what I am talking about. All of you need to work together and depend upon the FCC less to solve your operating problems. We live in a rude, discourteous, profane, hotheaded society that loves its rights, prefers not to hear about its responsibilities, and that spills over in to the Ham bands far too often as "radio rage."

I have some messages to all the groups along these lines, but before I get to that, I want to say that a little more kindness would go a long way in your service. Lots of you are like people in a parking lot arguing over a parking space when there are hundreds available.

What we ARE is this: "We are rude, self important, cell phone yapping, road raging, and stressed out monsters behind the wheel"¹---- and all too often behind the microphone. You are increasingly calling upon the FCC too much to solve your problems.

To all amateur radio operators in general: I was looking at a 1968 QST the other day and noticed inside the back cover an ad for Swan transceivers. Some of you might remember the Swan 350. It was really state of the art at the time. The 350 had 17 little controls and one big knob—the VFO, presumably to make it easy to change frequencies. Now let's go to any 2012 CQ Magazine and look at any of the newest transceivers. You know what? Some have over 75 little controls and knobs, and one big knob—the VFO. It's expensive to supply a big knob like that. I bet its purpose is to make changes in frequency the easiest function of all!

Now some frequencies are like bad neighborhoods. Stay away. They are being cleaned up but it will take more time and it's just not something that happens overnight. Take 14.313 for example. In previous issues I have revealed the brain damage studies made on that frequency (although in the last issue there was a misprint showing it as 14.300).

Think about it. If you had 3 alternative streets you could take to work every day but when you used one, you always got a rock thrown at your windshield, wouldn't you decide to take one of the other streets after, say, 5 or 6 windshields? After several windshields the logical question would arise as to who is the biggest fool—you or the person throwing the rocks! Why don't you take the same approach to Amateur Radio??

¹ Eric Weiss, Washington Post, May 17, 2007.

There are good operators and poor operators, just like everything else in life. There is a Canadian out there that Canada considers such a fruitcake it has never taken him seriously. It's an international problem and we can do very little about it. But when you go there and take the bait (and you ALWAYS seem to take the bait!) and get into arguments, you make the problem WORSE and you make it an American problem as well. Amateur Radio gets a black eye. There is a bad operator in Italy too—but these are not problems we can correct. Probably the Grim Reaper will—he's helped out amateur radio a lot in the last few years.

The other day I was talking to one of the complainants about 14.313 and I asked why he insisted on going there. He said "Well, old (name deleted) likes to talk there and he doesn't have any other antennas". That must be a hell of a precisely cut antenna to only operate on the 20 Meter frequency of 14.313!

The Orientals have a saying about Americans: *an American will lose butt to save face*. Just go some where else. The world is ugly enough—don't add to it. People make mistakes and 90% of interference perceived as deliberate is accidental or at least unintentional anyway. Here's a complaint I once received: "I've listened all day to a drift net beacon on 75. It's S9 here at home so its probably up or down the (Chesapeake) bay. Please make a DF and find it."

Now that complaint came in at 4:57 pm. At 6:29 pm this message came in: "You're going to laugh—it was a Linksys five port Ethernet switch in the next room. When I tried to DF it with a selective AM radio, I noticed that when I left home the signal went silent."

Why do you always assume an offense? In a problem like 14.313, just leave. Report it to the FCC or OO when you hear a substantial and continuing violation, but just use one of the hundreds of other useable frequencies you have and enjoy radio!! I knew of one net that, when they get interference, they announce "OK everyone, go to frequency B." They just remain silent for half hour. It drives the interferer crazy because he can't find them!!

Don't assume every instance of interference is a hostile act." Even if it is, the best contribution you can make is to leave and not make it worse. Remember that song from the 60's with the line "What if they gave a war and nobody came?" Well, what if they gave an argument on 75 Meters and nobody came??? You can help Amateur radio by taking no action. You actually make a contribution when you don't respond. You are not required to respond to idiots. They have a constitutional right to be stupid. If it weren't for them, there'd be no value to common sense, decency or intelligence.

We can enforce our rules but we can't enforce kindness and courtesy or common sense. As I have mentioned before, I learned from the rules and policy guy at FCC that "You just can't regulate stupid." If the FCC could figure out a way regulate stupid, it would become the United Nations and not the FCC.

Now I have specific messages for some of you.

To the Nets: Just because you have been on the same frequency for 75 years—that doesn't mean you own it. All frequencies are shared. If you vary your frequency, or even if you don't have a net one night, the radio world isn't going to end. Try to think whether changing frequency, having an alternative frequency, or not even calling the net would disrupt civilized society or cause physical harm or loss of life. . If not, lighten up.

To repeater owners: Just because you are coordinated doesn't mean you own the frequency. Coordination is a recommendation, not a frequency assignment. It's your call sign on the repeater and it's your station and your responsibility, just as if you had left the door open to your station at home. If people came into your house and operated your base station in a ridiculous way, I don't think you'd call the FCC. I think you'd probably just throw them out and lock the door. Don't ask the FCC to be baby-sitters of your repeater—that's what control operators are for and maybe you should listen to your own repeater more and just shut it off more. Nobody asked you to start a repeater. I don't want to be the bearer of bad news, but in most cases if you shut it down tomorrow, what would happen? People would simply use OTHER repeaters!

To the contesters: be more courteous. You are responsible for the frequency you are operating on. All frequencies are shared. Enjoy it but avoid hysteria.

To those who don't like contesters: lighten UP!! Contests are short lived. Use the WARC bands. Wash the car. Cut the grass. Repair something. Call an old friend. Learn from the contesters—and this applies to you traffic net folks too—learn from the contesters. They pass information a lot faster and more efficiently than you do. Contesters are some of the best radio operators on planet Earth. *If the contesters operated at the same pace as some of the emergency traffic nets, the contest would be over after the first few hundred exchanges!*

To the widebanders: If you want to be a broadcaster, apply for a broadcast license. Using wide bandwidth on crowded frequencies at peak operating times is rude and selfish and inconsiderate. It's also pretty stupid to do that and at the same time claim that we are making the best uses of our frequencies or need even more frequencies. I mean, aren't we supposed to be leading edge?

To the QRP'ers: Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for your vitality, inspiration, enthusiasm and for being BUILDERS again! I wish I could take your enthusiasm and spread it over all segments of Amateur radio. When I watch you folks, I see the excitement and magic of my first contact. Personally, I can't seem to get anywhere with QRP, but I still have supreme respect for it.

To those who don't like QRP'ers: Lighten UP. ANYONE can use a linear amplifier as a crutch. What can you do without brute force? What can you do with a hundred watts? Also, to talk across a few states and just complain about everything in the world every evening, you probably just use about a hundred watts. I will admit, though, those amps are fun, and if not solid state, they're one of the things we can actually "tune up" anymore. But lighten up—be more balanced. If you non-QRP'ers ever have an opportunity to go to a QRP workshop anywhere, go. It will revitalize all your enthusiasm for radio. You may even learn something.

To the rag chew nets: 4 or 5 people meeting on the same frequency every night for 50 years using 1200 watts for a few hundred miles when 100 watts would do just fine is not a net—it's an informal roundtable. It ain't going to hurt you either to vary your frequency or skip a night. And the so-called "net" on 75 that bills itself as an "Oasis of Amateur Radio"---give us all a break. You are an ordinary roundtable, and no net is an "Oasis of Amateur Radio." Even if it was, why would you want to flaunt it? You cause your own problems and then complain, like the person who complains about a 30 minute obscene phone call.

To those of you who don't like DXpeditions: Lighten UP! If a group of people want to spend a lot of money to go to a rock or sandbar in the ocean, live in a tent and swat flies and scorpions for a week and talk over Ham radio 24 hours a day, SO WHAT: LET'EM DO IT!! DXpeditions are short lived, and such operation must be important to SOMEONE—Scarborough Reef drew over 50,000 contacts didn't it—and weren't over half of them CW, by the way? Try working one—it requires some skill, it's fun, and it may get you a new country.

And to those of you who have been continual problems and the FCC just hasn't gotten to you yet: you now have a problem yourselves. Your renewals are coming up. YOU have the burden of proof in showing that you should have a license and YOU have to come to Washington to make your case. My bet is that the FCC presiding judge will be expecting good answers to a LOT of question.

And finally, to all of you who will no doubt moan about the code being eliminated, I remind you: It wasn't eliminated; it just isn't required

anymore. For a drivers test, did you have to drive a 5 speed transmission? Well, those are some of the coolest cars on the road! Personally, I'm loyal to the code—I wish we could have kept it at 13, but my bet is that dropping the requirement will turn out to be a stroke of genius. Only Time will tell, but if we don't do something to draw in more people, and appeal to greater numbers, in a few years at Dayton we'll ALL be bumping into each other with our WALKERS! Let's face it folks—look around—we're getting' OLD!!

We all need to try NEW things and always work towards keeping Amateur radio dynamic. Take the bold step of trying something you haven't done, such as a contest, a QRP contact, a digital mode—whatever. Go to a club meeting. Go to a hamfest. Just try it and if you don't like it, forget about it. Also, you must know the issues. Read the magazines so you will at least know what's going on. Participate in amateur radio it but most of all ENJOY it!!!

End of sermon. Go make a contact. Maybe even try something different.

... -.- K4ZDH

Suggestion or comments for THE WATT
e-mail us at newsletter@k3cal.org
THE WATT
CALVERT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
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