



# R.R.R.C. NEWS

## MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB

Volume XI No. 6/7

June/July 1991

**IMPORTANT  
NOTICE**

The next meeting of the Rock River Radio Club will be on Tuesday, June 4th at 7:30 PM. The RRRC meets at the Dodge County Sheriff's Dept. (lower level conference room), 141 N. Main (Highway 26) in Juneau.

## JUNE PROGRAM

There will be no formal program at our next meeting to allow for the following to be discussed:

At the request of members of the RRRC and the committee recently appointed by President Haas, Repeater Chairman Dick Feutz sent out a ballot/survey to hams THAT DONATED IN THE LAST 2 YEARS TO THE REPEATER FUND. The purpose of this was to determine the future direction of the RRRC Repeater and RRRC Repeater Fund. The results of this ballot/survey will be announced at the June 4th meeting. Other items to be discussed include Field Day, should the Club pursue the 5 Year Plan proposed by Eli Luster (WB9MKZ), and should we become an ARRL Full Service Club.

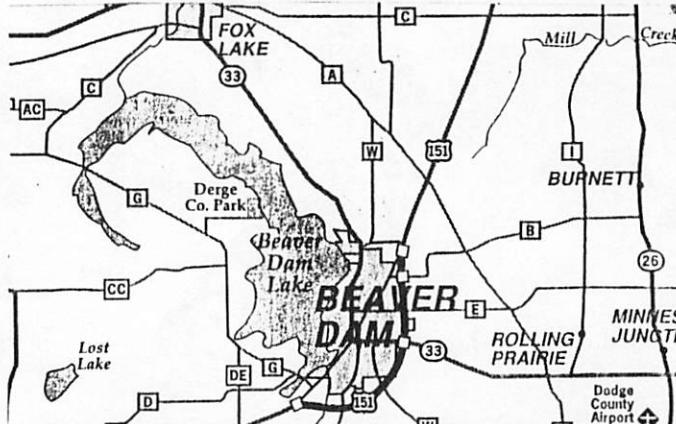
## EXAM SESSION

The RRRC will offer amateur radio license exams (ARRL VEC) on Tuesday, June 18th at 7 PM. The location is the County Extension Building on Center St. in Juneau. Talk-in on the RRRC Repeater - 146.64 MHz (input 600 down).

## FIELD DAY 1991 JUNE 22&23

Every year on the 4th weekend in June hams across the Country participate in a contest to see how many contacts they can make in a 24 hour period. This allows us to test our equipment in less than ideal conditions (emergency power with portable stations and antennas). It also is a perfect time to introduce newcomers to our hobby. The Rock River Radio Club will be participating in this year's contest. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The site is Derge County Park on the West side of Beaver Dam Lake. Take County G (see map) to County CP, which is the road to the Park (there is a sign for the Park at the intersection of G & CP). The contest begins at 1 PM Saturday and we will be at the site through Sunday morning. For more information, come to the June 4th meeting. Field Day Committee members are Brad Gehrt (885-4388), Mark Mullen, Bruce Grahn and Duane Haas.



## RRRC NEWS STAFF

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RRRC NEWS  
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# RRRC REPEATER HISTORY

By Dick Feutz

In the beginning years of the Rock River Radio Club, which I have to admit was before my time, I can not provide much information. I do know that it began in 1931. During the War the Club became inactive due to Federal restrictions and became active again in the early fifties. The meetings were held in the old water works pump house in Beaver Dam. I became involved with the Club in the early 1970's with meetings at the Pumpkin Center Tap in Pumpkin Center. In 1977, several members of the Club expressed an interest in setting up a 2 meter repeater in Dodge County. Dale Marks indicated that the Ozaukee Highway Department had purchased a new Motorola repeater and had traded in their old one, and that it would be available to the Club for \$100 if we could guarantee that it never got back into commercial service.

Red Beneditz and Dale Marks met with Vic Gehrke to see if we could get permission to locate a repeater on the Sheriff's Dept. tower. The question was put to the County Board and was approved with the condition that we provide the County with insurance coverage for the repeater.

Several members of the RRRC expressed concern that they were not in support of a repeater and did not want the Club dues spent on it. Several other members thought it would be great and indicated they would be willing to make generous contributions to help get it started. After much heated discussion it was decided that the RRRC would help sponsor the Repeater by donating \$50 toward its purchase, but the Repeater would be a financially separate group. The Repeater was to be supported by those people who wanted to contribute to it and would not require RRRC Club members to support it. All donations would be accepted gratefully but would be on a PURELY VOLUNTARY BASIS.

The Repeater Fund was created on August 22, 1977 with donations from Doug Maas and John Janczak. Donations were also received from Melvin Brueckner, Les Miller, John Williamson, Lewis "Bud" Bauer, Russell Reilley, Royce Maaske, Roger Wolverton, Jack Klein and Ed Seelhorst. Dick Feutz was elected Repeater Chairman. Dale Marks was elected Repeater Trustee.

On September 16, 1977, the Repeater was purchased from Motorola salesman Jim Lewis for \$100.

Dale Marks donated crystals to change frequencies and John Janczak provided the tubes

needed to get the unit back to working condition. Most of the tune up was done by Dale Marks, under the watchful eye of Red Beneditz. Several other members were on hand to assist where needed. John Klein donated the transmit antenna and Dick Feutz donated the coax and built and donated an ID'er. Dick Feutz and Dale Marks installed the antenna on the County tower.

The Repeater, equipped with a morse code ID'er and run split with separate receive and transmit antennas, was finally a reality.

Not long after the Repeater was put in service, it was decided that the coverage left much to be desired. The problem stemmed from the fact that we were operating with split antennas and had some receiver desensing caused by our transmitter. The only solution was to install a duplexer. Duplexers, however, were a big expense and since we did not have much money to work with, we decided to build our own. Working from a plan published by the ARRL, materials were obtained from Edgecomb Metals and worked into duplexer parts in the machine shop at Monarch Range Company in Beaver Dam. The parts were carefully assembled at the Dodge County Radio Shop evenings. After several weeks of failure at tuning the duplexer up we finally enlisted the help of Hugh Kelly, who was able to get it tuned. In April of 1979, the duplexer was put into service and the coverage of the RRRC was increased to its present level. Shortly after placing the duplexer into use, it was found that we were getting some birdies from one of the County transmitters. A tuned cavity was borrowed from Dick Feutz and inserted before the receiver, which cured the problem.

In December of 1982, we added the computerized repeater controller that is currently in use. It was purchased from Bob Schmid for \$640 and gave us autopatch and paging capabilities.

Autopatch was added in November of 1983, but was limited to emergency phone calls only. Later, this was changed to an open patch.

In the Spring of 1984, we purchased 15 weather radios and sold them along with modification instructions to persons who wished to monitor the Repeater for emergency weather information. An alert tone was added to the Repeater, which would activate these receivers in weather emergencies. This alert tone is sent out every Monday at the start of the Net meeting, although no one seems to remember what the tone is for.

In December of 1988, Dale Marks obtained and donated a solid state transmitter and receiver to upgrade the system to more current equipment. Dale also donated the crystals to convert the units to our frequency.

(continued on page 3)

(Repeater History, continued from page 2)

In Spring of 1989, after being modified and outfitted with a carrier operated relay by Dick Feutz and Dale Marks, the solid state receiver went on line.

In 1990, Dick Feutz, Dale Marks and Red Beneditz attempted to put the solid state transmitter on line several times, but were unsuccessful because of audio and switching compatibility problems.

In recent months, Dick and Dale continue to address this problem and hope to have the unit working and on the air by the time you read this.

Financially, the Repeater has been self supporting solely on the donations of those people wishing to support it and who have given their support for the Repeater only.

## BITS AND PIECES

As in the past, there will be NO RRRC MEETING in July. However, a RRRC Picnic is being planned.

This is the June/July issue of the RRRC NEWS. You will receive your next issue before the August meeting.

The RRRC will offer an Advanced License Class in the Fall of 1991. Rob Hummel (WA9ZTY) will be the instructor.

Bruce Grahn (formerly KB9GJD) has received his new call, N9LMU. Bruce is a Technician Class with HF privileges.

FOR SALE - RCA All Purpose Terminal with connecting cable. Only other things needed for Packet are radio and TNC. Also have a Triplett transistorized VOM for sale. Contact Eli Luster at 689-2623.

There is a bill in Congress that would protect Amateur frequencies. Be sure to send a letter to our Congressman, Scott Klug, regarding H.R. 73. A sample letter is in the March '91 issue of QST. Copies will be available at our June meeting.



## WHO WAS AT THE MAY RRRC MEETING?

Those present were Roy and Beryl Pedersen, Arnie Zietlow, Sherm Carr, Eli Luster, Bruce and Adam Grahn, Mark Mullen, Joe Nowak and his son, Joe, Bob Halbman, Jack Klein, Chuck Kindt, Phil Lerum, Sam and Josh Vander Galien, Bill Buchda, Scott Gavanda, Ted and Terri Neuburg, Len Buchda, Brad and Cory Gehrt, Duane Haas, George Heinicke, John Chapman, Ashley Fox, Butch Karsten, Norb Aurit, Roberta and Ken Hummel, Tom Rueter, Bob Dunham, Bob Dott, Leo Thoma, Claude Held, Louie Jansma and Dale Marks.

## 55 YEARS WITH THE RRRC

Having just received my 55 year pin from the QCWA (Quarter Century Wireless Association), it occurred to me that I often hear OMs wishing for the "Good Old Days in Ham Radio". I cannot for the life of me wonder why?

Some of these same persons didn't do anything that amounted to a hill of beans then, and they don't now. A few were generous in pitching in then and still do now, but they don't talk about them good old days, they are more interested in promoting Ham radio than themselves.

Picture this: You are 15 years old. You can't believe your ears all of the wonderful things radio is doing. You wonder how and what makes this happen? Then you actually hear local people on the air talking about RME69's, Sky Buddies, Dipoles, SWR's etc., and you get more curious. You ask your Dad, who eats this up too, and he says he KNOWS some of these people personally and arranges for you to go to a Ham Meeting at W9BCV's home. Duane was president of the RRRC back in 1936.

When you get there, you're scared, timid, and in awe to actually meet some of the "voices" you've listened to. What happens? You are treated with respect, dignity, and patience just as if you were one of those magic persons who actually are licensed by the federal government to operate their own radio station! Man, I never forgot that wonderful evening.

From then to this very day, I use that magic evening as my yardstick to compare then and now. We had a wonderful Club then, but I think it's much, much better now! I heard one member say how wonderful a neighboring club was. No, he was not an old timer. I thought how silly! Stop and look around. We are conducting some of the finest radio classes I've ever attended. What about Packet? Just mention the word and patient devotees will bust their britches to help you.

Do you need help putting up your antenna? Just ask. Who has the finest club news, and by the way, what club won the Tri-County Trophy this Spring? Who gives a hoot about our excellent repeater, we all do! Who is now planning Field Day? Who recently made available high tower facilities for Packet radio? Who has a very active weather net? Who is now setting up a club picnic? Who has a terrific Christmas party?

I better not forget some of the best, informative monthly meetings I ever attended! Bet I forgot some more good things such as "Tune-Up Night", etc..

The only thing that bothers me is that I hope I never forget I am nothing important, that Amateur Radio gave, and I took. I hope I don't forget that the RRRC is not for my benefit or glory, but for all those folks that wonder how this magic radio works? I pray that I never assume that every person has plenty of money to spend on this hobby, many, many don't, and their spark of interest is killed there and then. I sincerely hope that the dues and "donations" are presented in such a way so that those that can will and those that can't will never be so embarrassed and drop out. Sometimes I get the feeling that this does come across this way, and I remember 55 years ago when it didn't and I'm still here because of that!

Your friend and grateful member,  
Jack Klein (W9YOA)

May 7, 1991

The ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB met at the Dodge County Communications Center at 7:30 with 38 persons present.

Duane opened the meeting by asking that everyone introduce themselves. The minutes of the April meeting were accepted by moves by Berta Hummel & Bob Dott. Motions carried. The treasurers report has a balance of \$495.80. Motions to accept were made by Bob Dott & Mark Mullen, motions carried.

The Repeater Committee met last week and they are compiling a history and will report the results of a questionnaire that Dick Feutz plans to send the contributing members for the next June meeting. An attempt to interface the new transmitter was made during the Monday ARES net. It may be on the air soon.

Certificates of Participation were given the Green Fox & Watertown Clubs for the March 11th. Hamfest.

Brad Gehrt, Bruce Grahn & Mark Mullen are working on the Field Day plans. Roy Pedersen & Jack Klein moved we proceed. Motion carried. Jack Klein & Mark Mullen moved we spend no more than \$125.00. Motion carried. It will occur at Derge Park off County G, June 22nd., 1:00 P.M. to 1:00, on Sunday, with setup before the time. Camping is available. \$8.00 with electricity, \$6.00 without. Definite plans will be discussed at the next meeting. We could dedicate this activity to Redd Beneditz, W9IZG. Some have become hams just from their Field Day experience.

Arnie Zietlow moved seconded by Jack Klein that we give Robert Hummel the \$80.00 received during the classes he's taught recently that has achieved many new Amateur's recently. Motion carried.

Copies of a letter received by Robert from Scott Klug, our Congressman, acknowledging a request that he honor a request to support H.R. 73, a bill that deals with the Spectrum Protection Act of 1991. We are encouraged to write to Mr. Klug too!

Arnie has compiled a report of the activity of the Clubs participation in the past 6 years. We have been active 22 times as an emergency team and have approximately held 400 Monday night nets.

Arnie requests that volunteers help to assemble the things that will be sold on auction, May 18th., that Redd Beneditz had collected at his home. He hopes those that are willing will help anytime!

Mark Mullen is interested in having an Old Fashioned Picnic sometime this summer, with some ways of making some money for the club. Mark & Jack will come with recommendations to the next meeting.

Eli Luster is interested in having us plan some goals with a review for a 5 year plan. We will discuss this again another time. He gave us each a copy of the plan.

Discussion on our Liability Policy with input from Claude Held gave us a chance to consider a clarification. He claims we were lucky to have this policy that we seemed to have received under the grandfather clause.

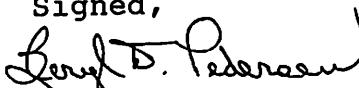
Duane said that we as a club will have a table at next Saturday's Hamfest at Jefferson. (\$6.50)

The Attendance Prize was drawn and the lucky recipient was, John N9EYX.

The Pedersen's will bring in the lunch next month. Eli Luster brought the lunch tonight. Thanks! Ted Newburg will be Net Control next Monday Night and Roy Pedersen will control the 20th. Arnie & Roy Pedersen express a need for newer equipment for the Dodge County Emergency Government. All they can get is 146 & 147 on the present radio. Roy & Tom Rueter voted to adjourn.

Dodge County had 26 of the recent 86 check-ins for the State-wide Drill. 30%  
GREAT PARTICIPATION!

Signed,



Beryl D. Pedersen, Secry.

Sherm Carr W9NGT our area State Representative for Amateur Radio Emergency Service brought concerns that we continue to carry on as in the past with active participation in ARES severe weather communication. He gave each present copy of pertinent information. Dale Marks gave us a tour of the Jail. Thanks Dale!

A LETTER TO REDD

Dear Redd;

Thought I would drop a line or two to let you know, and I am sure you would like that, how things are going and chat a bit about a few memories of the past.

Curtis, Carol and John contacted me asking if the R R R C would be interested in disposing your equipment and of course your old friends responded. Duane, Marc, Bruce, Bob, John, the Hummels, the Pedersens and Oh yes Bill Kimbel among others, pitched in to help.

After spending many hours removing all that gear (?) you had stored in the loft of your garage--One question, Redd, how did you ever manage to stack all that gear (?) up there ?, the gang decided to hold an auction, so on Sat. 18th, in spite of the WX ~~turning~~ cold with a threat of rain, which thanks, Redd, you held off until all was sold.

With Rob, WA9ZTY, as auctioneer, Ruth, clerk-- Emma, cashier-- Carol furnishing hot coffee and grandson John helping where needed, all went quite smoothly.

So now--all that is left for <sup>us</sup> are memories of W9IZG, and for Bertha and myself, pleasant memories--The almost daily noon visits after your lunch with your old buddies from the Law-enforcement Dept, --the stories we used to exchange in German-Bertha offering you some home-made apple pie, etc, and your usual "Thanks, Bertha, I'll save this for tonight"--but you very seldom did as the next day we would hear--"I didn't think it would keep, so I ate it when I got home"--Ah yes, Redd, memories--like the time I was mowing our lawn, almost finished, when it started to rain--you came out with your umbrella, walking along side me saying "This lawn will be finished, come Hell or high water" Bertha snapped our picture which we still look at and chuckle--The fun times we had at the ham-fests, when I would introduce you as my father--"Got him out of the Home for the day--Memories--how happy you were when our grandchildren adopted you as "Grand Pa" Redd and when our daughter-in-law sent you special cards for your birthdays or Xmas, you always brought them along to show us--One thing though, Redd, I was in trouble after you got acquainted with our son and grand-sons--They are Ford men along with you and me the only General Motors man in the family-- Memories--Memories--and wouldnt you know--Redd, right after you left, one of my rigs started acting up--and no longer do I hear--"Lets have a look at it"--and after you got those "RFs" going in the right direction again--"There see, that wasnt so bad"

Thanks, Redd, for all the memories--Pleasant memories. Quoting from Rich Regent's Comments--"Now all is quiet, but the memories will live on!"

Rest well, my friend, I miss you very much.