

145.47
MHz.

N F A R L

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squelch tales

Vol. XCI Issue 3

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

March, 1991

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73 for now,
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The meeting was adjourned.
Respectfully submitted,
Hal Myers, K4JHM,
Secretary

WA4BRO'S HAM BBS

by Dan Turner, WA4BRO

I announced at the last meeting that I had installed a telephone computer bulletin Board to facilitate collection of newsletter articles and general Ham program files for the Amateur community.

This installation is complete and ready for use by all interested in Amateur Radio. The phone number for the BBS is 552-0868.

The BBS is available up to 2400 baud with your communication parameters set to 8,N,1. The BBS is a Host system running under GT Power Comm ver. 16.00. All first time users will use the system wide password given at logon to gain initial access to the system. After the initial logon you will

pick your personal password. Remember your personal password! You will need it to log on to the board the next time.

I would like for those that have articles to post in the club newsletter to upload their articles to the BBS. After uploading your article, The BBS will ask for a description of the file, Please state in the description that the file is a newsletter article. This will help me to post it to the newsletter directory as soon as possible. It would also be helpful to address a message to Doug Reed or Joel Ackerman stating that you have left a file on the board to be published in the newsletter.

The BBS is easy to use and help is available by using the H help command. If you have an interesting SHAREWARE or PUBLIC DOMAIN program you would like to share with the group, They are welcome. PLEASE DO NOT UPLOAD any COMMERCIAL programs to the BBS.

I hope by the time you read this article, I will have the BBS connected into the GT Power Network. This will

allow users to send mail to other users worldwide. I hope to also have several ECHOS (Public Forums) also available for your use.

Watch the BBS between newsletters for other announcements concerning the Club. Please send me your suggestions on how we can better make use of this BBS for club needs.

Dan Turner, Sysop
WA4BRO'S HAM
BOARD BBS
552-0TNT

NEED UR INPUT

We would like to thank those that have contributed to this month's newsletter. Again I would like to say that this periodical is only as good as the input YOU provide. You are encouraged to contribute articles to YOUR newsletter. This can be done in numerous ways: WA4BRO phone or packet BBS, on any FidoNet telephone BBS (to "Doug Reed 1:133/409"), to either N3AIA or KE4SW packet

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY

(1) Checking Acc't Bal. from Jan.	\$1,086.12
Plus Dues Collected	136.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,222.12
Less Disbursements	
(2) J. Ackerman - Postage Newsletter -	- 24.95
(3) D. Reed - Paper Newsletter	- 7.78
	<hr/>
(4) Balance on Hand - Checking	\$1,189.39
(5) Petty Cash Bal. from Jan.	\$ 147.00
Plus Dues Collected	12.00
	<hr/>
(6) Balance on Hand - Petty Cash	\$ 159.00
(7) Balance on Hand - Savings	\$2,332.34
	<hr/>
(8) Total Cash on Hand (4+6+7)	<u>\$3,680.73</u>

(either TCP/IP or AX25) on 146.13/73, telephone call, 145.47 repeater (Doug is #24 and Joel is #10) mailbox, U.S. Mail, etc. etc. etc. The important point here is "WE NEED YOUR INPUT!!!!!!!" Please note that the deadline for the April, 1991 issue of *Squelch Tales* is March 22, 1991.

Thanks and look forward to hearing from you.
de Doug, N3AIA

"If the Romans had been obliged to learn Latin, they would never have found time to conquer the world."
-- Heinrich Heine.

On the other hand, if the Iraqis had bothered to learn English, they would have never tried!

Squelch Tales is published monthly by the North Fulton Amateur Radio League. Subscriptions are free for club members. Additional annual subscriptions are available for \$7.50 which covers postage and printing costs. Published information is provided by and for club members and officers.

Squelch Tales is edited by Joel Ackerman, KE4SW, and Doug Reed, N3AIA.

Copy was transferred from contributors by packet or modem, edited using WordPerfect 5.0 or MultiMate, and produced camera ready with Ventura Desktop Publisher and an NEC 890 Laser Printer.

WEEKEND TECH CLASS OFFERED

by Jim Stafford, W4QO

W4QO, assisted by KM4FV, will teach a weekend "CODEFREE" technician class on two Saturdays, March 16 and March 30. The Kennebortchee Hamfest will be the weekend in between the classes. The class will be taught at the Addison Elementary School, 3055 Ebenezer Road, Marietta. This is one mile north of Sprayberry High School, off Sandy Plains Road. The course will highlight ways to use ham radio in the school system and will be of special interest to teachers. If you know a teacher who has shown some interest in the past, send them this info.

The cost will be \$30 which includes two textbooks - *Tune in the World* - Edition 8, 3rd printing and the *Technician Manual*, First edition, 3rd printing. If these books are already owned, the price of the course is \$15. Students should pre-register by calling 993-9500 and leaving their address. Students should be at least thirteen years old to keep up with this fast paced course. Full ARRL testing will be done at the end of the second day. The cost of the exam (\$5.25) will be charged by the examining team and is in addition to the cost of the course.

Some have asked if they can attend only the second day, having already achieved the Novice license. This is possible but the material will be integrated between the two test elements and taught by subject area so some of both elements will be taught both days.

Morse code is not required for this license course, but it will be emphasized and students will be encouraged to learn the code between the two weekends using the materials and techniques provided during the first session. Proper operating procedures and band etiquette will be taught. Demonstrations on all aspects of the material will be included. Tell your friends, family, and teacher friends about the class.

A-ROCKY Start

by Joel Ackerman, KE4SW

The fourth AROC (Atlanta Radio Organizing Committee) meeting, held Feb. 11, may have been the last for the struggling organization. Established with the original aim of providing communications support for the 1996 Olympics, the group has had a difficult time arriving at a consensus on its name, much less on its mission.

In-fighting among delegates from area amateur organizations, some perceived as trying to grab control and glory for their own groups, combined with a premature and disorganized overture to the Organizing Committee, has left many feeling bitter about AROC. This dissension may be a reason the February meeting had only seven participants, after three well-attended gatherings.

Progress was made however, although chairman Jim (WD4NFT) Spencer's goal of determining concrete steps for the group was not met. An open letter from Alan (N4QXH) Stern, advocating the dissolution of AROC evoked considerable discussion. (See sidebar.)

The group concluded that there is an appalling lack of communication between area organizations. This void must be filled before any real progress can be made.

As representative of the NFARL, I suggested that some area-wide discussion might take place in an open forum, perhaps via a net. I also feel that area hams have two major obstacles to being a viable public service group: 1) Organization, and 2) Promotion. During the years preceding the Olympics, each interested group must practice with service activities for area events. We should train for them. Then, when completed, these public service acts should be documented so that, as the time of the games approaches, we will have a story to tell to the olympic organizers.

Those organizers, when approached in January by AROC, didn't say we weren't welcome to help. They said they had "no idea how we could help." Frankly, at this stage of the game, neither do we.

Your "For Sale" ad is quite legal--and free when listed here!!! Contact KE4SW or N3AIA on landline to list.

To: The Amateur Radio Community concerning the AROC

I have given a considerable amount of time and thought to amateur radio in Metro Atlanta, the ARRL, the ARES, and the AROC. I would like to share these thoughts with you.

Let me start off by saying that I was of the opinion that the AROC was not a good idea. I felt, as did many other hams, that the AROC was going to be a glory-grabbing endeavor by a particular radio club or possibly a group of clubs. Based on the level of support hams have provided in the past, the Olympics will drastically overload our resources. It would be foolish for any single group to try to be "the one's who made it a success." Support needs to come from every ham in Metro Atlanta. I also think that if the AROC continues to stay in business, there will probably not be a strong amateur presence at the Olympics. This is where my main concern lies.

One thing that should be done by every ham in Metro Atlanta is to read the articles about the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and just what kind of support was provided. This is a totally separate issue from the AROC but I thought it should be mentioned for later discussion.

Back to the AROC. The AROC has consistently pledged to be "THE SOURCE FOR AMATEUR RADIO FOR THE 1996 OLYMPICS." The AROC wants to elbow its way to fame, power, and glory rather than provide what is really needed. Amateur Radio will serve its part at the Olympics if the hobby is presented to the ACOG the right way. PUSHY AIN'T GONNA GET IT, FOLKS!! Most of us think of a used-car salesperson or a door-to-door film-fixer artist using this technique. Losing a sale or getting the door slammed in their face is a part of being pushy and obnoxious. If we lose it, it's gone. Nothing can bring it back.

There has also been some discussion about lending the AROC "feed names" to the ARES. The ARES organization is already in place and works quite well. The ARES types, which I proudly say I am, are not known to be "one-shotters." The ARES supporters have done a considerable amount of work over several years and have established excellent working relationships with many agencies in the area.

The AROC opinion is that they are not trying to circumvent these relationships. They want to USE these relationships to help the AROC. I question the AROC's motives from that statement. My opinion is that these agency "professionals" can do more to further the cause of amateur radio in the Olympics than the AROC. These agencies will work with the hams they know that will provide the support that they need.

I should also point out that the work that went into getting the Olympics in 1996 required and received a large corporate commitment. Many of the corporate sponsors also are supporters of amateur radio. They know what we can do. When told about the AROC, the question is raised, "Why does the AROC even exist? We know who to call for ham support."

Several hams besides myself have asked that the AROC be a *hampower support group* and provide additional ham help when needed. By doing this, it would be possible for the AROC to be an ongoing benefit to the ham community rather than a "flash in the pan." The response has been that an ongoing group is a good idea. BUT BEING AN ONGOING SUPPORT GROUP RUNS A DISTANT SECOND TO BEING "THE SOURCE."

At present, there is no clear direction from the AROC defining what hams can do for the Olympics. Even worse is that the AOC or ACOG does not even know what we can do. Amateur Radio can address the recognition factor sometime during the next 6 years by doing 1 very simple and obvious thing. I'll discuss that later. Right now, let me tell what functions hams can perform. This list, I admit, is not complete.

First is a special events station. I'm not a DXer. I do think that some type of working relationship between local hams and a manufacturer needs to be established. Let's let the "professionals" who are paid to do that kind of marketing earn their money. Don't burden a ham or a group of hams with the meetings, the phone calls, or the aggravation. Once that manufacturer is chosen, then we can begin to work locally to support the station.

Second, we will be able to provide a highly trained, free, communications-ready and knowledgeable force to participate at the events. Our roles would be to usher, provide access to medical care, and to provide a radio link to interpreters. This would come under the "VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE" which already exists as an integral part of the ACOG. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is staring us in the face. Our ham skills will make us the first choice for these roles. Imagine being at an event and watching a long-standing world record being broken.

The third role I credit the Apple Corporation for defining. We could wind up being lemmings, blindly running around doing tasks that would support the Olympics but would not take advantage of our ham skills. We might only use amateur radio to talk among ourselves about what we are doing. Let's hope we don't wind up in this role.

I have talked to several hams in the Metro Atlanta Area who help coordinate various events. They would like to have a "PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL" to help them staff the events that they help to coordinate. I personally could have used this type of help in the past. Instead, I have called whoever I knew in various clubs to get help. It would have been so much nicer to put out a call for help on a "PRESIDENT'S NET." I would now like to propose the forming of this "PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL" and the disbanding of the AROC. After this, I would like to see every event that requests amateur radio support receive full support from all Metro Atlanta Clubs. There are enough events to support. [Editor's Note: A list of upcoming events appears elsewhere in the newsletter.]

I am sure that there are other events that will appear on the list very soon. I ask that every ham radio operator in the Metro Area do their part to support these events. Without this support, there will be no ham participation in the 1996 Olympics. It is a shame that such a simple concept as doing something well has been overlooked as the best way to sell ham radio.

Based on my perception of the AROC, its goals, and its method of achieving those goals, I have no choice but to withdraw myself and my support from the AROC. If any of you also choose not to support the AROC, please let them know. They are operating under the assumption that they are right since they have not heard anything to the contrary, I believe I have their attention.

73,
Alan, N4QXH

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