

# WATCH

Midwest Amateur  
Radio Service ...

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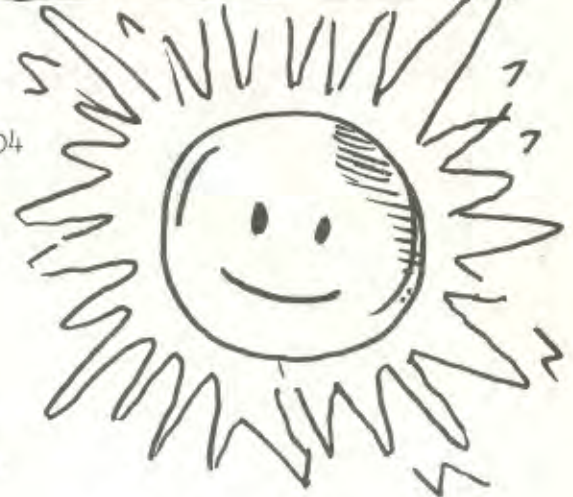
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"I'LL BE  
BACK"

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER . . .

Forty meters is maintaining a remarkable consistency, alternating between poor and dead, with occasional capricious upswings to fair. The interest and participation in Midcars are, predictably, directly proportional to the condition of the band. Or perhaps we should limit this statement to participation, because interest obviously remains high, as attested by the fact that as soon as a band opening occurs large numbers of stations are standing by, waiting to check in. Our active membership has declined somewhat but remains at a healthy level. With the coming of better band conditions, membership activity will undoubtedly increase. We are now experiencing the worst band conditions since the founding of Midcars in 1968. Summer static on 75 has been at a high level but, strangely enough, 20 meters has had some excellent openings, with Pacific DX rolling in during late evening hours. I have luckily snagged several rare ones during the past few evenings.

The attendance at the Midcars picnic last July 5th was up compared to '74 but less than in '73. Those who didn't make it missed a good time in a beautiful location. It may be that July 5 was an unfortunate choice of dates, since many members have informed me they had previous plans for that week-end which couldn't be cancelled. Too bad that band conditions did not permit discussing the picnic more fully and allowing more input from the membership. Nonetheless, they came from all over - Overland Park, Kan., St. Louis, Springfield, Mo., Dayton, Logansport, Ind., to name a few.

A final note: Ballots for election of 1976 officers are being mailed with this issue of the Watch. Be sure to return yours to the Secretary by October 1 so that results can be announced in the November issue.

73, Bill, K4DLA

**VOTE** = ELECTION BALLET ENCLOSED

RADIO WATCH CROSSWORD PUZZELACROSS

1. Secretary
4. Ft. Knox is there
5. Preposition
6. Electrical units
10. Editor
11. Old Minn. call
13. \_\_\_\_\_ waltz
14. near Ft. Knox

DOWN

1. Jackson
2. Ham negative
3. Dayton
4. Terre Haute
7. Laughter
8. Traffic signal
9. Another Jacksonian
12. Military man

Thanks to Ken, WA8VCH for the crossword puzzle. Solution will appear in the next month's Watch.

Dear Editor: Things have been pretty dead around '58 lately - or have they? A common complaint is... "Every time I listen for Midcars I don't hear them operating". This proves a point - even though the sun spots (or lack of them) long skips, broadcast heterodynes and occasional QRM have taken their toll on the HF bands - it shows that the boys are still monitoring the frequency. So all is not lost yet. One wonders, where has everybody gone? Amateur radio like many other activities these days has been undergoing changes that have drastically affected the operating habits of the average ham. Poor band conditions, noisy ignition systems in all the late model cars, increased thievery of ham radio equipment, and vandals that delight in twisting off Hustler antennas has certainly not done much to further the cause of 40 meter mobile operation.

As a result, the Hot Water 22 has been replaced by the Regency HR2B, the Hustler with the 5/8 wave magnet mount vertical whip, and "CQ" with "QRZ".

I finally broke and succumbed to temptation and bought a 2 meter rig at the 1974 Dayton Hamvention. I suddenly found out where everyone had gone. Operating the various repeaters in Chicago and across the country, I heard scores of old familiar calls and voices of old friends. After more than a year of operating 2 meters I have finally decided that there is something to it after all. 2 meters (or 220mc. for that matter) is uniquely suitable to 90% of my mobile perating requirements. Many fine repeater stations have been, and are being built all over the country by dedicated radio clubs that sponsor the same type of public service operation that Midcars does. Although operating procedures are necessarily quite different, the end result is much the same. I was amazed to find the great number of present - and past - Midcar members that operate on the Chicago repeaters.

Perhaps many of you out there have been curious about 2 meter FM operation. Now is your chance to find out, and in the process meet many old friends and Midcar members. The Chicago FM Club is sponsoring a hamfest called RADIO EXPO on Sept. 6 and 7 at the Lake County Illinois Fair Grounds, just north of Chicago. Many large manufacturers and distributors of VHF gear will be present. Midcars will also be represented by the writer, who will occupy a booth for the purpose of greeting all members, prospective members and friends. Just pull up a chair and set a spell and chew the fat awhile. In addition, I'll have open house in my room at the Mundelein, Ill., Holiday Inn on Friday and Saturday evenings. Just look for the MIDCARS QSL on the door.

See you at RADIO EXPO! Kirby Strickland, WA9CMY

EDITORIAL: I can smell the sun spots - they're coming back and so will 40. With better band conditions, Midcars' activity will increase. I'm looking forward to those days again. Kirby's comments about 2M are certainly accurate. You can't beat 2M for local mobile operation. It's better than having a telephone in your car - and for local emergencies, it's ideal. Every ham should consider adding a 2M rig to his operation. But for across the State or around the world communications the lower frequencies are a must. I vary my operating between 2 and 40 and find it a pleasant balance. My experience is that 2 exclusively does get stale after awhile.

73, Bob, K8IKT

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