

The Eastern Iowa Dxer

**The official Newsletter of the
Eastern Iowa DX Association**



An affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League

January 1998

Club Officers: President: Terry Cellman W0AWL Vice President: Wade Walstrom W0EJ wade@inav.net Secretary/Treasurer: Frank Apple W0GWK fpapple@inav.net Repeater Committee: Al Groff K0VM al@ia.net Joe Finkstein W0MJN josephf@inav.net	Repeater: W0NX/R 144.59/145.19 PacketCluster: WB8ZRL: 147.51, 144.91, 223.40, CRNETROM Membership Committee: Jim Spencer W0SR w0sr@aol.com Dale Repp W0IZ
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MEETING NOTICE:

The next meeting of the EIDX will be January 9, 1998, in room 219C of Linn Hall on the Kirkwood Community College campus. Doors open at 7:00 PM for preliminary "eyeball" QSOs with the formal meeting starting at 7:30 PM. The program will be Jim Spencer, W0SR, on the history of DXCC.

The spring meeting will be April 3, 1998.

Notes from the President

I've got an idea! Let's try something the we haven't done for awhile. It's been ages since we have had a show and tell table. Yes, I know that on occasions individuals have brought and interesting item to show to the group. But this time, let's all try to bring something for the show table. Search your shack, your junk box, your QSL cards. What you think is ordinary just might be an exciting or unusual item to some of us who are not so enlightened. I've got a home-brew lightning arrester that I will be putting on the top of my tower before the spring thunderstorms. Some of you might even copy this idea.

The program has been confirmed. Jim, W0SR is going to give us a history of the DXCC. Jim presented this program to the Iowa City club last fall, it proved to be very interesting and was well received. Jim promises to do a little spit and polish on it for our January meeting

I will also have a special presentation at this meeting. One of our members will be honored for an outstanding achievement. Be there so you may also help to honor this person.

de W0AWL

Short Notes

from W0EJ

I think you all should get this issue in plenty of time before the January meeting. Since I will be gone much of the time from Christmas until the meeting, I am hustling to get this issue out before I leave. I published and mailed the latest QCWA newsletter about a week and a half ago, got our family Christmas letter prepared and Christmas card mailing list updated last week. My Christmas shopping is not done yet either.

For those interested in the status of the antennas at W0EJ, they are back together and ready to go up. Acceptable weather and available time have not converged to get them up yet and it will likely be after the first of the year before it happens. It will, however, happen!

I have been able to do some operating, mainly on the low and WARC bands, and did a guest operator spot at N0MA during the ARRL 160 Meter contest.

The program scheduled for the January meeting will be an interesting one. This is like getting back to our roots!

Note the date for the April meeting (April 3, 1997). We are trying to plan these dates out further than we have in the past to help you plan ahead better. We are working on another outstanding program for that meeting.

The new FCC RF exposure regulations take effect soon and will impact most of us. This could be the topic for a meeting program in itself. An article elsewhere in this newsletter entitled "FCC ISSUES NEW FORM 610-OLD VERSIONS OBSOLETE" lists the power limits per band above which an analysis must be done. It is probably safe to say that most of us will be doing analyses. The January 1998 issue of QST has an article on page 50 on some of the required measurements which is very helpful. This article also references articles in January 1997 and October 1997 issues of QST. The FCC regulation dealing with this can be found on the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/oet/rfsafety/>. The ARRL web site has copies of the applicable QST articles and other links on

<http://www.arrl.org/news/rfsafety/>. The ARRL will be publishing a new manual dealing with this entire topic shortly. My preliminary examination of the requirements indicates that it is unlikely that any of us will be adversely affected by this new regulation, but the analysis must be done first. The effective date of the new regulation is January 1, 1998, so that those renewing or upgrading licenses or doing something requiring a submittal of a Form 610 after that date must either be below the specified power limits or have performed the required analysis so that the new 610 form can be completed honestly. The rest of us must be in compliance by January 1, 2000. This may seem like a lot of effort for what may or may not be a real problem. My opinion is that there is probably a considerably greater risk of harm to the general population as a result of RF exposure from an amateur radio station than there is from "global warming." I do not think our hobby is a danger for RF exposure.

The article on climbing safety included in this issue was a spontaneous one brought on by a "true life" testimony which is included in the article. I hope you find the testimony chilling and the rest of the article useful. You may have your own set of "laws" which might be included in future newsletters.

I have modified the officers list at the front of the newsletter to include Internet addresses of the folks included, where applicable. There had been some interest by some of you in doing this.

I did not have any pictures to include in this issue. How about next time?

EIDXA dues were due at the last meeting. A listing of those who have paid is included elsewhere in this issue. If you are reading this issue and your call is not of the list, contact Frank, W0GWK, to get paid up. Otherwise, this could be your last newsletter issue. We do not want this to happen.

Since you should all get this issue before Christmas let me wish you all a memorable and joyous Christmas and a New Year full of new DX and prosperity!

Think About This:

What do you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?

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Minutes of the 17 Oct. 1997 Meeting

The Fall meeting of the EIDXA was held on the Kirkwood Campus. The meeting began with introductions. This was followed by the approval of the minutes as published for the summer meeting/picnic.

The treasurers report was given which stated we have \$344.82 in the treasury. A caution was given that we should try to control discretionary spending as spending for the year has exceeded income.

Al K0VM gave the repeater report saying that as far as he knew the repeater was working fine. There were some comments indicating that it seemed to be a bit weaker and Al said he would look into it.

Tom WB8ZRL gave the repeater report. There followed a discussion of the implication of Internet.

A motion was made and approved that a \$1 fee should be charged for new certificates except for new members.

A motion was made and defeated to raise the dues from the current \$5 for next year.

Wade W0EJ requested that all members with Internet addresses let him know what they are.

Bruce Goldstein WA3AFS was voted in as a new member with full membership privileges.

The question was raised by the president Terry W0AWL, as to how long to hold an application. It was decided to send him another announcement of meeting time and place.

It was voted to table two requests for contributions for DXpeditions.

The current officers agreed to be nominated for office again and were reelected.

President	Terry Cellman	W0AWL
Vice President	Wade Walstrom	W0EJ
Secretary/Treasurer	Frank Apple	W0GWK

Jan 9, 1998 was set as our next meeting date with Jan 16, 1998 as the snow date.

Bill N0LNO informed up of a meeting and tour of the National Weather Service in Davenport Sat Jan 31, 1998. Time unknown at this time. On Sat Feb 28, 1998 there will be a Storm Watch Training class in the Auditorium at St. Luke's Hospital. This runs from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

An award in the form of a certificate clock was presented to Tom WB8ZRL for all his work on the packet cluster.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Apple W0GWK
Secretary/Treasurer

DUES ARE PAST DUE!

EIDXA dues are due at the October meeting. At \$5.00 per year this a real bargain. Those whose calls are listed below have paid their 1998 dues. If your call is not listed below, please see or contact Frank, W0GWK, the EIDXA secretary/treasurer and get paid up. If your call is not listed below and you do not see or contact Frank, this will be your last newsletter.

KU0A
WA3AFS
K0AL
N0AV
W0AWL
WB0B
KZ0C
W0CK

KA0CWR
K0DX
W0EJ
K0GT
W0GWK
K0INR
W0IZ
NN0L

N0LNO
W0MJN
WW0Q
W0SML
K0SO/3
WR0U
NY0V
K0VM

K0VSV
K0VZR
W0WP
NR0X
N0YVY
N0YY
WB0ZKG
WB8ZRL

Think About This:

Why do they sterilize the needles for lethal injections?

CLIMBING SAFETY de WØEJ

In the past few years we have spent a lot of time working to be able keep our ability to erect and keep towers up in Linn County. As important as this effort was, another aspect of tower erection and maintenance, SAFETY, needs emphasis. Tom, WB8ZRL forwarded this following piece to me from the TowerTalk reflector on the Internet. Though the author of this piece included his name and call with it on the reflector, I have omitted it here.

"This one's on me. For the first time in 44 years, I left a serious amount of blood on a tower, and as a result, have a badly broken left paw which required immediate surgery.

"Was stepping in a 2" 1/8" wall aluminum mast to the regular 12' molybdenum mast. Aluminum part telescopes over a solid machined 30" piece of T6. Using come-along to jack moly be damned up. (Editor's note: This last sentence fragment makes no sense to me. It appears to have been garbled from the originator.)

"Even had muffler clamps around both to prevent either or both from falling through rotor plate. Needed to lower the thing a little so reached in to release the come-along safety latch (the main latch was supposed to still hold it) Well, the main failed, and the masts dropped about 8' until the muffler clamp stopped it by smashing into the back of my left hand.

"Worst part was it trapped my arm and hand, nightfall was coming, temp low 40s, and no ground crew. Best part is the cable from the come-along remained hooked to the bottom of the mast. Finally had presence of mind to check and see if come-along would raise mast. It did. I hate to think what would have happened otherwise. By now chilled to the bone, arterial bleeding (did I mention I threw up a couple of times?) and 75' in the air. Managed to climb down, go to emergency room, and so forth.

"Stupid? yes! On several points. (and I'd rather not read about them)

"Don't let this happen to you! Never thought much about it, but don't EVER put your hands into a tower with an unsecured mass. (110 pounds)"

As one who has done a fair amount of tower work (with and without a ground crew) this sends chills up my spine! I am sure most of us who do a fair amount of climbing have been in situations that could have ended not unlike this one, but despite our human frailties, did not.

Continuations of this thread on the TowerTalk reflector have included some safety "tips" which I summarize here, adding a few of my own. I hesitate to admit that I have broken most of these rules myself.

One of the things about my personal tower climbing that has me scared is that I do not get as scared while climbing as I used to get. Being a little scared while climbing makes you stop and think about what you are doing. With some experience under my belt, I have become more complacent about being on a tower and tend to skip over some of the items that have kept me in one piece so far.

1. When climbing a tower, think about every movement you make before you make it. (Are you grabbing a piece of the tower or a piece of coax?)
2. Always use a safety belt. See notes on safety belts below.
3. Never climb an icy tower. NEVER, NO EXCEPTIONS. The reason should be obvious.
4. Never climb a wet tower. This is the same as climbing an icy tower.
5. Never climb a tower after dark. You cannot see where you are going, what you are holding on to, etc. This violates rule number 1.
6. Wear work gloves while climbing.
7. Never climb when you are tired or ill. Running up a tower during a contest after having operated all night to bang on a stuck rotator is stupid! I have heard of the demise of more than one contester who violated this one!
8. If climbing with more than one person, climb on different sides of the tower or, better yet, climb one person at a time getting that person in

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Climbing Safety (con't) position before the next one starts climbing. Tools and other hardware falling out of pockets, etc. do not have to fall far to reach terminal velocity. A screwdriver, hammer, or wrench to the skull from 15 - 20 feet can cause permanent injury, including death.

9. Do not climb in a thunderstorm. (Well, duh!) Furthermore, do not climb when storm clouds are visible. Lightning can go a long way. Be aware of storm watches before climbing and be prepared to get off the tower in a hurry if weather conditions change for the worse.

10. Never get yourself in a position where you can't stop what you're doing if you are overmatched by the job. We would all prefer not to feel obligated to drop an expensive antenna in such a situation, so don't get in to a position where you have to choose between the antenna or an injury.

11. Being in good physical condition is, to say the least, a must when climbing towers. Pace yourself while climbing and descending. Stop once in a while to catch your breath.

12. Avoid climbing in strong winds. (Well, duh, again!) I figured one time that my body has about of 6 square feet of wind area which is the equivalent of another 5 element 20 meter yagi on the tower. Wind also makes it more difficult to maneuver other antennas. 25 - 30 mph is too much for me.

13. Avoid climbing in cold weather. You know what cold weather is. If you do climb in the cold, wear warm gloves or mittens while climbing and be sure to wear warm clothes. Hypothermia and frostbite are no laughing matters. Bare hands on cold steel yield cold hands in no time. Warm cloths are important for at least two reasons. First, cold breezes on the tower can penetrate your clothing from directions you would not experience on the ground, mainly from below through pant cuffs and the bottom of a coat. Second, while working on the tower you will not be moving much beyond going up and down. The sedentary position standing on the tower does not encourage blood circulation which would otherwise help warm you. Be willing to leave your work partially done and go down the tower if you are getting too cold.

14. Let someone know you are climbing if you are climbing alone. Ask them to check on you

periodically. Better yet, have a ground crew even if that crew is just one person.

15. If you are unsure of the structural integrity of a tower or there is something that makes you uneasy about climbing it, even if you do not know what it is, do not climb that tower! Go with your instincts!

16. Use of a hard hat, both on and off the tower, is strongly recommended.

Safety Belts - This is really a topic all of its own, but related to the tower climbing safety issue.

1. Use one! Preferably, buy your own - a good one - NEW. Spare no cost since your life, literally, depends on the quality of your belt. Stick with OSHA approved belts. They are pretty pricy, but think about what your life is worth.

2. The manufacturer of my belt included an admonishment that if the belt is ever stressed (catching your fall, for instance) or if the belt shows signs of damage or deterioration, destroy the belt by cutting it up into little pieces so that it can never be used again. This sounds drastic, but, upon reflection, is common sense. If the belt is stressed, the probability of it failing is greatly increased. Why risk your life? Likewise, if it damaged or is deteriorating due to wear or neglect, the probability of it failing is again greatly increased. Do not try to fix a damaged or stressed belt. Play it safe and buy a new one. There is no antenna project in our hobby that cannot wait until you have a safety belt in good condition.

3. Never, ever loan your belt to anyone! I can count the number of people who have borrowed mine on one hand by placing the tips of my index finger and thumb together. You do not know what has happened to it while it was out of your possession. Treat it like your toothbrush. Likewise, never use a borrowed safety belt for the same reason.

4. Keep the belt dry and off of the ground or floor.

5. Before climbing, test the integrity of the belt. On the ground, attach the lanyard to the tower and test it with your weight by leaning back and supporting yourself. Better to have it fail on the ground! If you have reason to suspect the

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Climbing Safety (con't) integrity of the belt, destroy it and get a new one.

6. When attaching your lanyard while on the tower, visually verify that both clips are properly

attached and that the safety catches are in place. Do not rely on the sound of the clip as assurance that clips are properly attached. **LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAN!**

N7CKD SKIPS OCTOBER MEETING

I received an e-mail from Dennis, N7CKD, explaining why he would not be at the last EIDX meeting. It is better in his words,

"...I would have like to have come to the meeting tonight, but as I am getting married tomorrow at 4 p.m. and there is much to do before the ceremony and then it's off for a week long Honeymoon cruise to the Caribbean on Sunday the 19th. ... de N7CKDennis."

I wish I had a nickel for every time I have heard that excuse!

Seriously, congratulations to Dennis and his new XYL. We will be looking for Dennis at the January meeting.

NEW DXCC FEE SCHEDULE

I think we all knew it before, but the new DXCC fee schedule should reinforce the notion: DX(CC)ing is expensive. Check out page 83 of the January, 1998, issue of QST. Effective January 1, 1998, the initial application fee, each year, for an ARRL member is now \$10 and each additional application in a year is \$20 - still for a member! Basically, add \$10 to the previous schedule. If there is a silver lining to this note that if you are going for a new certificate your \$10 initial application fee will get you the certificate and pin at no charge where previously there was a \$10 certificate and pin fee while there was no initial application fee.

Keep on smiling!

HAMVENTION INKS HARA DEAL THROUGH 2003

The Dayton Hamvention will be staying put for at least a few more years, and definitely through the year 2000, when it will be the site of the ARRL National Convention. Hamvention and Hara Arena officials this week announced a five-year contract to keep the Hamvention in Dayton. That's the longest contract in their business relationship. According to a report by Angela Townsend in the Dayton Daily News, there had been talk that the Hamvention might leave Dayton for Columbus, Indianapolis, or even Atlanta after its current contract expired in one year.

Hara Arena President Johnny Walker estimated that the Hamvention brings in \$7 million in revenue each year to the Dayton area. Approximately 28,000 attended the 1997 Hamvention. The 1998 Dayton Hamvention will be held May 15-17. Advance tickets are on sale now for \$15. Write Hara Arena Conference Center, 1001 Shiloh Springs Rd, Trotwood, OH 45415.—thanks to Bev Priest, N8VZV

From The ARRL Letter, Electronic Update

Think About This:

If the police arrest a mime, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?

What was the best thing before sliced bread?

VIRGINIA HAMS TELL "HOW TO SUCCEED IN ZONING"

Hams in Virginia's Rockingham County were rewarded earlier this month for their efforts to get Amateur Radio towers excluded from a new zoning ordinance being drawn up to deal with the proliferation of cellular telephone towers. Teamed with an ARRL Volunteer Counsel and another ham-attorney, the group quietly lobbied the county officials responsible for drafting the ordinance, so they could head off any problems at that level instead of waiting for a public hearing.

Paul Helbert, WV3J, is a member of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association of Harrisonburg, Virginia. "The most important thing we did, I think, was to go to the board members, the county's attorney and planning staff during the week before the meeting so that they had no surprise and no mystery as to our concerns," he said. Helbert credits ARRL Volunteer Counsel Paul Schwartz, KB2XX of Charlottesville, and Staunton attorney Charlie Garner, WA4ITY, for coming up with the approach.

Helbert says he found out about the proposed ordinance almost accidentally during a conversation with Bill Fawcett, WB4PWP, who's involved with commercial radio. The draft ordinance placed restrictions on the placement, erection, and maintenance of radio transmitting facilities, including antennas, towers, poles, and other support structures. The proposal was especially hard-hitting to radio transmitting installations in residential areas. The original draft made some concessions to ham radio by excluding ham towers less than 50 feet tall. Other provisions would have made it prohibitively expensive for most hams to erect a tower taller than that.

Helbert helped spread the word among area hams who, in turn, contacted individual supervisors and the Board chairman. Garner helped draft a resolution on behalf of the Valley

Amateur Radio Association and the Waynesboro Repeater Association. The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association executive committee also presented arguments to members of the county board.

"At all times were the hams polite, courteous, and in no way confrontational," a story in The MARA/VARA Monitor reported. "The purpose of all this activity was not to appear adversarial [but] to simply remind the government officials of the hundreds of hours hams had spent in emergency communications support and to politely inform them that the de facto 50-foot limitation on ham towers would inhibit some hams' ability to provide that service in the future."

More than 40 hams--well identified with name and call sign badges--turned out at the September 24 meeting of the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors. Five, including Helbert and Garner, spoke on their behalf. The Board commended the ham community for its public service and remanded the proposed ordinance to the Planning Commission for a rewrite, this time to include a complete exemption for ham radio antennas. The Planning Commission adopted the changes October 9.

As an unexpected and unrequested bonus, the county Board of Supervisors also struck an existing zoning law provision that required hams to obtain a special use permit to erect a tower.

As ARRL Regulatory Information Branch Manager Tom Hogerty, KC1J, observed: "This is a good example of how hams should interact with their city and town governments when dealing with zoning issues."

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Think About This:

Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

Why do they put Braille on the drive-through bank machines?

Why did kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

How fast is the speed of dark?

FCC ISSUES NEW FORM 610--OLD VERSIONS OBSOLETE

The FCC announced this week that as of January 1, 1998, Amateur Radio applicants may only submit FCC Forms 610, 610 A and 610B that carry an edition date of September 1997. After the first of the new year, previous editions of Form 610 will not be accepted for filing by the FCC or by Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs). Amateurs may begin using the new Form 610s now.

The major change on the new form is a certification that says the applicant has "read and will comply with Section 97.13(c) of the Commission's Rules" regarding RF radiation safety and the amateur service section of OST/OET Bulletin No 65, Evaluating Compliance with FCC-Specified Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields. But, Amateur Radio Supplement B of Bulletin 65, which has additional information on how to conduct a routine RF safety evaluation and explains other aspects of RF safety, is still in the draft stages and not yet available to the ham radio community.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, says the League is concerned that the new Form 610 could be in the hands of hams before Amateur Radio Supplement B is complete. Sumner says it's essential that the FCC make Supplement B available in time for hams to complete their evaluations to meet the deadlines in the rules.

ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RF1, who's been involved in reviewing the draft supplement, said he expects the FCC to release it sometime in November. (Editor note: This has happened) The ARRL will release a book on the new RF safety regulations near the end of the year. "Above all, it is important that the required station evaluation be as easy as possible for hams," Hare said. "The FCC has pretty much met that goal. Additionally, most hams, by virtue of their power levels, will not need to do an evaluation at all."

Section 97.13(c) reads: Before causing or allowing an amateur station to transmit from any place where the operation of the station could cause human exposure to RF electromagnetic field levels in excess of those allowed under

1.1310 of this chapter, the licensee is required to take certain actions.

1. The licensee must perform the routine RF environmental evaluation prescribed by 1.1307(b) of this chapter, if the transmitter PEP exceeds the following limits: 160-40 meters, 500 W; 30 meters, 425 W (legal limit is 200 W--Ed); 20 meters, 225 W; 17 meters, 125 W; 15 meters, 100 W; 12 meters, 75 W; 10 meters, 50 W; VHF (all bands), 50 W; 70 cm, 70 W; 33 cm 150 W; 23 cm, 200 W, 13 cm 250 W, SHF/EHF (all bands) 250 W.

2. If the routine environmental evaluation indicates that the RF electromagnetic fields could exceed the limits contained in 1.1310 of this chapter in accessible areas, the licensee must take action to prevent human exposure to such RF electromagnetic fields. Further information on evaluating compliance with these limits can be found in the FCC's OET Bulletin 65, Evaluating Compliance with FCC-Specified Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields.

The new Forms 610 may be obtained from the FCC' Web site via the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>, at <ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/> or by fax at 202-418-0177 (request index, or for Form 610 use form code 000610, for Form 610A use form code 006101, for Form 610B use form code 006102). The FCC Forms Distribution Center will accept FCC forms orders by calling 800-418-3676.

ARRL VEs and VE teams will be able to obtain a supply of the new Forms 610 in mid to late November—once the ARRL/VEC has had time to obtain a supply of the new forms.

Individual amateurs may obtain a copy of the new Form 610 by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) to: ARRL/VEC, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111. Include 32 cents postage for each Form 610 requested (this is a four page form).

For general information, contact the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245, or call the FCC's National Call Center at 888-225-5322 (CALL FCC).—FCC

From The ARRL Letter, Electronic Update

ARRL TO CONTINUE PUSH FOR FEDERAL PREEMPTION

The ARRL Executive Committee has voted to have the League continue to urge adoption of the antenna regulatory preemption policies contained in its petition, RM-8783. The action came on a motion from ARRL Vice President Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, as the Executive Committee met October 11 in Philadelphia.

The League's petition, filed in February 1996, seeks enhancement of the PRB-1 limited federal preemption of state and local regulation of Amateur Radio antennas. However, the FCC appears to have made no progress with regard to the petition, which asked the FCC to declare that localities must find the least restrictive means to deal with ham radio. Among other things, the petition called on the Commission to amend Section 97.15(e) of the rules to say that any state or local antenna restrictions limiting ham radio antennas to heights below 70 feet would be "presumed unreasonable," unless the state or local authority could show its restrictions

were necessary for health, safety or aesthetic reasons.

It was also announced at the Executive Committee meeting that the League will submit comments in Mass Media Bureau Docket 97-182 supporting a comprehensive antenna facilities siting policy, including amateur antenna structures.

The ARRL also continues to pursue FCC preemption of local and state attempts to regulate in the area of RF radiation safety.

The Committee also was told that numerous comments, most of them supportive, were filed on the ARRL's petition (RM-9150) seeking to improve the FCC's handling of private-sector complaints of serious amateur rules violations. The League has filed reply comments in the matter.

From The ARRL Letter, Electronic Update

Think About This:

Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?

Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all?"

If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?

Is there another word for synonym?

Is it true that cannibals don't eat clowns because they taste funny?

Why is abbreviated such a long word?



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