



PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

**Dec**

With the holidays just around the corner, many of you will be busy preparing for visits with friends and relatives. We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone the best of seasons greetings and hope they are enjoyable for all. If you are going to be traveling, check the weather first and leave in plenty of time. Remember to take your VHF and UHF radios with you for communications. And, of course, may your stocking be filled with all kinds of ham radio "toys" and goodies. (Just listen to 2m on Christmas Day to see who got a new radio!)

A hearty thanks for accepting the job(s) and congratulations go out to Bob Kane-K7KOL and Lloyd Halgunseth-WA6ZZJ, the new President and Vice-President of the YARC. We wish them the best in leading our club for 1997 and look forward to working with them throughout the year. With new leadership, we may look for new ideas and programs for the upcoming year.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Matt Strandberg-KJ7DX and Dave Luteyn-N6WSZ for their participation as officers of the club this year.

The dictionary defines a club as "A group of people organized for a common purpose". With the new club officers to be installed at this month's meeting, it may also be a good time for many of you to think about helping the club out by volunteering for one of the many appointed positions that will need to be filled. These positions are part of the club's existence and are appreciated by everyone. If you would like help out with one of these positions, please let the club officers know.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** For the Wednesday morning breakfast gang, the Iron Horse will be closed Christmas Day, so we will meet on Thursday morning instead. They will be open Wednesday, New Years Day.

PRESCOTT  
DM-34  
ARIZONA



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**UPCOMING EVENTS.** Many Club members participate in local events providing communications for local events. It's an excellent opportunity for members to get out and test your portable operating capability and have some fun at the same time.

As these events near, announcements will be made on the Wednesday night NET and in the newsletter.

#### OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST



12/30 to 1/2/97. 108th Tournament of Roses Special Event Station-Variou HF Freqs. Very Popular every year! See QST 12/96



1/18 TO 1/20 ARRL VHF JAN Sweeps. 50 Mhz & Up. See WORLD RADIO 12/96



1/25 to 1/26 CQ WW 160M CW Contest.



2/1 QCWA CW QSO Party



2/8 ARRL-VE Testing. 10:00AM Blind Center-Prescott.



2/21 to 2/23 CQ WW 160M SSB Contest



#### MEETING PROGRAMS. HELP!

If you would like to make a presentation to the club, please contact Bob Kane-K7KOL the program chairman.

**Nov**

**November Meeting.** The monthly meeting was called to order at 7:04PM by President Matt Strandberg-KJ7DX. In the absence of club Secretary Bob Rosevear-WB7RRQ, the minutes from the October meeting and the Treasurers report were read by club treasurer Judy Rosevear-KC7MTY. The club treasury has \$770.67 and the refreshment fund has \$86.76. Under new business, it was announced that the

nominees for club officers for 1997 were unopposed, and therefore by acclamation are:

President: Bob Kane-K7KOL  
Vice-President: Lloyd Halgunseth-WA6ZZJ  
Secretary: Bob Rosevear-WB7RRQ  
Treasurer: Judy Rosevear-KC7MTY

Outgoing President Matt Strandberg-KJ7DX will assume a position on the Board of Directors as past president, replacing Jerry Sager-KG7ZF.

Other new business included a suggestion to exchange the club newsletter with other clubs in the state. The announcement in the Courier still shows 146.880 as the club repeater. Judy Rosevear said she would make the correction to change it to the 147.040 repeater.

Old Business: Bob Tilman-K7CJW thanked everyone for a good job on the Road Rally and announced that the people that hold the event were very impressed with the job club members did with communications and that they had made a \$100.00 donation to the club. Next year's rally will again be held in October and may be a national event over 2 days.

With no further official business to conduct, the refreshment break was called at 7:15. The 50/50 raffle was won by David-K6UWV who won \$12.50.

The evenings program was on Traffic Handling, conducted by Pen Brown-KJ7KKL and Terry Pemberton-KB7TRE. Samples of various forms had been passed out by Lloyd Halgunseth-WA6ZZJ to ARES members, and Pen went over the various forms and terminology used in traffic handling, with Terry handling the overhead projector. Several examples were given, with the help of some members sending fictitious messages using the ARRL's NTS form. Members were encouraged to send holiday greeting messages for practice, keeping messages to 25 words or less. There are several Traffic Nets on the air, and members were encouraged to tune in to them to get a better idea of how the NTS system works. We would like to thank Pen and Terry for their time and expertise in relating the instructions, explanations, and examples of traffic handling.

We would also like to thank Terry, KB7TRE for providing the meeting place for the club at the Granite Mountain Middle School.



### Club officers for 1996 are:

President - Matt Strandberg KJ7DX  
Vice President - Dave Luteyn N6WSZ  
Secretary - Bob Rosevear-WB7RRQ  
Treasurer - Judy Rosevear KC7MTY  
Board Member-Past President - Jerry Sager KG7ZF  
Board Members - Bob Rosevear WB7RRQ, Terry Pemberton KB7TRE, and Frank Horneff WA6JBV



Several club members also function in capacities that serve to benefit the club, the membership and the community.

They are as follows:

Emergency Services Coordinator: Lloyd Halgunseth-WA6ZZJ  
Greeter: Jerry Sager-KG7ZF  
Membership Services: Bob Rosevear-WB7RRQ and Terry Pemberton-KB7TRE  
Newsletter: John Wilson-KM6BF Editor & Publisher  
NET Control: Dale Leslie-N7XFD  
Refreshments: Matt Strandberg-KJ7DX  
Programs & Entertainment: Bob Kane-K7KOL  
Publicity: Judy Rosevear-KC7MTY  
Training & Technology: Vern Gregory-AB7DY  
Volunteer Examiner Testing: John Wilson-KM6BF and Dave Rutledge-W9KRQ



## THE NEWSLETTER.

If any of you

have anything within the scope of the hobby or closely related subjects worth sharing, please let us know. The deadline is the Friday before the monthly meeting. Submission by FAX/MODEM is possible and very easy! If you have Packet, text can be downloaded from the KB7FRV-BBS. Updated club membership rosters will be included periodically.



## CLUB REPEATER.

The local 2-Meter repeater on 147.040+ (100.0 PL), is the official adopted repeater for the YARC. Many thanks to Bill Kafka-W2YAV for the upkeep and use of the repeater.



**FROM CHINO BOB.** I hate this time of year. It would be a lot easier if the birds stayed and the leaves on my lawn went south for the winter.

Ever notice - November is when the grass, the leaves, and the politicians change colors?

If Jesus was a Jew, how come he has a Mexican name?

73 to all and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Bob, K7CJW**



From the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) files



**"I was feeding a short, limited-space antenna with coaxial cable. Everything seemed to be okay, but was it?"**

**The Lure of the Ladder Line** -- used with permission from QST and the American Radio Relay League, Inc.  
By Steve Ford, WB8IMY - Assistant Technical Editor

Like many hams, I live in a home that's inhospitable to antennas. My house sits on a 100-foot square lot with trees along the back. I always hoped to be the proud owner of a tower and an HF beam antenna, but that was out of the question. What about a vertical? Well, I'd have to bury plenty of radial wires in the rocky Connecticut turf. That didn't sound like fun. I could buy a vertical that didn't require radials, but those antennas were a bit out of my price range--and their awkward, spiky appearance didn't blend well with the landscaping. A wire antenna seemed to be the ideal candidate.

Hanging a wire between two trees wasn't a problem, but there was still the aesthetic issue to consider. As much as I love ham radio, I didn't want to arouse the anger of my wife and neighbors by installing a copper monstrosity that looked as if it was spun by a mutant spider. All I wanted was a simple, low-profile dipole that I could operate on a number of HF bands.

Perhaps I could string up a single dipole and feed it with coaxial cable, using an antenna tuner to load it on several bands. The length of the antenna wouldn't be critical. I'd put up as much wire as possible and let the tuner worry about transferring power to the system. Even under high SWR conditions, where lots of energy is reflected back and forth between the tuner and the antenna, a substantial amount of RF would still be radiated. That sounded fine to me.

I put up a 66-foot dipole and fed it with low-loss Belden 8214 coaxial cable. Sure enough, my antenna tuner was able to load it on all bands from 40 through 10 meters--more or less. The tuner balked a bit on 17 meters and it was very touchy on 10 meters. (Sometimes it arced with a startling snap!) Despite the problems, I used my system to work 75 new countries in just a couple of months, finally clinching my DXCC award. I also enjoyed a number of stateside contacts.

The SWR was very high on most bands. At 100 watts output, however, the heavy-duty 8214 withstood the mismatch without noticeable heating. (I'd certainly notice it at higher power levels, though!) The antenna looked great and seemed to be performing well. Even so, I knew I was losing power in the cable and I wondered how it was effecting the overall performance.

While considering the alternatives, my thoughts drifted to trap dipoles. Yes, a trap dipole can be resonant on several HF bands, but the coil-and-capacitor traps tend to be bulky and prone to loss. How about a fan dipole? Just attach several resonant dipoles to the same center point and feed them all with one cable. Too big and ugly! (We're back to the spider web problem again.)

**How Bad Can it Be?** I allowed my thoughts to drift for more than a year--until I met Dean Straw, N6BV, our new Assistant Technical Editor here at League Headquarters. Dean's field of expertise is antennas and

propagation, so I peppered him with questions about my antenna situation.

Yes, he said, my original assumption was correct. A nonresonant antenna will work--even with sky-high SWR--if the feed-line loss is low enough. My 8214 cable should certainly offer low loss. The ARRL Handbook chart indicated that its loss was less than 1.5 dB per 100 feet at 100 MHz. I was only using 50 feet and my highest operating frequency was 29.60 MHz. (Cable loss decreases as feed-line length and frequency decrease.) So how bad could my losses be?

**Very bad!** I made the mistake of underestimating the loss under high SWR conditions. Dean used a computer program to calculate the 8214 loss on various HF bands when used with my 66-foot dipole. You can see the results in the middle column of Table 1. I was shocked to say the least! My 100-watt signal was reduced substantially on some frequencies. (The higher the dB figure, the more power is lost in the cable. A three-dB loss represents a 50% reduction.)

Since I insisted on sticking with a single-dipole design, Dean suggested that I replace my coaxial cable with ladder line. Unlike coax, where one conductor completely surrounds another, ladder line places both conductors in parallel. Insulating material is used to maintain a consistent separation. As a result, the fields radiated by the conductors cancel each other and the line is balanced. In 450-ohm line, sections of insulating plastic give the cable a ladder-like appearance, hence the name (see Fig 1).

"Oh, no," I said. "I know all about ladder line. It radiates RF in your house and you have to keep it away from metal or it won't work."

Dean simply smiled. He ran the loss calculations again, but this time he substituted ladder line (see the right-hand column of Table 1). Wow! On 40 through 10 meters, the loss hardly exceeded 0.3 dB. Now he had my attention. But what about all those ladder-line problems?

"If the ladder line is balanced, it doesn't radiate RF," he replied. "As far as metal objects are concerned, you need to keep the line a few inches away from big sections of steel, aluminum and so on. The fields around the conductors can couple to metal and this creates an imbalance. Unless you intend to tape the ladder line along your gutters, however, I wouldn't worry about it. Your tuner should be able to handle any imbalance that occurs."

**The Test** I was determined to put Dean's statements to the test. I purchased a 100-foot roll of 450-ohm ladder line and attached it to the center of my dipole. Since this was a temporary installation, I routed the line across the roof and into the window of my radio room. Along the way I passed over a couple of gutters, across some chimney flashing and along some aluminum siding to my window--which was equipped with metal sashes!

After attaching the line to the balanced-antenna posts on my tuner, I fired up the radio. "This will never work," I mumbled.

The tuner loaded easily on 40 meters, but that proved nothing. The antenna was resonant on 40 meters anyway. I started moving up, band by band. Each time, the tuner lowered the SWR at the transmitter to a flat 1:1 match without difficulty. No arcing. No RF interference. I was stunned!

On 15 meters, I heard a pileup centered on a station in the Marshal Islands. I grabbed the microphone and announced my call sign when he said, "... standing by for calls." He answered me on the first attempt!

"I know what I'll do," I said with a fiendish laugh. "I'll load the antenna on 80 meters. It's way too short to load on 80!"

Wrong again. The tuner quickly brought the SWR down to 1:1. I then proceeded to make several contacts and received outstanding signal



reports. This was the first time that I was ever able to use my dipole on 80 meters. I tried 160 meters, but that was pushing it a bit too far for the tuner. A muffled frying sound indicated its displeasure.

A few weeks later I stripped out my old cable and replaced it with 450-ohm ladder line. The performance has been excellent on all bands. As you might guess, the improvement is most dramatic on the bands where the SWR is highest. Thanks to ladder line, the vast majority of my output power is now radiated at the antenna— not lost in the feed line.

**Not a Cure-All** It's important to point out that my nonresonant dipole is a compromise solution designed for the restrictions at my home. The ladder line isn't magical. It simply allows a mediocre antenna to perform much better than it might otherwise. I must keep my output below 150 watts or risk dangerously high RF voltage levels on the feed line (now you know why the tuner arced on 160 meters!). Some antenna tuners may arc even at relatively low power levels. If you decide to attempt this type of antenna design, I recommend a heavy-duty antenna tuner rated at 1 kW or higher. The tuner must provide a balanced output (not all tuners do).

Of course, if I had a resonant antenna instead, I could go back to my low-loss coaxial cable and enjoy equally good performance. I probably wouldn't need an antenna tuner and I could run much more power.

Ladder line can be effected by weather. (Ice, water or debris between the conductors can upset the balance.) Unless you reinforce the connection at the antenna (see Fig 2), the line is likely to break very quickly. And ladder line can be difficult to locate. (If your local dealer doesn't sell it, check the advertising pages of QST for wire and cable suppliers.) These disadvantages notwithstanding, ladder line is an excellent choice for almost any kind of HF antenna. Not only is it inexpensive, the loss figures at HF frequencies are very low.

**Apartment and Condo Dwellers** If you're an apartment/condo dweller, or anyone else suffering under antenna restrictions, ladder line may offer a way for you to get on the air. If you have an attic, for example, install the longest dipole you can and feed it with ladder line. Don't worry about the length of your antenna. Just make sure that both sides are equal. Use your antenna tuner and determine on which bands you can achieve a 1:1 SWR. You may be surprised to discover that you can become active on at least some HF bands after all!

**Table 1** Loss comparisons for Belden 8214 coaxial cable and 450-ohm ladder line.

Cable length: 50 feet.  
Antenna: 66-foot dipole at a height of 30 feet.

Frequency (MHz)	Loss (in dB)	
	8214	Ladder line
1.9	26.9	8.62
3.8	13.7	1.37
7.15	.19	.07
10.14	2.85	.07
14.27	5.30	.15
18.14	6.96	.31
21.40	.78	.12
24.90	3.94	.13
28.50	5.69	.18

PAST PRESIDENTS FORUM.....

A New Ham

I couldn't believe that I had passed the tests,  
Now I had my very own Ham Call,  
Ready to not let my new radio rest,  
Not narry a bit at all.

I heard plenty of calls on the air,  
A few of them I jotted down,  
But, They acted as if they weren't there,  
When I called, they didn't even make a sound.

Just as a QSO was about to stop,  
I put out my call and said "Hello",  
Boy, You could have heard a pin drop,  
When my mic button was let go.


By Amateurs, I was being mistreated,  
"Amateurs are friendly" I was told,  
They acted as if I had cheated,  
Just because, I hadn't passed the Code.

Since I've been a Ham for less than a year,  
If I catch a Call that is New,  
I answer them fast and with lots of cheer,  
The way I wish the "Old Timers" would do.


Written by: James L. Kelley - KE4IND

73 TO ALL

Charlie Brown



# ARRL VEC



## VE TESTING.

The tentative schedule for 1997 testing will be (all Saturday's) February 8, May 10, August 9, and November 8.

Special test sessions may be accommodated according to demands, as needed. Further information can be obtained by contacting John Wilson-KM6BF at 636-1228 or Dave Rutledge-W9KRQ at 772-8539.

**YOUR LOCAL PRESCOTT AREA VE's**

AB7DY Vern Gregory	AB7KE Joan Tremper
AB7KF Bob Nichols	AB7KN Mary Miraldi
K7KOL Bob Kane	KA7NGK Don Broadston
KB7FRV Leonard Beers	KC7AGL Don Muller
KC7HAV Ginger LeGendre	KC7KRM Billy Peters
KG7OL David Miller	KI7EB Bill Thrift
KI7MA John Dawson	KJ7KL Pen Brown
KM6BF John Wilson	W2YAV Bill Kafka
W6HDP Bill Jackson	W9KRQ Dave Rutledge
WA6QQO Jim Perrone	WF7J Wait Loesche



## PACKET RACKET.

Leonard Beers (KB7FRV) has a unique telephone access system for packet serving the local area. If you are interested in gaining access to his system, give Leonard a call at 445-1841.

## THIS YEAR'S RUNNER-UP FOR THE DARWIN OF THE YEAR AWARD:

This one needs an intro, so you won't be lost at the beginning. This man was in an accident (work accident, not car accident), so he filled out an insurance claim. The insurance company contacted him and asked for more info. This was his response:

"I am writing in response to your request for additional info for Block number 3 of the accident reporting form. I put 'poor planning' as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust the following details are sufficient. I'm an amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 ft. tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of many trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now un-needed tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which was fortunately attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow decent of the 300 pounds of tools. You will note in Block number 11 of the accident reporting form that I weigh only 155 pounds. Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forget to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 ft. level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. "Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approx. 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in Block number 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me down enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile tools and, fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I'm sorry to report however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope...

73, from KB7FRV



**ATTENTION ARRL MEMBERS.** The YARC is an ARRL affiliated club. If you are a YARC member and your ARRL dues are coming up, you can submit your renewal through the club and we get to keep a couple of bucks. Send your ARRL renewals to the club treasurer with your check made payable to the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club.

Quote for the month: "There is no fire like passion, there is no shark like hatred, there is no snare like folly, there is no torrent like greed." Buddha



## AREA REPEATERS

Several area repeaters are accessible from the Tri-City area:

Mt. Union(-500khz)	52.560- 100.0pl (PL Bypass)
Wildflower Mtn	145.350-
Towers Mtn	145.370-
Squaw Pk.(Camp Verde)	145.470- 94.8pl
	(linked to Phoenix)
Bill Williams Mtn	146.780- 91.5pl
Mt. Francis	146.880- 100.0pl
Flagstaff	146.980- 100.0pl
Mingus Mtn.	147.000+ 100.0pl
Prescott	147.040+ 100.0pl
Mt. Eldon-Flagstaff	147.140+ 162.2pl
	(Linked to 147.360 Mt. Ord)
Mingus Mtn.	147.220+
Mt. Francis(Prescott)	223.960- 127.3pl
Mingus Mtn.(NorthLink)	442.150+ 100.0pl
Towers Mtn.	448.575-
Towers Mtn.(NorthLink)	449.175-
With a higher power base station and a good antenna, many of you may also be able to access these other repeaters, out of the area:	
Greens Pk.(-1 Mhz)	53.410- 100.0pl
Mt. Ord	146.660-
Smith Pk(ARA)	146.680- 162.2pl
White Tanks(ZIA)	146.700- 162.2pl
Kingman	146.760- 131.8pl
Mt. Ord(ARA)	146.920- 162.2pl
	(linked to 147.240+ Phoenix)
White Tanks(ARA)	146.940- 162.2pl
Grand Canyon	147.320+
Mt. Ord	147.360+
	(linked to 147.140+ Flagstaff)
Kingman(CONDOR)	224.880- 156.7pl
	(linked to many sites in Calif.)
White Tanks(ARA)	441.725+ 162.2pl
Mt. Ord (ARA)	444.500+
Mt. Eldon(Flagstaff)	448.475- 100.0pl
Mt. Eldon(Flagstaff)	118.875- 100.0pl



FROM THE "I CAN'T BELIEVE I HEARD IT  
ON AMATEUR RADIO" files:

(If you have any more, send 'em in and we'll print 'em!)

Every once in a while, we hear something so precious,  
we have to share it with others:

"You're out of touch with the repeater!"

"Does Packet use a plus or minus offset?"

"When I bought this radio, it came with 100 memories,  
but they're all blank. How Come?"

"Do they use PL tones on HF?"

"I joined the AARP so I could get QST!"

"My wife doesn't have a license, so she only uses my  
radio when I'm asleep!"

"You're weak into the repeater. I think your using the  
wrong PL!"

"Can I convert my old CB radio to 2 meters?"

"I don't work contests-they don't give away any good  
prizes."

"How come nobody makes a HT that puts out 25 watts?"

"I'm going to Phoenix next month for my test. I hear  
they're easier down there!"

"I don't know why I can't make toll calls on the local  
autopatch. They're free, aren't they?"

"I can't get my Mag-Mount to stick to the aluminum  
siding on my RV!"

"What's the resistance of a 10 amp fuse?"

"Your antenna sounds terrible!"

"I'm programming the weather frequency into my 2-  
meter radio. What offset do I use?"



**ARES NET.** The Prescott Area ARES NET is  
conducted every Wednesday night after the YARC NET  
on the 147.040+ repeater. A PL tone of 100.0 Hz is  
needed. If you don't have PL, transmit on 147.040  
simplex, after the repeater drops out. For further  
information about ARES, contact Lloyd, WA6ZZJ



NEWS of INTEREST

by Pen Brown-KJ7KL and Jerry Brandt-KB7YVX

"THE PHANTOM" PULLS JAIL TIME IN  
INTERFERENCE CASE

Interfering with police radios has resulted in a four-month jail term for Bobby Lee Agüero, KE6VNU—a Sacramento, California, area ham who now lists a Mead, Washington, address. Agüero, who is said to have identified himself as "The Phantom" while interfering with police calls, was convicted of jamming and interfering with Roseville, California, police communications. He was ordered to serve 120 days in jail and pay more than \$1400 in fines. In April, Roseville Police said they caught Agüero, 18, "essentially red-handed" while interfering with police calls there. Similar charges were pending against Agüero as a result of another incident in June in Seaside, Oregon on June 2. (The ARRL Letter Electronic Update, June 7, 1996). As a result of a plea bargain, Agüero pleaded guilty to three misdemeanor counts: Interfering with communications, delaying a police officer, and destroying evidence. A witness at the sentencing said Agüero—who showed no remorse—was additionally ordered to stay away from radio equipment. His sentence was reduced by the 52 days he'd already served, and Agüero is reported to have left the courtroom in tears. He'll be on probation after he's released from jail.

Local hams present at the sentencing had presented the judge with background information regarding the defendant's behavior within the Amateur Radio community. Several hams said they were gratified th. Agüero got a stiff sentence and expressed hopes that the case would set an example in efforts to crack down in other cases of malicious interference. Agüero began his 68 continuous days of jail time on November 1.

RISING COST OF HAM RADIO-ARRL TO  
RAISE DUES

The cost of protecting ham radio is increasing worldwide. As reported two weeks ago, the American Radio Relay League has announced a three dollar dues increase effective next July the 1st. The League says that the move to raise dues is related to a discouraging financial report. During 1996, expenses outpaced income by approximately a half million dollars. The League says that the dues increase is part of a multi faceted effort to improve the League's financial picture in future years without affecting essential services.

And the ARRL is not alone. The Radio Society of Great Britain has released its financial report for the year ending on June 30th. The RSGB says that it suffered almost a quarter of a million dollar operating loss. This is the first time that the RSGB has shown an operating loss since 1971. The organization says that the deficit is mainly the result of a heavy commitment made to the protecting the future of Amateur Radio.

And what does this mean for hams worldwide? Simply that all are going to have to pay more in dues and donate more to their national societies to keep the Amateur Radio service vital and alive.

## A Ham's Night Before Christmas

Yet another corruption of Clement Clarke Moore's classic Christmas tale, this time distorted by Gary Pearce KN4AQ, and the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Raleigh, NC, December 2, 1996.

Twas the night before Christmas,  
And all through two-meters,  
Not a signal was keying up  
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up  
From the tower, quite high,  
To catch the weak signals  
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,  
Took their HT's to bed,  
And dreamed of the day  
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,  
I plugged in the key,  
And we tuned 40 meters  
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged  
by a signal with power.  
It smoked a small diode,  
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,  
And with all she could muster  
Logged a spot of the signal  
On the DX PacketCluster,

While I ran to the window  
And peered up at the sky,  
To see what could generate  
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,  
But the moon made it gleam -  
A flying sleigh, with an  
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver  
who looked slightly mean.  
So I thought for a moment,  
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa  
The Santa of Hams.  
On a mission, this Christmas  
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,  
Then stopped in his track,  
And he slid down the coax  
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid  
Behind stacks of CQ,  
This Santa of hamming  
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk  
Of paper and parts,  
And filled out all my late QSLs

For a start.

He ran copper braid,  
Took a steel rod and pounded  
It into the earth, till  
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,  
Resoldered connections,  
Cranked down modulation,  
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes  
In my linear amp...  
(Never worked right before --  
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter  
Cleaned up the TV,  
He corrected the settings  
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer  
That would not compute,  
And he backed up the hard drive  
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep  
In the bag that he brought,  
And he pulled out a big box,  
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?  
A Yaesu, for me?!"  
(If he thought I'd been bad  
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!  
How could I deserve this?  
Could it be all those hours  
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up  
And in record time, quickly  
Worked 100 countries,  
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,  
It was my call he sent,  
But the cards and the postage  
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,  
And left a card by the key:  
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.  
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,  
Looked me straight in the eye,  
Punched a code on the pad,  
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,  
And the pile-up was big,  
But a card from St. Nick  
Would be worth my new rig.


Oh, too late, for his final  
came over the air.  
It was copied all over.

**DECEMBER - 1996**


It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed  
What a ham might expect,  
"Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all, good DX."

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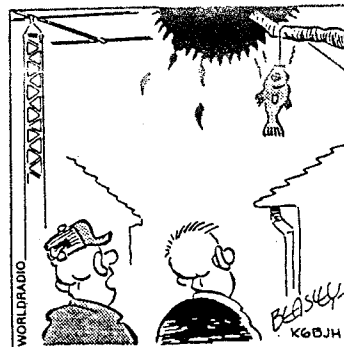
DON'T FORGET! **WEEKLY NET** - WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @  
7:00 PM 147.040+ (100.0 PL)  
**MONTHLY MEETING** - 3rd THURSDAY @  
GRANITE MTN MIDDLE SCHOOL 7:00PM. NEXT  
MEETING THURS. JANUARY 19, 1997 @7:00pm



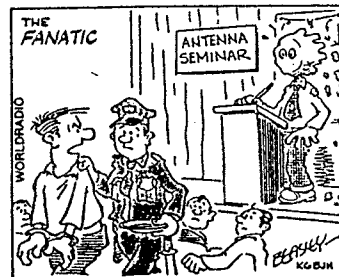
Wednesday Morning Breakfast-Iron  
Horse Cafe in Chino Valley. 7:00am. Informal-All are  
invited. Come and see Lloyd-N7QZQ pour coffee for  
everyone. Lloyd says, "I'm training others so I can retire!"

Thursday Morning Breakfast-Micheal's Restaurant in the  
Safeway Shopping Center, Prescott Valley. 8:00am. All  
are invited.

CARTOONS COURTESY OF  
WORLD RADIO™ MAGAZINE



I ASKED DAVE TO BRING HIS FISHING POLE  
AND LINE AND HELP ME STRING A LONG -  
WIRE THROUGH THE TREES



YOU HEARD WHAT HE SAID --- HE WAS TRYING TO  
TELL US A VERTICAL WAS BETTER THAN A HORIZONTAL