

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1994

PRESIDENT

Tom Porett N3JMA, 896-8413

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Lees W3ZQN, 265-6032

SECRETARY

Alex Atkinson KE3DF, 964-8621

TREASURER

Bob Palin N3JIZ, 687-4587

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Bob Josuweit WA3PZO, 624-4034

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Steve Maslin N3ORH, 635-6810

PUBLIC SERVICE

Sean Weckerly N3EOG, 449-6447

TECHNICAL

Jeff Chapman WA3RIZ, 265-6593

PROGRAM

Gary Horwith KE3BU, 827-9627

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Dave Laustsen N3LHY, 340-9738

Bart Feroe KC3BP, 367-4288

TRUSTEE WB3JOE

Al Maslin W3DZI, 446-4936

THE PRESIDENT'S REMARCS

by TOM N3JMA

Just a quick note concerning some ideas that I would like the membership to think about that may increase what the club means to each of us. Our pre-meeting session (starting usually about 7:30 PM), as well as the break, are perfect times to share interesting experiences with new equipment, antennas, projects you have built, or articles that you have come across. Please bring in any equipment or information you would like to share with other club members.

These kinds of informal sessions are often as interesting as our programs. It's amazing the kind of crowd you can draw with a show-and-tell about some arcane new gadget that you picked up at the latest hamfest.



Also, as spring is upon us, is there any interest in some activity such as a day of biking or hiking? If so please contact the Members-at-Large or any of us on the Board with your suggestions.

And finally as always, if you have ideas for programs you feel would be of interest to the club please contact Gary KE3BU, our Program Chair, with suggestions and if possible a telephone number of a contact person who can offer a program.

PROGRAMS

In March, TOM N3JMA, DAVE N3LHY, and DAVE N3MDG demonstrated digital modes used on the HF bands. April's program was given by ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director KAY WT3P (who?), bringing an update on ARRL and FCC doings,

May's meeting will feature BILL N3LPX's talk and slide show about radio communications on his sailboat trip across the Atlantic Ocean. A summer program is in the works from the Pack Rats, showing what's on the ham bands above 30 MHz besides FM repeaters and packet. You won't want to miss that one, especially if you operate entirely on VHF.

FROM THE EDITOR'S JUNK BOX



The Miami *Herald* has a Q & A column called "Why Things Are." In the April 3 issue appeared this question: "Why are sunspots on an 11-year cycle even though they're supposed to be storms?" The question is a little wiggly, but you could sort it out for the inquiring mind that wants to know.

Well, find a chair and sit down. The following, so help me Hiram Percy Maxim, is a direct quotation of the first sentence of the columnist's answer: "As you know, every 11 years there is a sunspot eruption, which causes static on CB radio, now commonly known as Internet." . . . SAY WHAT?

Americans are utterly dependent for survival on science and high technology that most don't comprehend any better than a chicken understands Chinese. Forget sunspots -- the majority of Americans in a recent poll admitted they can't program their VCRs to record a ball game or a soap opera.

We are not just talking about knuckleheads who couldn't pour water out of a boot with instructions printed on the heel.

Among the technologically-clueless are millions of reasonably-intelligent people who finished school and vote and do business and pay taxes . . . and, obviously, write newspaper

columns. Fact is, if scientific and technological literacy were clothes, most Americans couldn't go out in public.

Now, some long-time hams are angry about the recent growth in the Amateur population, because they supposed it would attract a (*probably mythical*) horde of scientific geniuses with four-digit IQs into our ranks. Instead, it has brought in all kinds of people . . . a fair number of computer and electronics experts, a few Beavis-and-Buttheads, and a lot of regular people from all walks of life. Some of the latter, to return to my earlier metaphor about scientific literacy, first open their license manuals wearing not much more than their socks.



I am living proof that more than a decade in ham radio will not turn scientific late-starters into Edwin Howard Armstrong. It will, however, turn them into citizens who are much more literate in science and technology, much better able to make informed decisions about science-related issues in our society, and much less vulnerable to whatever superstition, pseudo-science, hogwash, and whitewash may come along next.

These people may not be capable of engineering the Information Highway, but they ain't gonna be road-kill, either! That's a critical need in this country, and today's ham radio is helping to meet it. --73 de WT3P