



Exploding The Phone

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Abstract Brief mention of "Five Montanans with amateur licenses who were recently indicted for bilking the phone company." Mention notes: "We are happy to say that those involved are ex-members of the League...". January, 1972 issue includes a correction of this item.

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Source Alan Rubinstein

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League Lines

Processing of alien ham visitor applications for operating privileges here, which in the past have often been delayed 60 days or more, has been speeded up considerably by some wholesale cutting of restrictive red tape procedures -- orchids to the new FCC staff for their aggressive action.

And a brickbat to us! Last month (page 86) we suggested that aliens intending to become citizens, and wanting to take the ham exam under the new Goldwater bill provisions, should provide a photocopy of their declaration of intention to become a citizen. Oooops -- FCC informs us this is an official court paper and photocopying is strictly forbidden. Fortunately, FCC procedures do not seem to require this document.

A goodly number of those attending the Pacific Division Convention in San Jose earlier this year were wearing "I'm on 220" lapel buttons. Shows there's a lot more activity on that band than is ordinarily evident; dedicated experimental vhf types are normally pretty quiet about their projects.

Ballots for director elections were mailed from Hq. in mid-October to all Full Members in Atlantic, Delta, Great Lakes, Midwest, Pacific and Southeastern Divisions. If your ballot hasn't arrived by early November fire us an airmail request to get a duplicate.

Although the proportion is infinitely less than in CB, ham radio has a few bad apples as well. Five Montanans with amateur licenses were recently indicted for bilking the phone company out of toll revenue through a homemade "black box" to confuse the billing system. We are happy to say that those involved are ex-members of the League and notorious in their area for strong anti-ARRL feelings.

And there's the station or two on slow-scan which takes delight in transmitting "art" pictures. Intercepts have been turned over to FCC, with call signs. Society may well be changing its mores to extreme liberalism, but that stuff belongs in "Playboy," not on the ham bands.

Our attendance at a recent conference of the Society of National Association Publications showed that, like ARRL, dozens if not hundreds of non-profit membership and trade associations around the country are adversely affected by IRS Reg. 1.1361-1 and 1.1361-2 governing advertising income as separately-taxable. Some outfits have found the rules so oppressive that they have voluntarily relinquished their tax-exempt status -- they feel they will pay less tax that way, or none at all! Even though the League has been in the red each of the past several years, the Internal Revenue Service initial audit claims ARRL owes some thousands of dollars back taxes on "profits." We are filing strong exception, of course.

Reminder to club program chairmen: Check the Training Aids list in your club portfolio for current film, slides and tapes on most every phase of amateur radio. Many affiliated clubs have yet to take advantage of this program resource.

The past fiscal year, FCC collected about \$16 million in fees. This was far less than the budget -- perhaps because there has not yet been a full year at the new rates. The Safety & Special Radio Services Bureau, which includes amateurs (and CB), provided the largest portion -- \$5 million -- more than the broadcasters or common carriers.

Quote-of-the-month: (Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, addressing the Southwestern Division Convention in early September) -- "The ARRL does a fine job for you in Washington. I've heard rumors that we need better representation, but I can assure you that the League takes care of your political problems."

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"If at first you don't succeed . . ." worked again: the Canadian Department of Communications finally agreed to repeated requests and has now dropped the age restriction for amateurs. Previously, an applicant had to be at least 15 years old; now an age can apply.

Keep Hq. posted on your new ham recruitment activities so we can pass on success stories to others, through QST or the affiliated club bulletin. Good "bait" for the prospect with latent interest is the 1972 "Communications Handbook" now on newsstands and in radio stores (our p.r. man did the section on amateur radio).

By the way, Bill Welsh, W6DDB, who has probably taught more beginner classes in ham radio than anyone, says the 1968 deletion of Novice voice operating privileges has had a beneficial effect -- a higher percentage of his Novices now succeed in advancing to higher grades.

A vice-president of one of the major equipment firms took us to task for reporting, as we did on this page of the October issue, that FCC figures showed CB not growing at all, but rather is declining in numbers. He claims we're blind to the facts, that "growth continues unabated, more of it illegally every day as a result of the preposterous \$20 license fee." Current FCC CB licensing figures show totals down some thousands even since June, so it doesn't seem that growth is much to be largely unlicensed and illegal. Is this what EIA is proposing additional frequencies for?

The annual meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors is scheduled for January 20 this year. Lots of items actually or potentially on the agenda (numbers, where they appear, refer to 1971 minutes in July QST): election procedures (24), mobile WAS and DXCC awards (79), 10 instead of 13 wpm code test (84), dues increase, QST on newsstands (88), Technician privileges (91), certified volunteer examiners (56), AR sponsorship of technical seminar conventions. Contact your director (address page 8) concerning these or any other matters on which you have specific views.

At K7LDZ's request we correct two errors on this page in November: there were 3, not 5, amateurs indicted for bilking the phone company in that Montana case; and one of those indicted for fraud, he wants it known he is again a member of ARRL.

Films on electronic/radio theory and technology are always needed by clubs and school groups via the ARRL Training Aids Library. If you know of any current or recent film produced for educational or employee training purposes by an electronics corporation or other organization, let headquarters know so we can follow up and see if a print might be made available.

Composition of the three ARRL Advisory Committees for the coming year has now been announced by President WØDX. VHF Repeaters and DX personnel (see p. 86, September QST) are all reappointments, the former largely because FCC has still not acted on proposed rules, the latter because the committee is new and really now just getting under way. Contests: W3GRF (Chairman), W4UQ, KH6IJ, VE2NV, W6DQX, WØHP, plus newcomers K1ZND, W1BGD/2, K5TSR and WA9UCE.

In its monthly "Telecommunication Journal," the International Telecommunication Union has initiated a regular section covering amateur radio developments. This, plus fairly extensive coverage of worldwide radio activities, could make a subscription to the journal of interest to many amateurs. The price is 50 Swiss francs, (\$12.50 U.S. will do the job) and the address is simply 1211 Geneva 20.