

A Publication for Eastern Mass. Radio Amateurs

CROSSBANDER

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Clearing The Air

When you become SCM you receive a lot of things from the League. One of these is a sheet on how to write the Station Activity Report column for QST. They say to stress the positive, not to insult anybody or do anything else negative. I'm not one to follow rules like this but so far I've been a good fellow in the SAR column. The CROSS-BANDER is another story. Hence the following.

In November we sent out about 160 issues to people who had subscribed and to whom I thought were the concerned amateurs in Eastern Mass. I was quite disappointed to receive only 35 of the 160 questionnaires back. The purpose of the questionnaire was to provide you with a structured way of making your feelings known to the League through me. If you can't find the time or scrape up the 15 cents to check a few boxes and drop something in the mail well personally I don't think you have a gripe about the League supporting things like Incentive Licensing in the past or maybe something like giving one or more of our new bands exclusively to extra class operators.

If you don't like the questions send us your ideas like K1LLU did this month, (see current questionnaire). But it's important for us in Eastern Mass to make our feelings known to our director in sufficient quantity to make the result meaningful. This month's questionnaire items were taken from action items at the last Board of Directors meeting and represent things that your League is presently acting on. If you don't take advantage of this easy way of inputting your feelings to the League don't complain about what they do!!!!!!

The results from the November questionnaire such as they are follow. To summarize the questions (1) should

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SEMARA



The Southeastern Mass Amateur Radio Associations new club officers shown in their clubhouse are (l to r): WA1CLU (Trustee), W1SSS (Trustee), WB1ERS (Sec), WA1BZJ (Treas), W1LE (VP), W1FJI (Pres), W1ATI (Bd of Dir.) and WB1BUG (Bd of Dir. not shown).

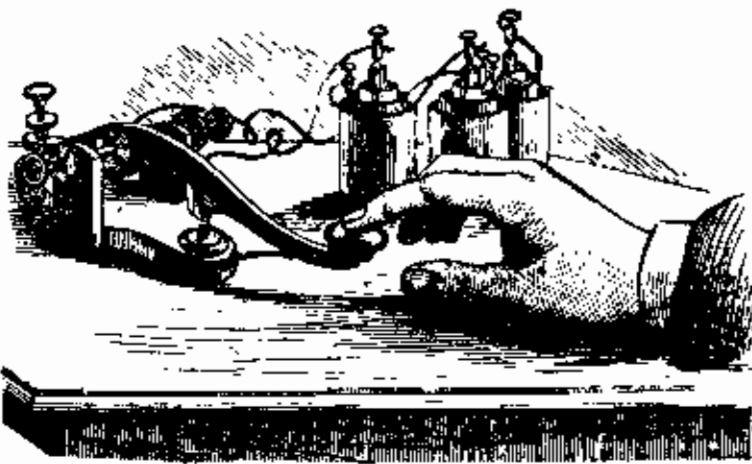
Mass QSO Party

The Mass QSO Party is sponsored by the Greater New Bedford Contesters and will begin on May 17 at 1600Z and end on May 19 at 0200Z. Last year saw a tremendous effort by Roy, K1GSK, from Maynard who made 1483 contacts for a new record. He will be out to defend his title so lets get out and give him a run for his money. According to Roy there are actually people around who need Mass contacts on many bands and pile-ups do occur, especially short skip, on 10 meters.

EXCHANGE: All stations count 2 pts for each completed ssb Exchange, 4 pts for each completed cw exchange. Mass stations: QSO points X (total Mass

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Get the message



Other precautions that you may not be thinking of: Any time that you go out to work on antennas, use a spotter. Even a small scale harmonic can call for help if you get hurt. If you've got a tower and don't have a lineman's belt, get one. Begging and borrowing are suitable short term alternatives to buying. Do all of the soldering on the ground. Use a tool belt. Use a safety line any time you're on the roof. Tie the other end to the chimney or to a ground anchor on the other side of the house. Lift and lower the tools from the roof or the tower with a rope tied to a bag or bucket. And if you've got your spotter on the ground, he should either be wearing a hard hat or standing FAR away from where you're working.

Well, I could keep going for another page or more. The bottom line is that there's no sense going out to work on the antenna if you're taking chances that just might keep you from ever using it. **THINK SAFETY! LIFE IS FRAGILE!**

de WA9NEW/1
ASCM East Mass

If It Stayed Up All Winter, It's Not Big Enough!

I guess we're all familiar with that phrase. It implies that either your antenna came down, so now you've got to go out and put it back up; or it didn't come down, so now you've got to get out and put up a bigger one. In either case, with winter now over (by the calendar at least), perhaps you're planning on doing some antenna work. I don't have any statistics readily available, but I'd bet a three element yagi against a wet noodle * that more accidents befall (to use an apt term) Amateurs while working on antennas than during any other single aspect of our hobby.

I'm sure we've all been there. Throw a weighted line over a tree limb, the line snags and the weight comes swinging back at you just about head high. Climb the tower to tune the stub on the quad reflector and you wind up wrapping one leg around the tower so you can lean out and work with both hands. And have you ever noticed how much steeper the roof gets between the time you look at it from the ground and the time you're trying to get from the top rung of the ladder to the edge of the roof that's about two feet higher than the ladder is long? Yes, I guess we've all been there. But what are you going to do different this year?

Some things are obvious. Don't put antennas where they'll fall onto power lines (or vice versa) if something breaks. (A fringe benefit of keeping antennas and power lines well separated is less interference, line noise to you and RFI to everybody else!) Use ladders that are long enough to get you up there safely. Keep your eye on the weight at the end of the line and move out of the path it'll take if the line snags.

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Andy, WA1FNM, operates the club station W1AEC, at the Southeastern Mass Amateur Radio Association Clubhouse in Dartmouth.

keys) upon demand, to handle any through traffic coming from the Natick site, using a ten meter linkup on RTTY. Some 61 messages were handled in this fashion. W1TR then brought his traffic to 1RN and EAN using both CW and SSB where appropriate. Yours truly was assigned to pick up any 1st Region traffic from both fairs. Because of equipment problems galore (Murphy's Law), I was unable to help the Brockton Fair as much as I wanted to but I was able to get back on to help W1TKZ/1 at the Natick site. We used a ten meter linkup and a forty meter linkup to handle the Region traffic via RTTY. This traffic was then brought to the NETN and dispersed to the appropriate state representatives within the Region. Some 59 messages were handled in this manner. Our thanks to KIUR for his excellent typing and perfect NTS format.

Traffic handlers with RTTY gear are welcome to bring their traffic to the NETN whenever they desire. Of course reporting in without traffic is Fine Business too.

See you on the green keys.....

de KH6JNQ/1
 OTS East Mass.
 NETN Assistant Net Mgr
 NETN Training Officer

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Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Phone Net Mgr. W1FJI of Westport takes another net report during a recent session.

Toughest Appointment Around

Of all the appointments that an SCM makes, I'm convinced that the toughest one to excel in is the Emergency Coordinator or EC appointment. The reason for this is that the EC must be a politician of sorts. He must coordinate the ham community in his area of jurisdiction in such a way that they are prepared to supplement normal lines of communication when the need arises. A good EC will find interesting ways to accomplish this preparation without making it seem too much like work. Things like working on bike-a-thons, walk-a-thons, parades and fox hunts are useful ways to prepare and have fun at the same time. A more formal once a year drill during the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) in October is also necessary. And that's only half the story. The EC must also introduce Amateur Radio to officials in his area of jurisdiction and every town is different. The local political atmosphere must be analyzed prior to approaching an agency. The degree of success depends largely on the personalities of the principals (the agency head and the EC) and thick skin sure comes in handy. In short it's a tough job. So why would anyone want to get involved in such a thing in the first place, you ask. Well I suppose it's like anything else you get out of it what you put in. There is a lot of satisfaction in knowing that you are providing a service to your community and that your service is appreciated. And this does not even begin to address the fact that this is one of the items in Part 97 under Basis and Purpose for which we are responsible to justify our existence.

Some people become interested in becoming an EC because they want to put something back into their hobby after a few years of simply enjoying what Amateur Radio has to offer. Getting started on the right foot is important and the following pages represent what I think is an excellent example of one way to do it. Joel, W1ZR, the new EC for Littleton wrote the letters which follow.

If you are interested in who is your EC or if you think you might be interested yourself please let Doug, WA1BLG, or myself know. We have other valuable things like the Eastern Mass Emergency Plan which can help you get started. 73!

de K1PAD