A.W.A. COAL DUST

Sept. 1958

SHOP TALK * * * *

The AWA Sunday morning rag-chews are getting to be quite the thing on 75 mtrs. We not only help to QRM other stations but they in turn help add to our local interferance problem. So it has come to pass, after a few so-called secret meetings some of the boys have decided to build 2 meter rigs. Yep we sed 2 mtrs. Very simple outfits for a start. A pair of 6C4's PP xmtr and a 6C4 super-regen rcvr. QRP all on one small self contained chassis, with preparations for an emergency power unit.

In looking ahead on the design, it has to be portable for fast set-up in any local public building. It has to be simple so there will be very little drain on a battery if a vibrapack is used. We've checked into a number of designs and all 4 of us pioneers in this venture have accepted a design which all will follow.

Most of our junk boxes will produce the necessary parts for a ten watt set-up. It is expected to cover the entire valley with them. This we know is not impractable for its been done at this QTH on several occasions.

Those in need of 6C4's can get information on an abundant supply of brand new JAN tubes by contacting the editor. As for antenna systems coat hanger steel rods have been supplying the Allentown boys for years. with the necessary antenna elements.

You need not build a Chrome plated special like your editor is planning but you shud try to get on with the 2 mtr gang. So if in the very near future you don't find the gang on 75 you will know in advance jest where to look for us. B C N U on 2 .

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

On September 20, 8 PM EDST the AWA will be guests of our gud friend W3CUK Joe, QRA, 24 West Mahanoy Ave. Mahanoy City. The final reading of our by-laws will be held and then can be put up for acceptance of rejected. Bring your moans and groans and pet peeves along and thrash them out on the floor. Very little can be accomplished on them between meetings.

AFTER THE PICNIC * Hic * Hic * *

Well the boys of the ole' AWA put 'er across once more. Even thouhg the wx was a bit trying at times a FB time was had by all. In counting heads we cum to the figger of 52 in attendance. Standard picnic procedure was in order for XYL's as OM's but did you ever see such a gang of harmonics enjoy themselves. We almost flipped the plate can off'en our 807 when the water melon eatin' contest went on. I think ZQU's XYL will agree with me it shore was gud water melon.

With this activity under our belt now, do you think a committee such as this could put over an early banquet - - say around late October or beginning of November ? ? Its gud food for thought.....

LOST LEBEN (O-bitch*uary) * *

Its not long ago we recieved an ARRL bulletin instructing us that another nice chunck of our once 160 meter band was taken over by LORAN. This leaves only 2 very very small portions of this former large spanse of ham band. Now to help matters we got another late ARRL bulletin telling us that as of Septem. 11, 1958 at 0100 EST the eleven meter band has been relieved from our amateur use by the FCC.

To some of us this doesn't seem important, its just a band I never did get interested in. BUT, what would you say if they took your 80 and 40 meter bands away from you. This may be closer to reality then you think. The 10, 6 and 2 meter boys are satisfied with what they have, therefore their assistance probably can not be counted on in holding on to the lower frequencies. For years now foreign broadcast and commercial traffic has been copied here in the 40 and 80 meter bands. 80 meters - - Pshaww * - you say. Well put your hearing aid on some evening when the static isn't to ruff and you'll get an ear full. We can show you letters of explanation from ye FCC on what we copied and mailed to them.

(over)

LEBEN (cont'd.)

Now, what can I do about helping hold our present ham frequencies? Fust off, we are our own policeing system with each one of us a deputy. When you hear something a bit off center or doesn't seem to smell right don't twist the dial to another frequency because you don't understand what is being said. Jot it down letter for letter on a scratch sheet what you hear. Take note of the closest approximate frequency and the time. Put it all in an envelope and mail it to the FCC, Intelagence Division, Washington, D.C. Within a week you should get an answer and will you be surprized at what they tell you. If it was top secret they will tell you nothing but if it was one of these commerical TFC handlers you may flip your lid when they tell you where his station is located.

All this and more to come is being carried on in these ham bands at the present time and if we continue to let it pass off and not do any thing about it,then don't be to surprized if you hear about loseing a part or all of these bands in the near (not so far) future.

While your oil pressure is up hammer out a letter to your division director also to ARRL and as long as your still boiling ship one to the FCC right away. Don't forget, no one else will fight for your amateur radio rights priveledges and frequencies except you, yourself.

COMMING YACKTIVITIES * *

Put yourself on gud terms with your northern neighbors, the Canadians VE / VO. The annual W K/ VE-VO contest will be held Sept.27-28 see how many new friends and provinces you can pick up this week end. To you WAS boys. U had better get your 48 soon cuz as soon as Alaska is made a state u will need 49 states fer WAS and what time is no better time to pick up those extras that you need then in the ARRL Sweepstakes contest November 8-9th ,15-16th. If U already have WAS get in and get ur feet wet anyway. If you don't know what to do just get on and call CQ SS and some one will soon tell you what to do. October 11-12 will bring forth the emergency operators in the ARRL simulated emergency test. All Schuylkill County AREC members as well as non-members are requested to send some form of message to your EC W3ZRQ. He will monitor 3610 Kc on CW and 3850 to 3860Kc on AM. Your QTC and report will be published in QST, along with my annual report as EC.

Neighboring Clubs - -

We have to take time and room out to talk about some of our Clubs with which we swap news-sheets with. The "PACK RATS" a six meter clan from Philly give our AWA quite a build-up in one of the latest issues. We were very much surprized and pleased to have a visit from its editor Francis as XYL W3SAD. Far from the dirivation of his call, Francis is a jolly and FB chappy to talk too. Its to bad we can't reach Philly on 6 and to bad he hasn't a rig on 75 or 80. Yet when us editors got to shrinking heads we found out that our club wasn't the only one that at one time had a juvenile problem. Their former club suffered just such a fate. But their new outfit sticks to the 21 yrs of age status. Best of luck to all our swap-paper clubs and will rite about you some time.... (Note) to the AUTO CALL- our typewriter mis-spelles jest as badly as yours.

DX * *

Ur regular DX columnist hasn't shipped anything in lately so we shall have to check back in our log for some DX data. During the summer months DX on 80 as 40 was nil 20 as 15 seemed to hold out fairly well. Last week however we herd the Europeans cumin' thru on 40. Asians were workd and logged on 20 from 3 to 5 PM on 20mtrs. One evening in July while monitoring 20 all we wud'a needed was a South American fer WAC in about 2½ hours, we workd UB5TW, I1GU,4X4KK VQ4FM ,ZL1AV and KH6 BLX. This all took place about 11 PM.Some other nice QSO's were had at different times withZC4BA, YU1, YO3,LJ2F,ZB1DZ,UQ2AB, SL5AB. This to mention only a few together with the regulars, G's, DL, OK, HB9,PA3 etc. All in all there was fairly gud DX on during the summer if you looked for it. The long winter nites will bring on more Dx but also more QRM to buck.

COAL DUST (dirt frum here as there)

CUK has put up vert Gnd Pln, hvn't got rpt on hw it works yet...LDV tried to work gnd wave on 75. Found out his rig won't work wen the ant is flat in his neighbors yard... CPR QRL YL. even missed the picnic cuz of it...ZRQ is werkin up design to put the 300 watter on 6m...Nothin herd frum the rest of the spectrum CUL..