

NOVEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The principal order of business at the November meeting of the Board, at which the new officers and director were invited to attend, was a lively discussion, chaired by Ron Bolyard KA5GYG, Program Chairman of the Club, concerning the direction the Club should take in the future to provide an activity schedule from which the most members might derive the most pleasure and benefit.

A considerable number of ideas and suggestions were tabulated, and it is our understanding that this subject will receive attention at the upcoming regular membership meeting for December. The Board hopes a good turnout of members at the meeting will help in identifying those activities that will be of interest to the most members.

SUPER SATURDAY SIDEWALK SALE

This is a new ham activity in Houston. It takes place on the second Saturday in month at 7800 Bissonnet, just a short distance east of the entrance gate of Braeburn Country Club. Hours are from 8 AM to noon, under cover, and the next one is Saturday, December 12. Talkin is on the 16/76 machine, and usually someone is monitoring 146.52 simplex.

There is no charge for space, but if you want to sell something, you'll have to bring your own display table, and, if you want to sit, your own chair!

As stated above, this is a new one -- the next one will be the fourth -- and it's a good place to pick up something you're looking for. Also a good place to meet some of the voices you've been talking to on the air.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF SPEECH PROCESSOR

Those hams who have considering purchasing a speech processor for the old HF rig, or have the urge to buy a new rig with a built-in processor, may wish to consider the following:

A Different Kind of Speech Processor (Cont).

The card board tube from inside a roll of toilet paper placed atop my desk microphone has made a very effective "speech concentrator". It fits the barrel of the mic snugly and extends out about 3" out from the grille. It has the effect of concentrating my entire voice spectrum onto the mic element.

I have received many favorable comments about my speech "concentrator" increasing my readability and seemingly increasing my signal strength.

The merits of a speech "concentrator" -- or, for that matter, of a speech processor -- are mostly in the ears of the belistener, as I have also received some negative comments.

If your results are positive, at least the price was right!

-- Ron Bolyard KA5GYG

ANOTHER REMINDER --

that the Club gets \$2.00 if you pay your ARRL membership renewal or join the League through the Club. For details, call Club Treasurer Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN at 437-3586.

DECEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

Program Chairman Ron Bolyard KA5GYG advises that his program for the meeting will be built around the National Traffic System, hopefully with Jim Aman KB5TC figuring prominently in the presentation. All hams should have at least some knowledge of this subject so that they are equipped to participate more effectively in emergency communications activities.

Ed note -- On the following page 4 is reproduced a communication from Harold Parker KC5HZ which we believe will be of general interest to Club members, and perhaps specific interest to several.

-- Continued on page 4

November 13, 1981

Stu - WB5IGG

I saw this article in the December issue of "Science 81" magazine and knew it would be of interest to a lot of hams.... You may want to consider it for the B-VARC BULLETIN if its not too long.

TUNING OUT ALIENS

WASHINGTON -- Any aliens with a radio message for Earth are going to have to deliver it to ham radio operators. The American government has ended its effort to listen.

Senator William Proxmire, who has opposed NASA's Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence since it began in 1975, persuaded Congress to eliminate the program on October 1. At a time when social services like the lunch school program are being reduced, he argued, the \$2-million-per-year project is a needless luxury. "It's hard enough finding intelligent life right here in Washington," Proxmire said.

"We were surprised and very disappointed," said John Billingham, the program's manager, who was planning to begin scanning the skies in 1983. NASA scientists were building a multi-channel spectrum analyzer, a machine the size of a television, which would detect non-random radio signals arriving from as far away as 1,000 light years. Scientists planned to spend at least 15 years looking for signals from a distant civilization.

"This was an important and essential project and Proxmire acted like a crazy man," complained Ronald Bracewell, a radio astronomer at Stanford University. "He did it for the publicity. From now on, with scientists gone, the important contacts with extraterrestrial life will be left to radio hams." Perhaps the only consolation for scientists is the thought that aliens with bigger budgets may detect stray signals from Earth's radio and television broadcasters. By now, Bracewell calculates, signals from 1950s Milton Berle shows could have traveled 175 trillion miles into space.

December, Science 81

Note:

Anyone interested in this search for "extraterrestrial life" may want to tune into the "Starquest Net" with W6OLO as net control at 1900 UTC on the 1st Sundays of each month on 14,280. (Immediately following the AMSAT Net) These hams take it pretty serious and there are many publications available from NASA and some of the Universitys that "supposedly" documents the current information.....

Harold - KC5HZ

ROSTER

Lindy Sisk AK5N has a new address and home telephone number. Please change your roster to show:

828 East 29th Street
Houston TX 77009
Home fone 862-4919

PAY YOUR 1982 DUES NOW

Club Treasurer Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN is trying to relieve the load on in coming Treasurer Harold Parker KC5HZ by urging members to pay their dues for 1982 before January 1, 1982.

So.....if you haven't yet done so, it will be appreciated if you'll pay them at the December meeting, or in the alternative, to mail him a check before January 1 to his home at 627 Stephanie, Missouri City TX 77489.

NET CONTROL OPERATOR SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER-JANUARY

12/7 WA5OEN 12/21 W5UBD 1/4 WD5CTQ 1/18 WB5SUR
12/14 WB5SUR 12/28 N5HF 1/11 WA5OEN 1/25 W5UBD

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B - S - S MART --- We'll run your advert for any ham radio-related item to buy, sell, or swap. Send your copy to Ye Olde Editor.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY ---- You can't have a friend unless you are one.

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