

S P A R K S

March 1972

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Well, it looks like antenna weather is nearly finished. Or are you one of those types who work on these things in the summer time? Actually, some of the antenna arrays (Pete, 3DFD etc).didn't make it during this winter and their owners are looking out the back yard almost daily to see if the snow has disappeared. This is the time to think about what your program for 1972 is going to be. If you are one of those procrastinators who is always going to go on a net, work DX, put up the new beam, vertical or make a quad, remember the winter works program - DO IT NOW!

Bernie 3ATI

LAST MEETING

We had the opportunity of touring the Bell facilities once again and, as usual, they did a fine job of public relations. This vital facility plays such a large part in our lives so it is interesting, especially for the first time visitor, to see some of the complex equipment that is used to carry our voices, messages and other data across Canada, the U. S. and other parts of the world.

NEXT MEETING

March 14th 8:00 p.m. AIRPORT EMO BLDG.

We are going to try and have a film for you at this meeting but won't tell you what it is all about. As we didn't have much time for business at the Bell trip, this time you will have a chance to bring any subject up on the floor if you wish. Usual ragchew time with coffee and tall tales about your DX.

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We have a new member in our club, VE3EWA, Bill Greig in Whitby. One year ago, Bill did not know anything about radio, be it theory or code; now he has his licence and works 40 meter c.w. with a DX-40 and HR-10B into an inverted Vee, strung from his 60 foot tower. (the latter recently purchased from Ray, 3RP, and put up within a week). Bill had lots of help from different members of the club, as is usually the case.

He is now gathering contacts, as many as possible. If anyone is interested in helping Bill to get some contacts, meet him on 7180 kHz and take him down the band to get some real DX. I did that myself a few times and it really worked. We got into a few Western states and Oklahoma. Bill's speed is around 10 wpm but he is determined to get this up.

Bill is also active on 2 m FM with OSH xtals in his base station. His mobile has not been installed yet but this is only a matter of time. So much for Bill and maybe someone can give us info about other new members, or even about themselves.
Hank 3FHV

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Our display at the Whitby Mall was something less than perfect but we did the best we could under adverse circumstances. We started out at the back of a vacant store but were eventually placed out front in a much better spot. We did not have power so Pete, 3DFD gave us some. He connected us to the outside light. This only came on after dark so we next hooked up to an extension that had a big string of large bulbs - that was ok til they put a Carousel projector on and the fuse blew. Eventually we got all the power we needed.

Ted, 3ADD; Mike, 3FIV; Ken, 3DOC and John, 3FGL erected and removed the antennas in atrocious wx. We had a 40 m and 20m dipoles and we did better on 20. 40 seemed to be out of the picture with squeals, moans and howls more prevalent than signals. Todd, our SWL spent most of the time there. Ken, likewise and we tried to keep him off the roof without much success. Thanks to others who also participated. A small book could be written about this effort but maybe we will have some of the experiences recounted at this meeting.

DUES

We don't want to cut off your subscription to SPARKS but we generally use the paid-up list for the current year. Please get your Five Bucks to the Registrar as fast as you can. Pony express, dog team or even resort to the mail. Incidentally, Ken's son (3FPP jr. op.) is now a mailman in Oshawa. His name is Warren.

A letter has been received from Noel B. Eaton, Director of the Canadian Division of ARRL that effective July 1st, 1972, the annual dues for ARRL membership will be increased to \$7.50 in the U.S., \$8.50 in Canada and \$9.00 overseas.

Since the postage differential between Canada and the U.S. has now increased to \$1.26 (10 1/2¢ per copy of QST) it is only reasonable to expect an increase in dues over that in U.S. Since the increase is not effective until July 1st you can renew now at a saving of \$2.00 League HQ will accept renewals for more than a year at a time.
(ed. note) this means you can send in for several years at the current rate and effect a good saving.

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ONTARS NET

This is a new public service net. ONTARS stands for Ontario Amateur Service. The frequency is 3775 kHz. The hours of operation are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily EST (summer EDST time). The net is sponsored by the RSO and net manager is Bruce Carveth, 3BC. We understand it is working well and all are welcome. Try it!

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I wonder how many hams actually use their equipment for other than pure pleasure. Bill, 3CKK is one that comes to mind with the traffic handling. Lately I have found our portable station a great asset when up north. A case in point was the stormy weekend of March 4th and 5th when Doreen, 3FUR and myself were in our Bancroft place. By calling into the ONTARS NET we were able to get enough wx information to plan an alternate route home and avoid storm closed roads. A side benefit was on Saturday when having exhausted ourselves cleaning snow out of the chimney, skiing, and such, we could sit in front of a birch fire in the fireplace, an electric blanket over the chesterfield to warm our aching backs and chat with the TOT net, the EICO conveniently sitting on a table beside us. Incidentally, the antenna is the 75m club inverted Vee, the apex tied to a convenient tree about 30 feet up. I shouldn't need to remind anyone that all club equipment can be borrowed, tested and used by any member. Anyone need a 300 watt motor generator? It has been taking up space in my basement now for 3 years. How many have QRP rigs working? I have a tube VFO control that I will bring to the next meeting. At present it is taking a bit too much power to qualify, running 7 watts instead of the 5 maximum. The circuit diagram will be available to anyone requesting it.

Ken 3FPP

WANTED

Information or records of the Club meetings prior to the meeting #71 of December 1952. The minutes of these meetings are not among the records in the possession of the secretary who is at the moment trying to find out the date of the first meeting and also the names and calls of the executives from the start of the club up to 1953. If you can supply some of this information please contact ROY GORDON, VESERF - 725-4468.