

APRIL 1977

RADIO WATCH

THE MIDWEST AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As each month passes, it becomes increasingly obvious that the MIDCARS Service is blessed with a fine editor. Starting from scratch in December, Phil (with more than a little help from Barbara) has produced an ever improving Radio Watch. Last month he proved his journalistic nature by scooping the president and discussing my topic for April which is interference on 7258 khz. Nevertheless, this subject deserves considerable attention, thus I shall devote some additional space to it.

The essence of Phil's editorial last month was to ignore deliberate interference. I agree with him completely and will go even a step further. I am of the opinion that we should ignore all interference. I have direct evidence that one of the most harmful statements transmitted on 7258 khz is "Old man, you're right on top of MIDCARS. Can you please QSY?" You may ask why is it so bad in that we did say "please", but this statement has and does cause hard feelings. Man by his very nature does not like to be told that he is "interfering". This is true in all areas of life. If caught doing so, probably ninety five percent of the people will be embarrassed and pull back. Our problem is that we just cannot afford the other five percent. This last group because of their own emotional hang-ups, will overreact and do just the opposite of what you request. This is especially true if we provide them with a forum, ie, give them recognition. So the bottom line must always be to ignore interference. Before proceeding, let me clarify one point. If an amateur asks if the frequency is in use, this is not interference. A reply such as "yes, it is in use; thank you for asking" is very appropriate.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER CONT.

Now allow me to elaborate a bit more about what happens when we ignore interference. For discussional purposes, I'll divide the interference into three categories. These are: (1) unintentional, (2) discourteous and (3) deliberate. Most of our QRM comes from categories one and two. How we handle it determines if these fellows will graduate to category three. If an amateur unintentionally interferes with the Service, he does so either because he cannot hear some of the activity on 58 or because of carelessness. In either case, he will quickly become aware of our presence whether he is told or not. When this happens, he will usually become embarrassed and try to move on. Thus, by not saying anything, we often obtain the wanted result without taking a chance that he is one of the five percenters who get upset when asked to move. If the QRM is from a discourteous ham (category 2), the odds are even better that he is one of those five percenters, so again please ignore him. Even if the Service is disrupted for a period of time, this result is far better than causing his graduation to category three. Finally, we have our dedicated antagonizers who deliberately climb on or near 58 to do their thing. We have years of experience which indicates that talking to or about these misfits only encourages their activities. I might add that in several cases these graduates to category three were prompted by comments made by MIDCARS' members who tried to "help the service" by directing away unintentional QRM.

This in no way excuses these misfits. However, we as responsible amateurs must recognize that such emotional unstable people exist and that the actions they take often depends on what we do. We cannot take on the task of changing human nature. We can practice self-discipline.

But now how do we handle our category three problem? The answer is "with difficulty". We probably do have at least some legal recourse to many of these premeditated violations. However, most of us do not have the money, the time, the knowledge or the tenacity required to secure these solutions. Amateur radio is still a hobby and most of us need to expend the majority of our energies elsewhere. Since we cannot or do not choose to control these misfits, we have only self-discipline at our disposal. Please ignore antagonizers and do not provide them with the recognition they require to persevere. They no doubt will continue to harass us, but the amount can be decreased if we do not feed their ego.

Let me suggest that service controllers have a prime responsibility when deliberate QRM is directed towards us. If you cannot effectively operate the Service or pass it to someone that can, then please suspend operations. Do not allow 58 to become a battleground and draw the attention of other misfits who might just happen by. We lost our 75 meter MIDCARS operation when we tried to continue in the face of strong deliberate QRM. In the end, almost every misfit in the midwest was doing his thing on 3903 khz to add to the original QRM. Service controllers should either discontinue operations temporarily or better yet announce a suspension of operations for awhile and carry on a friendly QSO with one or at mcst two strong stations on the frequency. When this happens, it is imperative that other members of the service recognize what has happened and exhibit patience. Operating service control can be a frustrating experience when QRM is deliberate and impatient users at a time like that are of no help at all.

Let me conclude by saying that anyone who has constructive ideas on this subject can write to me or write an editorial for the Radio Watch, Your thoughts will be appreciated.

Frank -- W8LRO

MIDCARS AT DAYTON

I hope that most of you are planning to attend the 26th Annual Dayton Hamvention on April 29, 30 and May 1. While you are here be sure to attend the MIDCARS Forum at 9 AM on Saturday. As I mentioned last month, we need your attendance to keep our slot on the Dayton Program. Also remember that our meeting will be relatively short this year since we must share a time slot with another group. Activities will start at 9 AM sharp. Our guest speaker is Mr. Harold Steinman, K1FHN from the National Headquarters ARRL. He will talk about interference to traffic and service nets.

As in past years, we will have a nice list of door prizes to give away to attendees. New-tronics Corp. has donated Twin Hustler Antennas. Heathkit and Drake have both given us wattmeters. Many other prizes will be available by Hamvention time. All you have to do to be eligible to win is attend the MIDCARS Forum.

For your social life, be sure to drop by the MIDCARS hospitality suite - Room 289 at the Imperial House North. It will be open both Friday and Saturday evening.

Frank -- W8LRO

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FOR SALE

(1) Super Hustler Mobile antenna with 15 and 75 meter resonators only.
Price \$40.00

(1) D. C. Mobile Power Supply (DRAKE D.C.3) excellent shape. Price \$75.00

(1) VIBROPLEX KEYER #261490 Complete with electronic home brewed code oscillator. Complete keyer. Price \$15.00

Don Smith, WA0UFG, 817 E. Ridgeway Avenue, Waterloo, Iowa 50702
My phone number is 1-319-232-0679 if anyone is interested. Prices are F.O.B. Waterloo, Iowa. All pieces are in excellent shape.

Don Smith -- WA0UFG

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FROM THE EDITOR

Well, the big news this month is Dayton Hamvention. I'll be looking forward to meeting many of you there. It should be an exciting weekend with something for just about everyone. I hope the MIDCARS Forum is on the top of your list and be sure to stop by the hospitality suite even if only for a few minutes.

We are still not being deluged with articles for the RADIO WATCH. Fortunately we have received a few articles and they have been very good ones. I'm sure the membership has appreciated having something to read other than this column. Remember, this is your RADIO WATCH and I'm sure every member could think of something of interest to the rest of us. How about a MIND BENDER, a one line comment about the Service or a half page technical piece? I'll bet you have plenty to say about your visit to the Hamvention. Lets hear about it!

We would like to print pictures of the member's shacks, antennas (etc.) in one of the future RADIO WATCHS. This will require a special plate to be made. If anyone would like to see their pictures in the RADIO WATCH, please send them to me. They can be in color or black and white. When we get enough of them to make up a page or two, we will have the printing plates made. Please write your name and call on the back of the photographs along with any comments you want printed.

See you on 7258,

Phil -- WB9QXY

A DOG CALLED "CQ"

Well, I have been "haming" it up for just about 10 years and have witnessed plenty of antics on the bands that would make ones hair stand on end. This past week produced the usual assortment of carriers on occupied frequencies and freaks calling CQ on top of an emergency net. The latter really drove myself nuts along with the service control station of the Midwest Amateur Radio Service. As many of you know, there were a series of weather related disasters in the midwest and this caused a heavy traffic load on the bands.

All of this boggled my mind and last night this came out in a strange dream.

We just made the move from an apartment to a home in suburbia. Of course, when you own a home you have to own a dog. So that is what our normal family did. We purchased a Dashound that naturally had big floppy ears and when you were feeling low all you needed was his face around to make you break up laughing. I dubbed this dog "CQ"!

One day I was listening to MIDCARS and had CQ on the floor next to my easy chair. When I checked into the net, a heart stopping incident happened. I heard a deep voice ask: "What is MIDCARS?"

Well, no human was in the house, so I assumed someone was asking on the radio. I told the person who inquired to move down in frequency and I would give him an explanation. I listened and never heard a station calling me.

So I decided to call CQ on the air. While doing this, CQ, my pet, jumped on his hind legs! Then CQ opened his mouth and said: "I want to talk on the radio".

Then the realization came to me that I had a talking dog interested in "ham radio". So I figured that this was a normal occurrence. I thought if K9BCJ had his talking parrot on the Halo Net on 15 meters, I would have a talking dog on MIDCARS.

So I let CQ listen to MIDCARS operating so he could get used to the procedure of checking in and also how the control stations ran the service. So then we heard Ed, WØWYJ, the net control, ask for a relief and I put CQ on, who said with his monotone baritone voice "WØWYJ here is WA9MZS, I'll take over". To this came the reply "Doesn't sound like you Larry, something wrong with your mike?". So I came back to explain that my friend was the one who checked in. Ed said: "Take it, it's all yours!". CQ got on and said: "This is MIDCARS on 7258 looking for any check-ins. Please call me WA9MZS".

Many people checked in and all wanted to tell me that they hoped my laryngitis would go away soon. CQ had plenty of explaining to do, including that his name was CQ and not Larry. CQ gave the Service over to another and he had his debut on the ham bands.

Now, CQ was really interested in ham radio and knew that he could never get his own call, as he could not hold a pen, let alone write! So he could not take the FCC tests unless they arranged for a verbal exam for him. This was very unlikely.

I taught CQ all about band conditions and operating procedures. During CQ's daily walks, he would have me ask him questions on operating points and he would come up with the answers.

A DOG CALLED CQ CONT.

At first he was rusty because he confused frequencies with their proper bands but soon he caught on. Now he has WAS, DXCC and various other awards all under my call WA9MZS. However, he has yet to rag chew the one half hour required for membership in the Ragchewers Club because at the end of 20 minutes his conversation sounds like:

"BARK, BARK, ROOF, ROOF."

Better take CQ and sign him up for diction lessons!

Lawrence I. Cotariu -- WA9MZS

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MIND BENDER

Fill in the squares with the numbers 1 thru 9 (using each number only once) to make the problem mathematically correct.

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 \square \square \\
 + \square \square \\
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 \square \square
 \end{array}$$

Ans. last month: 0 ohms.

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AN EXERSIZE IN FRUSTRATION

Friend: "Hey! I see you got a CB in your car, what kind you got"?

Me: "Thats not CB, it's amateur radio".

Friend: "How come you got two antennas"?

Me: "One is for two meters and one is for forty meters".

Friend: "What's your handle"?

Me: "My name is Phil".

Friend: "No, I mean your CB handle".

Me: "You don't understand, I'm an amateur radio operator, not a CB'r".

Friend: "I got a 40 channel super MAGNA KAT with twin big sticks that cost six hundred bucks".

Me: "That's nice".

Friend: "What channel do you monitor"?

Me: "I'm not a CB'r"!

Friend: "Sure, whatever you say".

Me: "Ten four good buddy".

Phil -- WB9QXY

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