



CQ WACOM :::: CQ WACOM

WACOM NEWS

SERVING COMMUNITY, STATE, AND NATION THRU AMATEUR RADIO

Washington Amateur Communications

P.O. Box 813, Washington PA. 15301



VOL 1 ISSUE-3

WA3KUK Editor

EDITORIAL TYPE EDITORIAL BY THE EDITOR

Well gang this is the third issue of the WACOM News Letter. When we began this project, we were authorized by membership vote to proceed with a three month trial run. The three months are gone and unless we receive authorization from you, the voting membership, the Newsletter will expire with this issue. We have had very little verbal feedback and nothing in writing about how you, the members feel about our efforts. Do you want a Newsletter, is it worth the effort those who produce it are expending, is it worth the cost of postage for the copies we must get out by mail. If you want us to continue with the paper, let us hear from you. Drop a card to Editor, WACOM Newsletter Box 813 Wash. PA. 15301 or bring up the subject on the Wednesday night two meter net. If you have complaints or ideas for improvement lets hear about them. Without your vote or backing we may lose our paper by default.



THE PREZ SEZ

Seen the new Heath-kit Catalog yet? Used to be when a new Novice asked me to recommend a good first rig, an easy answer was the Heath HW-16. For about a hundred and thirty bucks, some wire and a surplus key, a new Ham could get started in this hobby with out a lot of hassle. Now-it seems that since Heath has deleted the HW-16, DX-60 and HR-10, which were primarily intended for the Novice operator that our answer to this question will now have to be the HW-101, Drake TR-4 or maybe even that nice seven hundred buck Kenwood. I can remember back when I was getting my start in Ham radio, there were at least a half dozen of the manufacturers making first class gear aimed at the



The Y L'S Corner



MORE VIEWS ON HAM RADIO FROM WB3ADQ, DELLA

I was standing there watering the plants one evening and it occurred to me once again, that I am a real live honest-to-goodness Ham person. I stood there and marveled at that, (while the plant drowned) and thought about the things I can do because I have that lovely license.

Continued page 3

Continued next page

THE PREZ SEZ con't.

Novice market. While its true that the new power levels authorized for Novices may result in a change in some product lines, until this occurs we are still faced with the budding Ham who can not afford to fork out nearly \$400 for a brand new HW-101, which is by today's standards, a modest rig. What new fourteen year old Ham can afford a price tag like that? The new low cost QRP rigs aren't the answer either. A guy has a hard enough time trying to make those first few QSO's without having to fight a QRP situation.

With the current drive to bring more Novices into Ham radio, and from our own experience with WACOM, we know there are a lot of new one's out there, it seems a shame Novice type equipment has all but vanished from most manufacturers catalogs. In spite of a concerted effort on all of our parts, we still have some new Hams in WACOM who cannot find good equipment to get them on the air. This is the real shame, having a ticket and no equipment. How long can the interest of these Hams last



Why can't she buy a nice cheap \$ 50.00 dress like other teen-agers.

THE BLACK HILLS CB CLUB VISITED BY WACOM by WA3BKD

As promised in the last issue, here is a follow-up on WACOM's visit to the CB Club. On Sept. 7, Della, WB3ADQ, Art, WA3BKD and Bob, WA3OKK attended a meeting of the Black Hills Radio Control and CB Club in Slovan, Penna near Burgettstown. The three WACOM members presented a program about Ham radio, its potential, its capabilities, and what Hams are doing on the air today. As a part of the program, slides depicting the licensing structure, the privileges that accompany each license and some of the highlights of the WACOM field day were shown to the attendees.

A number of questions about our hobby were asked by the CB'Rs and we were able to dispel a number of misconceptions and rumors during our answers.

We entered this program with the idea of having an information exchange type of discussion. In my opinion, we achieved this goal. The members appeared interested in what we had to say even as the meeting went on past 10:30 PM. The thing that seemed to impress them the most was our strict adherence to the regulations during our on-the-air activities. The headman of the club extended an open invitation to return anytime



SOME PERSONAL VIEWS OF THE BLACK HILLS CB CLUB By WA3BKD

The Black Hills Radio Control CB club has almost 200 members on its rolls. The club's main interests are raising money for charity and for helping out members who have fallen on hard times. Their interest in state-of-the-art radio communications is very limited. I believe that it's fair to say most of the members of the club are not radio hobbyists as we would call most Hams. While they seem to be curious about radio phenomena, they do not seem to pursue the new state-of-the-art. A few members expressed some interest in our classes so hopefully we will be able to help them along the road to Hamdom and that Amateur ticket

ANNOUNCING A NEW ONE

Last Tuesday Evening we were teasing AD3PSP's XYL about being slow on the delivery and having no respect for our editorial deadline and that we wanted to be able to print that long awaited birth notice in this issue. Got a call on the local repeater last Sun from Dennis, who advised that the Presky Clan had a brand new baby girl, DONNIS LEIGH, born Fri.eve at 17:55. A fine eight pound, ten ounce twenty one and a half inch gal. Mom and daughter doing great, Pop may also survive. The proud father tells us that the first words mom got out after the big show were, "Tell Jack I made the deadline." That is what I call cooperation. Best wishes to the new harmonic and the proud parents.

THE YL'S CORNER Con't.

I can talk across town or to the other side of the world.

I can ask the OM if he will stop at the store for pop and potato chips on his way home (cause he's a Ham person too).

I can go to Hamfests and not feel like a fifth wheel and I'll buy stuff that has no relation to radio and not feel guilty at all.

We have bought bicycles and books on embalming at Hamfests. (Talk about varied interests).

I'm meeting a lot of different people, which is especially great if your only other human contact most of the week is a two year old whose vocabulary consists of koo-kee, (cookie) gank-oo thank you, and owsie (outside).

I get to spend more time with my OM, since we share this common hobby.

And it's great on a cool fall evening, to sit together, OM and I, in the shack, listening to far off DX on matching headsets, sipping warm spiced wine while gazing into the flames of a crackling fire.

For further information on how to get to do all the above, run, do not walk to your handy WACOM classes, Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

Rappin' with AREC by K3VUD

The powers that be have asked me to stress one particular point in this month's column. MONITOR 19/79. In two cases in the public service diary there was much time lost before anyone could be raised on AF3ADG to summon help. Fortunately no one was in such a position that the delay proved fatal--but it could have been.

Also we hear complaints that "I never hear anybody on the repeater so I QSY to _____. or "all I hear is Canton - can't we do something about that?" Both of these problems can be easily solved. Just use and listen to the 19/79 repeater. After all, the repeater is there for just that purpose. In addition, the purpose of WACOM and indeed the Amateur Radio Service is Public Service. Anyone in the local area will override most signals from Canton. Activity on the machine is low at most of the time. However a lot of people do seem to be listening--so why don't you give a general call. If we never call we'll never hear anything. USE 19/79

A FABLE OR IS IT
Mary Ann Kuhn WA3ZZW

One night as I sat watching TV
It suddenly occurred to me,

That here I was alone once more,
My husband on the upstairs floor.

I went up there, I said "enough",
I'm tired of all this radio stuff.

Impedance matching and resistance,
Please stop it now at my insistence.

I looked at him my eyes ablaze:
He sat there in a thoughtful daze.

He said " I know you've been distracted".
"But don't you think you've over-reacted."

" Why don't you give the classes a try ?"
So off I went my manual and I.

I learned the code and studied hard.
I read until my head was jarred.

I wanted oh so much to pass.
So I could be in this man's class.

Luckily I passed the test,
Will history record the rest.

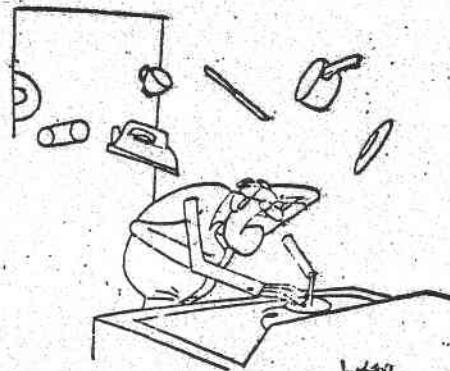
Tonight he came up to the shack,
His face was red, his eyes were black.

I never see you anymore,
You're always on this upstairs floor !

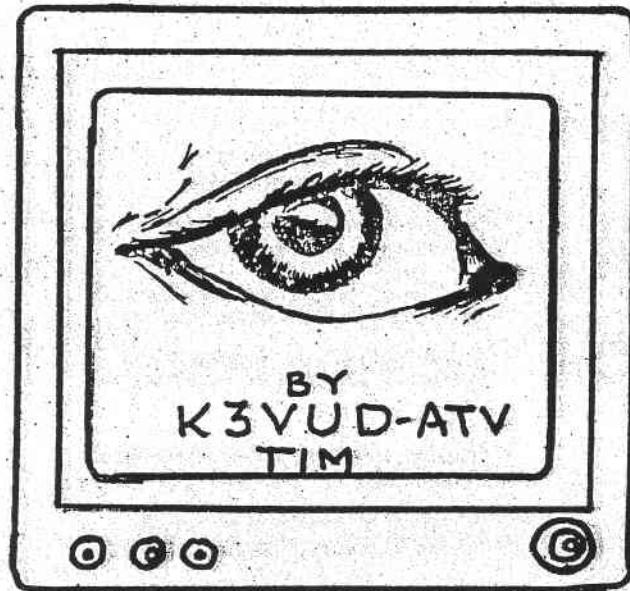
Where is my pipe ? Where are my slippers ?
My old jacket needs a zipper !

He looked at me his eyes ablaze,
I sat there in a thoughtful daze.

How can you ask such silly questions ?
I only followed your suggestions !!!!



"May Day!... May Day!..."



Here's Looking At You ! !

OUR
NEW
ATV
COLUMN

This month we're going to start in this column a series of articles that will put you on ATV at a reasonable cost, without having to resort to a lot of ALKA SELTZER. The articles will be in the following order. First, this month will be about transmission lines and antennas. Next will be a two parter, based on converters for ATV, followed by a simple ATV transmitter. This will bring us to the subject of an ATV camera, which will probably run in three parts. All of the parts that will be needed for this system should be easily obtainable, because I for one do not have time for wild goose chases and I'm sure you don't.

The end result will be a complete ATV station capable of transmitting good quality black and white pictures over the local area. With a little luck, by next summer your station should be on the air. From now until early spring, you'll have an enjoyable time of building. Now it's

TRANSMISSION LINES

This is one area of ATV that there is just no room for scrimping. No matter how high your antenna, or how much gain your antenna or preamp has, the transmission lines should be the best you can afford. RG8/U and such can be used but please, no more than 30-40 ft. At a length of 50 feet, this line loses a good 3 or 4 db. While we're at it, forget about those figures published about the low loss of open wire or twin lead. Under the proper conditions, precise and careful installation will give you a low loss line, but with the first sign of hard rain or wind, forget it. Why do it the hard way? Coax is much simpler.

Next, be sure to install your coax connectors with care. Constant impedance connectors are great if you can afford them, but don't worry if all you have are PL259s and SO-239s. Install them properly and waterproof the connectors with tape and spray. Simply install them carefully, as an impedance "bump" can cause severe ghosting.

The transmission line is extremely important in ATV, in order to obtain good reception. Loss in the line for transmission can be made up by increasing power, but a signal lost or hidden in the noise of the line can't be recovered. This author recommends one half inch or larger hard-line for the best results...

ANTENNAS AND HEIGHT

Height above the ground is important too. A big tree or an aluminum sided house may not hinder the 2 meter or 450 FM buff, but look out on ATV because this can cause severe ghosting. In most areas, 30 or 40 feet will get you out of the "ground clutter". A higher tower or antenna may help, but watch out for increased transmission loss. If you go much higher than 50 feet, figure on using some very large, (and expensive) low loss coax.

When choosing an antenna, we can use either of two types. Since we have settled on vertical polarization, (see last months column), we can use a beam for high gain or directivity. Or, if you want an omnidirectional antenna, you will need a form of collinear or a set of staggered dipoles.

The author has used a 16-element collinear made by Cushcraft, an antenna that is still quite popular with ATVers. They can also be easily made if you would rather not buy one. You can find instructions in the ARRL Handbook and in the VHF Manual. Here at K3VUD-ATV we're looking forward to trying something new, from KLM-the 420-450-27 antenna. It is rated at 16.1 db gain + .5 db or less over the whole band. It consists of 27 elements on a 10 foot boom with a weight of only 7.5 lbs. We'll pass along our opinions after we have a chance to try it out.

Next month we will start on ATV converters. In the meantime, if you need more information or other help, give me a shout on 19/79.

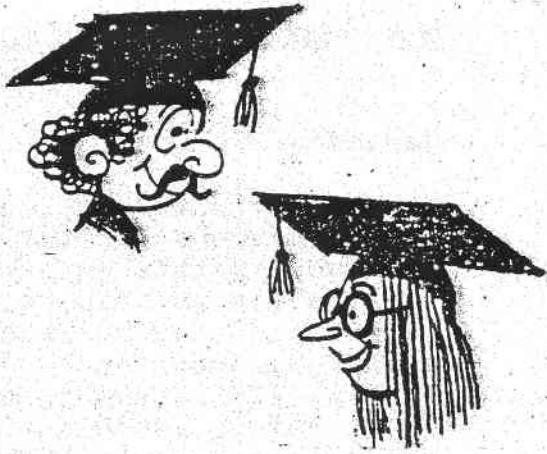
Here's looking at you
Tim K3VUD-ATV

PUBLIC SERVICE DIARY



August 31

On his way home from work on Interstate 70 K3VUD suddenly became very ill, suffering from insulin shock. After calling for help on 19/79 he was able to raise WA3BKD mobile who called WB3ADQ at home who, in turn, called Linda, Tim's XYL by telephone to come out to assist him. Also involved were WA3KUK and WA3ZZN both mobile who kept K3VUD alert by talking to him until help arrived.



September 14

While mobile on Interstate 70 near Washington, Pa. WA3ZZN saw a car on fire in the East-bound lane. She called WB3ADQ, who called the State Police.

September 18 and 19

On Saturday, the 18th and Sunday, the 19th, WACOM provided communications for the Covered Bridge Festival at Mingo Creek State Park. Upon arriving at the Park on Saturday, the WACOM members were asked by Park Police to help them by providing them with communications, as well as the directors of the Festival. WACOM members helped police by keeping them informed of traffic tie ups in different sections of the park on both days. The Park Police, as well as the Directors of the Festival, commented that without WACOM's help, they would not have been able to run the event as well as they did.

Members participating in the event were: K3AVD, K3PSP, K3VUD, WA3APC, WA3BKD, WA3FOJ, WA3KUK, WA3OKK, WA3UQW, WA3WIA, WA3ZEP, WB3ADQ, WB3CHH, and WB3CYO.

WACOM CLASSES UNDER WAY

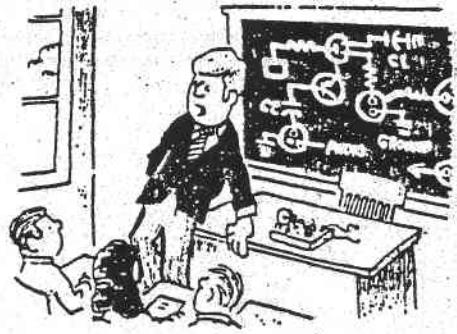
The turnout for our new series of theory, regulations, and code classes for the Novice, General and Advanced class of Amateur license was far beyond anyone's expectations and our intrepid instructors could not have been blamed a bit had they bolted and run when the crowd reached sixty. Jack, WA3KUK and Tim, K3VUD hauled out extra chairs as more and more students came through the doors while our instructors, WA3OKK and WA3UQW, Bob and Bob began to grow pale. The Novice group appears to have between forty and fifty students, with an additional twenty or so in pursuit of a higher class license. Good luck to students and teachers alike.

September 22

While on his way to work, WA3APC saw a car accident on Interstate 70 near Speers, Pa. Calling on 19/79, he reached WA3ZZN, who called State Police.

September 23

On her way home, WA3ZZN saw a disabled car on Interstate 70 near Kammerer, Pa. She called on 19/79, and reached WA3OKK, who called the State Police.



"...and then the capacitor... er... ah... capacitors!"

PUBLIC SERVICE DIARY Con't....

September 26

On Sunday, September 26, WACOM members provided communications for the CROP Walkathon. Twenty-one check points were covered by only seven of our members who had to leap frog each other at least three times. Arrangements were handled by WA3OKK, Net Control by WA3FOJ, with K3VUD, WA3KUK, WA3WIA, WA3ZEP, WA3APC, and WA3UQW covering those check points, coordinating with police and the walkathon sponsors. K3VUD's XYL, Linda, also took part covering when Tim was away from their car.

September 26

While headed home from the Walkathon, WA3KUK intercepted a message from a Philadelphia Ham who had just passed through Washington on his way home, regarding an accident which had just happened. Jack was mobile on RT-19 and unable to reach a phone, however, he advised the transient, whose call we believe was WA3CKJ, that he would take the information and relay or phone it in at the first phone he came to. Just then AD3PSP came up on Freq, got the info and called the State Police.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

On August 31, 1976, I was involved in a medical emergency (see public service diary), which had I not received aid could have proved dangerous or even fatal to me. I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to WA3BKD, WB3ADQ, WA3KUK, and WA3ZZN, for their assistance. Also, if I have missed anyone else, I'd like to thank them too and apologize for forgetting them--my only excuse being that, at the time, I was not too coherent.

WITH MANY THANKS,
Tim K3VUD

-30-

The Two-Way Radio Growth Story

AUTHORIZED TRANSMITTERS IN SAFETY AND SPECIAL SERVICES

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Citizens	2,397,852	2,561,363	2,718,505	2,781,101	2,759,111	2,842,645	3,991,738	3,908,479	3,842,775	4,129,763	5,988,398
Amateur	288,325	292,194	233,412	237,164	290,296	233,021	296,118	284,235	279,505	273,780	276,793
Aviation	176,558	169,034	196,723	225,876	230,993	242,165	177,171	180,658	186,448	212,295	225,748
Industrial	1,315,498	1,400,231	1,551,410	1,688,744	1,858,392	2,018,247	1,488,626	1,829,659	2,051,034	2,303,063	2,711,159
Public Safety	544,732	597,238	639,555	684,456	732,093	778,469	1,539,271	2,026,719	2,318,373	2,668,134	3,305,479
Marine	138,788	149,629	174,454	199,238	226,183	250,636	234,343	256,453	250,459	257,047	254,930
Transportation	416,387	446,214	489,835	522,381	551,567	573,822	1,140,955	1,357,518	1,451,449	1,643,729	1,402,790
Total	5,276,140	5,615,953	6,053,894	6,388,960	6,648,637	6,989,000	8,858,222	9,843,720	10,380,043	11,487,811	14,175,297

Source: Federal Communications Commission



Robert Lee Fields
Box 884
El Sobrante CA 94803

How to Catch a CBer

-- practical hints

Judging from the title of this article, your first thoughts were that someone finally wrote "An Elementary Guide to Catching and Prosecuting Your Local Bootleg Citizen Band Operator." He's that "good buddy" that is wiping out all your neighbors' boob-tubes with his 1 kilowatt linear and spreading hate and discontent throughout the whole area. I'm sorry to disappoint you, but this article is intended to help you catch those CBers who are just about ready to turn in their skip handles because they have had enough of the CB retailers' "big bonanza."

This article is from an ex-CBer, ex-Novice, and almost a General Class ham's point of view on what to do to catch a new ham—or if you prefer, a CBer.

My background in CB runs the whole interest spectrum. I started as a legal call letters CBer, progressed through the "track down those law-breakers" period, and finally ended up joining their ranks as the "Spook." After attending their social gatherings for a few months, I met the girl of my dreams and had the traditional CB wedding. One guest remarked that the church parking lot looked as

if the fishing fleet had come in because of all the cars with CB antennas on them. Luckily, my marriage has lasted longer than my interest in CB. And that is why I turned to ham radio and away from the "good buddy" part of my life in 1972.

Somewhere in the scads of CB articles in the *Pop Electronics* magazines, I have read that the average life expectancy of a "good buddy" is 3 or 4 years. That's from when he first gets excited about CB until he no longer has any interest in it as a hobby or way of life.

During this time the average CBer buys a SSB base radio, 2 mobile AM rigs, a groundplane, tower, rotor, and beam antenna; plus a linear and all the extra goodies to make his station the talk of the town. This means the fellow can spend a couple of hundred or a couple of thousand dollars, but spend they do in a big way. Through this period of second mortgaging his house to buy CB equipment, the "good buddy" can usually be found at coffee breaks shooting the bull and trading QSL cards, going to CB jamborees hundreds or thousands

TWO METER NET MANAGERS REPORT

FROM WA3UQW, BOB

8-4-76

8-11-76

8-18-76

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9-22-76

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WA3BKD	X	X	X	X	X	X
WA3LDM	X	X	-	X	X	X
WA3OKK	X	X	X	X		X
WA3ZEP	X	X	X	X	X	X
WB3ADQ	X	X	X	X	X	X
W3UEJ	X		X	-		
W3UTX	X		X	X	X	X
K3AVD	X		X	X		X
K3PSP			X		X	X
K3DXV						
K3VUD	X	X	X	X	X	X
WA3FOI	X	X	X		X	X
WA3FOJ	X	X	X		X	X
WA3KUK	X	X	X	X	X	X
WA3LDL	X	X			X	X
WA3OXB					X	
WA3PJB						
WA3TGR						
WA3TSI		X		X		X
WA3TOB	X	X		X	X	X
WA3UQW	X	X	X	X		X
WA3WBO				X	X	
WA3WIA	X	X			X	X
WA3YER						
WA3YWS		X			X	X
WA3ZZN	X			X		X
WB3AKC	X	X	X	X		
K3VCV		X				
W3TTN		X	X		X	
WA3WPE						X
WA3QER						X

NON LISTED CHECK INS.

W3EZI WB3CEH WB8LTW WA3SYN WB3CYO WA3WVP

Welcome to Clyde WA3WPE and George WA3QER

- Request that all new check-ins be polled and asked if they would care to join the net.on a regular basis Tks and 73's

of miles away, and making himself known for miles around by yakking on the radio day and night. Then along comes about the fourth year and the CBer realizes that it's just no fun trying to fight the local "channel hog" for a break or trying to compete with the thousands of new CBers on his channel just to attempt to talk 15 miles. Even skip shooting is becoming impossible with these new fellows and their new liners in the local area. So the "good buddy" decides to sell his station for that camera equipment that he has always longed for, and his CB way of life ends.

Now this is the chance that ham radio clubs have been waiting for to pick up some new recruits. Hundreds of these "good buddies" have gotten to the point of selling out because of a general lack of interest and the enormous crowds since the CB boom of 1976 came along.

Of course, I am speaking of C. W. McCall's hit record "Convoy" (about the CBing truck drivers), television's "Movin' On" with those CB truckers Sonny and Will, and the country western and rock stations across the country that are giving CB rigs away by the bushel to promote the song. And then there are all the clubs: CB, custom vans, custom 4 wheelers, custom pickups, custom VWs, custom skateboards, custom motorcycles, custom 18 wheelers, custom motorhomes; and don't forget airplanes, hot air balloons, hang gliders, and the ever popular U.S.S. Enterprise "Star Trek" Space Communicators with twin warp sound for the kiddies. A quick analysis of the situation leads me to ask these vital questions: Is everybody in this country a "good buddy"? Does everyone drive a semi and say "negatory" and "10-4"? Is everybody from Oklahoma and what is bodacious?

Millions of people are "turning off" CB after long and illustrious careers (to buy camera equipment) because of the CB boom. With something like 500,000 CBers a month seeking FCC licenses, there just isn't any place for the old timers to go to have room to talk. Even the high channels above channel 23 are filling up with sidebanders and their funny Donald Duck talking. So the "good buddies" with their Yaesus, Trams, and Tempos try to use off channels, ham bands, or just give up and finally sell out completely. The reason always seems the same: all their friends are gone and the channels are too crowded to use.

So how do the hams attract all these CBers into their clubs? Let's find out how the average guy gets interested in CB in the first place.

The Neighborhood CBer

Most CBers are drawn in by the advertisements in the media, or by a friend or relative who shows the prospective CBer what fun it is to talk on his cute little radio, get these nifty QSL cards, and use a catchy little handle like "Spook" or "Li'l Goober." The neighborhood CBer takes him to a CB coffee break to meet other CBers, and later helps the new guy buy a rig, put up antennas, check swr, fill out applications and give him all the help he needs to get into the CB groove.

CB Coffee Breaks

Coffee breaks are family style get-togethers usually held at pizza parlors with food, beverage, a live country western band for dancing, drawings, and a meeting thrown in. The drawings and prizes are what bring the crowds to the breaks — the better the prizes, the bigger the crowd. Most of the money goes to buy more

prizes, but any left over goes to the club to sponsor picnics, dances, or campouts. Family participation is really stressed with all sorts of kids' prizes, food or appliances for the wife, and lots of radio gear for the hubby. An awards ceremony usually follows with presentations such as Channel Hog Award, Ratchet Jaw Award, Bucket Mouth Award, and the coveted All Mouth No Ears Alligator Awards. The CB family comes home with a full stomach after a fun evening with friends, and with a little luck, all sorts of prizes just for buying a few bucks worth of tickets. My wife and I have furnished our kitchen in this manner for years — sure saved us a bundle.

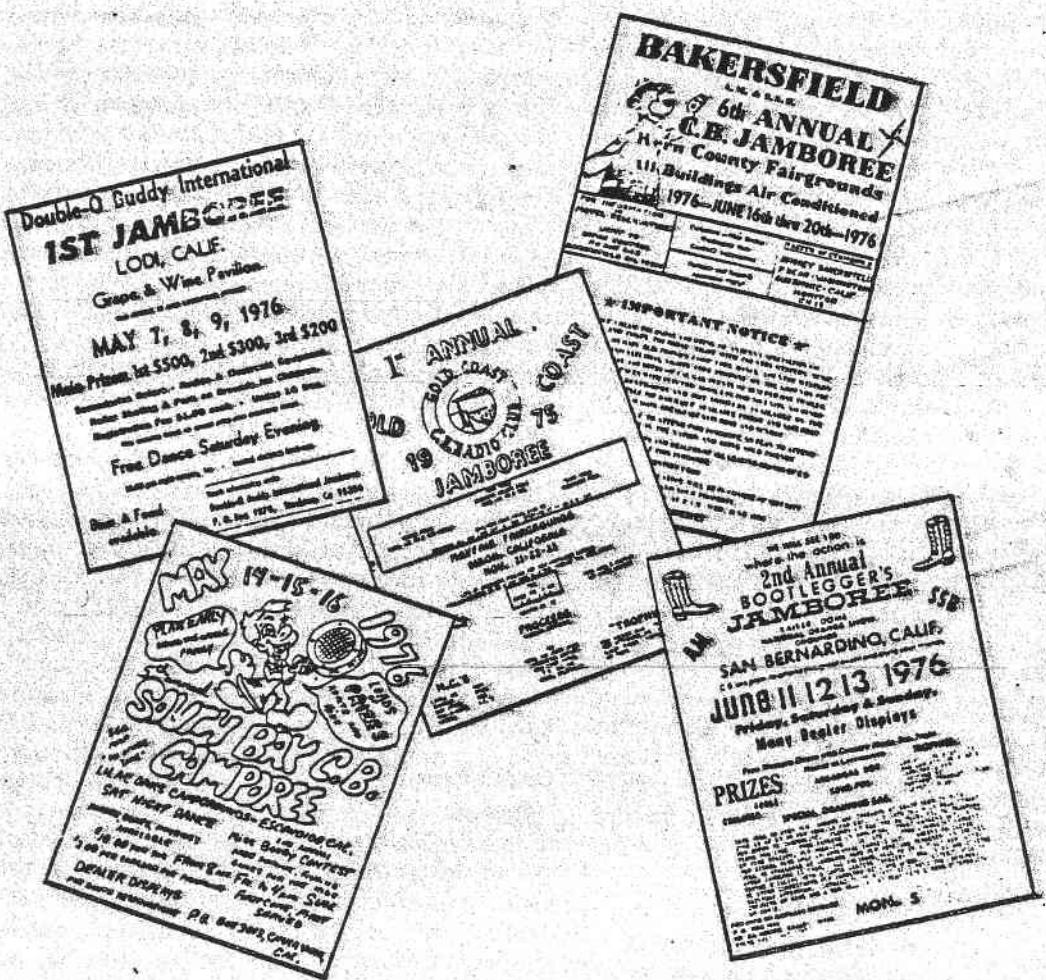
CB Jamborees

Jamborees are the big brothers of coffee breaks and are usually held at county or state fairgrounds. An individual or club rents the fairgrounds, then rents out

sales space for business and controls the food concessions. The club has printed thousands of flyers which are carried or sent to other jamborees all over the country hoping to bring droves of CBers to this jamboree. And not wanting to be left out of the "big one," a typical "good buddy" packs up the family camper, and family and friends caravan a thousand miles for a weekend jamboree.

Jamborees are like big fairs with something for everyone. Activities at most jamborees are dealer displays, carnival, flea market, kids' games and rides, bed racing, country western dances, liquid refreshment, and the thrill of meeting all those other skip-talkers eyeball to eyeball. Two full days of excitement with your friends in a party atmosphere for only the cost of parking your camper on the grounds with hookups and buying tickets for the thousands of dollars of prizes the jamboree has put up to





bring in the crowds. The family has a great time and the "good buddy" comes home with a prize or two if he buys enough tickets. No admissions price, no banquet, no expensive hotel room — just the cost of getting there with the family and tent or camper.

I once had the pleasure of writing to the ARRL to tell them of the CB jamboree in Southern California at Bakersfield. This is the largest one in California and last year brought in around 12,000+ people. It cost nothing to park the car and go take a look see, only to camp and buy raffle tickets. The CBers put on these free jamborees to bring in the crowds (and make money), but the ham conventions charge for the same privilege.

A case in point: At the recent ARRL Pacific Convention held at the Royal Coach Motor Inn at San Mateo,

California, I telephoned to find out about just going over to see the exhibits. The fellow on the phone told me that I couldn't get in without either buying the banquet dinner or paying ten bucks to see the exhibits. "Outrageous!" I said. Why should I drive a hundred miles to pay and see the exhibits when I can look in a ham magazine and see the same thing? And how is a young person going to scrape up the money to pay for the privilege of trying to get interested in ham radio as a hobby? No wonder there are so many new CBers if this is ham radio's attitude towards new members.

This convention was held in one of the most expensive hotels in the bay area. It would only draw in people with the big money to pay for it, and how many of us are rich these days? I'm sure there are plenty of hams who either cannot afford the

fancy convention or are not willing to part with 10 hard earned bucks just to look at radio displays. My letter to the ARRL convinced me that they are not interested in the family aspect of ham radio and neither are those who put on conventions. It is the family activity that has made CB so popular and with that idea in mind here are some suggestions to catch a new ham:

1. Don't charge admission to get into an event for those who just want to browse around. This discourages the people who aren't sure they are that interested and who would leave rather than spend the money. Charge only for the lectures and banquet if you have to make money, but give these people a chance to see what it's all about.

2. Get your ham club to advertise classes for Novices and Generals at places where CBs are sold with the selling

point being "Tired of CB? Get into the exciting world of ham radio with its wide open and uncrowded spaces!" When they call to find out more information, invite them over to see your station. Sell them so hard that they will trade the CB gear for ham gear and not cameras.

3. Don't ever have a Novice class without a General class scheduled back-to-back. I attended a class with 7 disgusted fellow CBers who were eager to get into ham radio. After we all worked hard to get the Novice there was no one there to help them set up their stations and no hope of doing what these CBers had really set out to do — TALK. CBers are talkers and they want to get to the talking stage as fast as possible or find something better to do with their time. Get them through that grand canyon between Novice and General quickly so they don't become discouraged and quit too soon.

4. Get the whole family interested in your ham radio club. Have picnics, parties, dances, and get the young blood interested in social activities. It is the young men and women who will be the future hams if there is something to spark their interest. Friendship with other young people is a great start towards sharing the ham experience. Get your wife or lover involved in social parts of the meetings; wives love to get involved with other wives at social gatherings and yak while you're yakking with the men. Here's your chance to sell her on ham radio as something other than the hobby you waste all your time and money on. Save the dull activities for regular meetings and the fun things for the family get-togethers.

I'm certainly not advocating the complete overthrow of ham radio as we know it today. I'd just like to