

FLORIDA SKIP

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Left: Virgil Yarbrough, K4IEK, is pleased to receive his 50-Year Membership Plaque from Kay Anderson, W8DUV, assistant director, Southeast Division ARRL. Presentation was made September 25th at the joint meeting of the Bradenton Amateur Radio Club and the Bradenton Repeater Group. Virgil actually has 53 years continuous membership in the league and is very active in packet, FAX, SSTV and anything new that comes along.

— Photo by W8DUV

HAMFESTS AND CONVENTIONS

By Kay Anderson, W8DUV

This is my last chance to tell you about the Tampa Suncoast Convention, November 17th and 18th. If you haven't ordered your advance tickets, go ahead and do it today. They will hold them for you at the booth. Also, don't forget to order your free tickets to the Ronnie Milsap, WB4KBG concert. You get these by looking at the centerfold of your AES catalog and following the instructions.

Other special features this year include:

- SAREX 90 — The Whole Story, by Roy Neal, K6DUE. This is the theme.

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COMING EVENTS

Broward Hamfest, Dec. 1 & 2nd
LARA, Eustis Hamfest, Nov. 3 & 4th
Tampa Suncoast Convention, Nov. 17 & 18th
Okeechobee Hamfest, Dec. 1st
*Miami Hamboree, Feb. 2 & 3rd, 1991
Sarasota Hamfest, Feb. 16 & 17th
Stuart Hamfest, Feb. 23rd
Brooksville Hamfest, Feb. 23rd
Ft. Walton Beach Swapfest, Mar. 16 & 17
Orlando Hamcation, Mar. 15, 16 & 17th
Citrus County Hamfest, Jan. 26, 1991 AC

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T LEWIS / N4TL
4201 NW 37TH TERR
FT LAUDERDALE FL 33309

THE FUTURE

By Eric G. Hogberg, W4TAH

I predict that the day will come that the FCC turns the policing of the amateur fraternity over to the ARRL.

It will happen in the not-to-distant future. I am going to guess that by the time that the WARC 1992 is over, it will be well underway. No later than 1995 is my prediction. I see signs of leadership ability to handle it.

I can hear the screaming now. They can't do that. Anarchy will reign and there will be complete chaos on the bands. Do you really believe it can get worse than it is today? Guess again my friends. The day is coming. You may think that I have really lost all my marbles, but stick around. Let's take a look at why I say this will happen.

The amateur community has been known for years as a self-policing service. The FCC has learned to rely on this. When deregulation came along they signed an agreement with the ARRL to use certain amateurs (the auxiliary) to help them with the policing. As budget cuts and funding has eroded the ability of the FCC to properly the communication service, they have started to look for a way to cut costs.

The amateur service has always had the lowest priority with the FCC. Therefore they became the first to come under scrutiny. Unfortunately, it comes at a time when the Amateur Radio Service is in desperate need of regulation. With all the letters from congressmen concerning what is happening on the amateur bands, the FCC is looking for ways to solve their dilemma.

The feeling with top-side FCC officials becomes: "They are only a hobby service and they don't require much regulation. Let's try giving it to an outside agency." They don't have much to lose. If it's a success, they can try it with other services. If it's a failure, they can say, "well, we tried."

So they turn it over to the ARRL. Why the ARRL you ask? Because it's the only nationally-recognized amateur organization, that represents all amateurs. They have represented the amateur for over 50 years. It is the only amateur organization that is recognized by the government agencies.

They also have an organization that already assists with the policing that they have done for years, the "official observers." Most official observers are also members of the Amateur Auxiliary, which the FCC has been working with. They are aware of their ability.

The ARRL has a "conflict of interest" you say. This is true. They are a member organization. If they are truly interested in the growth and future of the amateur community, they will have to decide what is right for the majority of the amateurs, not special-interest groups.

In the interest of keeping special groups happy, they have created some problems in the rules and regulations area, which will have to be straightened out. If the ARRL does accept the challenge, they will still have to abide by the written word. **Part 97 Rules and Regulations are the law of the land, as far as amateurs are concerned and cannot be bypassed.**

I have also heard said that the ARRL doesn't represent the amateur community any longer. This may be true, but whose fault is it? Normally, this is from individuals who do not belong to the ARRL.

How can you get them to represent you? You have to belong to the ARRL and most of all, you have to let the responsible leader know what your wishes are. In other words, you have to be able to vote for someone who represents what you want.

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STAFF:

Andy Clark, W4IYT, Editor/Publisher.

Bob Watson, W4DTV, North Florida Representative.

Anne Clark Ramey, Copy Layout.

STATE EDITORS:

CW: Ed Roller, K4IA, Box 894, Punta Gorda 33951.

DX:

Clubs



SSB Nets: J. Scungio, N4KFU, 346 Whitefield Avenue, Sarasota 34243.

Packet: Al Vesce, K4CY, 13020 Montour Street, Brooksville 33773.

QCWA: Eli Nannis, K4JMH, 14996 Imperial Point Drive North, Largo 34644

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DEADLINE: 8th of month in P.O. Box 501, Miami Springs, FL 33266.
(See advertising rates in Hambar Section.)

ATTENTION CORRESPONDENTS

Once again we are sorry we did not have room in this issue for your article(s)! To our surprise we received new ads, which we are happy to receive. All copy is set in type and will be put in upcoming issues.

We were happy to see so many of our friends at the West Palm Beach Hamfest, which I enjoyed very much! If all goes well, we hope to be at the Sun-coast Convention in Tampa and the Broward Hamfest Dec. 1st. Thanks for your continued support. 73 AC

SILENT KEYS

We are deeply sorry to report the following Florida as silent keys this month.

N4DQB	Allen Farr	Ft. Walton Bch.
W4DK	Eugene H. Fritschel	Ft. Lauderdale
W4EII	Gen. Theodore J. Conway, Ret.	Tampa
K2JYM	John J. Byrne	Tavenier
K6DW	Capt. Robert W. Carter Ret	Ft. Lauderdale
KA1AYI	Ernest D. Lewis	Jasper
W2CQA	Edward M. Segel	Palm Beach
N2FEL	Theodore Levine	Hollywood
w2SZU	Anthony J. Picorale	Naples
W3HMY	George E. Owens	Winter Park
W4GIP	Kenneth L. Salisbury	Jacksonville
KB4MY	Michael E. Montagnino	Apollo Beach
N4NDC	Juan C. Haaven Sr.	Miami Springs
WA4YGP	Parvin H. Winchell	Naples

DON'T THROW AWAY THAT OLD LICENSE!

The ARRL recommends that you retain your old license when you up-grade. When changes occur to amateur licensing structure, certain licenses convey credit toward a higher class of license.

For example:

If you were issued a technician class license before March 21, 1987, your license conveys written element credit toward the general class exam. If you have an original Certificate of Successful Completion (CSCE) dated prior to March 21, 1987, which includes Element Three credit, this document also provides credit toward your general class license.

— Excerpt from QST 6/90



Dear Andy:

While not without its shortcomings, this past September's meeting of the Florida Repeater Council was quite successful. I would like to publicly express my appreciation to the Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society for the excellent hospitality shown us at the 25th Annual Melbourne Hamfest. Our meeting lasted a bit over three hours and they graciously provided the time and the space for all of us.

Most of those who attended the meeting left with some feeling of satisfaction. Many intricate issues regarding the future of amateur repeaters within the State of Florida were discussed fully and openly. There was, by no means, total agreement on any of these matters, but our meeting did allow the free flow of ideas and expression.

The results of the recent elections of FRC Board members were announced. Elected were Alan Page, KE4WO, in District One; Jerry Belt, K4ATV, in District Three; Vic Leisner, W3LGV, in District Five; and Jim Morrel, KF4MX, in District Seven.

Because of the difficulty in getting our previous board members nominating structure to work, the board changed the FRC By-Laws to require nomination by petition rather than by committee.

Elections for board members in Districts Two, Four, Six and Eight are about to get underway. If you are interested in running, submit a petition stating such with five other signatures of FRC members within the district and deliver them to the FRC at P.O. Box 5722, Lake Worth, Florida 33466 . . . no later than November 30, 1990.

Even though the FRC has made some progress in these past few months, there is still a very long way to go. The organization has lost some credibility over the years. There are many different reasons for this, but there appears to be an underlying propensity for some amateur radio operators to mistrust and resent any organization which seems to wield any sort of power. Yet, without some form of coordinating body, the major investment we have in productive repeaters will quickly fall into disarray.

Currently, those eligible for membership in the FRC are amateurs who own or operate repeaters. At the moment, however, this constituency appears to be unwilling or unable to support a viable repeater coordinating body here in Florida. The organization badly needs better funding and more importantly, volunteers to become elected officials or frequency coordinators.

The time for laying back and criticizing and not offering to assist, has long since passed.

If repeater owners are unable to make the organization work, then perhaps the organization should be opened to the repeater user community, as well. Obviously, there are a great many more users than owners and they also have a vested interest in the successful operation of the more than 600 repeaters across the state.

Either way, the Florida Repeater Council should not and can not be allowed to fail, but it cannot succeed by itself. We need qualified amateurs to act as board members, officers, frequency coordinators and data base administrators.

If you are willing to help, please write to me at the address listed below. Together, we can do it!

Lawrence D. Stephey, KJ4DG
Acting President
Florida Repeater Council
2166 Sussex Road
Winter Park, Florida 32792

CANCER RISK PUBLISHED

An article in the July 9th issue of the New Yorker magazine has once again brought the possible dangers of exposure to electromagnetic fields to the public's attention.

Amateur radio operators became aware of the possible EMC to cancer link almost a decade ago following an Associated Press story printed in newspapers nation-wide.

The AP story cited the work of Dr. Samuel Milham who studied cancer deaths among a small statistical sample of deceased amateurs.

The author of the "New Yorker" article cites several instances of possible cancer clusters near high voltage power lines, electrical substations and power plants.

This lends more credence to the growing belief among researchers that some connection between EMC and human health reports does exist.

— (Tnx ARRL)

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