

# THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KINGS COUNTY RADIO CLUB



December 2014

Volume 1, Issue 3

## Next Club Meeting:

January 13th, 2015 at 7:30PM  
(Snow and sleet will, no doubt,  
be at the top of the list of  
planned discussions.)

Our weekly Nets meet on Sunday at 11 AM on 28.380 (10 meters) and  
Tuesday on 146.730 PL 88.5 (2 Meters)

## Ham Radio University 2015

### Next Club Activities:

Our Annual Field Day Planning  
Marathon begins in earnest.  
Try to come to our upcoming  
meetings so that you can put  
your *two cents worth* across on  
the subject.

Further details will be posted  
on [www.KC2RC.com](http://www.KC2RC.com) and  
[www.KingsCountyRadio.com](http://www.KingsCountyRadio.com) as  
they develop.



It's time again for Ham Radio University 2015, at Briarcliffe College on  
January 4, 2015.

Perhaps some KCRC club members might arrange a carpool to show our other  
local Amateur Radio Groups in the area, who are sponsoring this effort, that  
we support their efforts?

For more information see: <http://hamradiouniversity.org/>

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## Say goodbye to those FCC hieroglyphs on the back of your gadgets!

President Obama signed the E-Label Act into law this past November. It will allow electronics manufacturers to add labels for products using software rather than having to print labels on hardware. That still leaves those somewhat more obscure Q hieroglyphics thanks to our friends in the Common Market countries, but it will mean a little less clutter on the back of your future gear. Manufacturers will still be free to continue printing all this on the back of gear—this law just makes it completely voluntary.

The Kings County Radio Club is at [www.KC2RC.com](http://www.KC2RC.com) or  
[www.KingsCountyRadioClub.com](http://www.KingsCountyRadioClub.com)

KCRC is an ARRL affiliated club (see: [www.ARRL.org](http://www.ARRL.org))

# Have You Heard about HR-4969?

HR-4969 is The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014. It is designed to bring some rational flexibility when it comes to Amateur Radio Antenna restrictions that are spreading though our country, and allow us the ability to erect reasonable structures as we help establish a secondary communication infrastructure in case of emergencies.

It is being spearheaded by our ARRL Hudson Division Director, Mike Lisenco, N2YBB and the ARRL staff. Although Brooklyn is not yet a victim to these radio-phobic aesthetic conformists, you never know when our paternalistic local government might decide that all those scary antennas must not be good for people!

Your (polite) support is urged!

To find out more about it, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/hr-4969>

(The last time I looked, this legislation is stuck in the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology since this past June—which is NOT a good sign!)

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## Minutes of the December 2014 KCRC Meeting, December 13th, 2014

The monthly meeting was called to order by our President, Ed W2DEV. Also present at today's meeting were Vice President Mitch N2RGA, Howard N2GOT, Robert AB2LO, Juan KC2QNK, Tommy KB2GTO, Steve W2GOP, and Manny AC2PE.

Our successful VE session was discussed— we awarded two Technician's Licenses, 2 General's Licenses, and in a beautiful "Hat Trick" (all three exams consecutively) one Extra License! Thanks to the efforts of our new VE Coordinator John WK2J and our dedicated group of VE Examiners Ed W2DEV, Adam NY2K, Howard N2GOT, Jay W2CSS, Cynthia AB2MC, and Roy AC2GS.

Dues were collected from Steve W2GOP and we have two new Club members! Manny, newly AC2PE, and John WK2J are now members of our Club!

10 Meter Net—Juan KC2QNK reported that the Net was very active with contacts from New Jersey, California, Nebraska, Texas, Montana, Florida, Colorado, Louisiana, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Iowa, and outside the U.S.A. from the Caribbean , in addition to local New York contacts.

2 Meter Net—Richard, KA2KDQ has just returned from his trip to Israel. Juan KC2QNK did a yeoman's job of pitch hitting for Richard and hosting the Net in Rich's absence.

Treasury Report—Presently our Club has a healthy balance of \$1,726.90

Old Business—The Club has purchased a new antenna for our Club Repeater, for \$150. We are waiting for better weather so that we can remove the old antenna and replace it with our new one.

New Business—Mitch N2RGA discussed a used Repeater for sale for \$500 to replace our old unit, but shipping costs would have raised the final price too high, so we passed on the offer.

The Presidential Award, in memory of past Presidents who have recently passed on, but will never be forgotten—Tony WW2W, Tommy WW2KW, and Mel K2KEY, was awarded to Juan KC2QNK, “The Machine” - well done Juan!

Elections for the 2015 Club Offices results:

President—Howard, N2GOT

Vice President—Mitch, N2RGA

Recording Secretary—Juan, KC2QNK

Treasurer—Richard, KA2KDQ

Executive Board members (at large) Steve W2GOP and Tommy KB2GTO

To all of these fine men, our congratulations and our good wishes for a satisfying and enjoyable experience!

Ed, W2DEV wanted to add a small closing statement to the minutes of his final session as Club President:

“In closing, I would like to thank all the members that came to the meeting's and came out for Field Day 2014. I want to say to Tony WW2W, Tommy WW2KW, and Mel K2KEY—the three of you will be missed greatly, and we will keep your spirits alive. I will miss the show and tell with Tony. I miss Tommy telling me about his crazy antennas and ideas he had cooking in his head. I thank you gentleman.”

73's Ed W2DEV

...and with that, the session was closed and the Annual Holiday Party commenced!

# Antenna Basics for Fun (and no profit at all)

(Part three—And now for something completely different...)

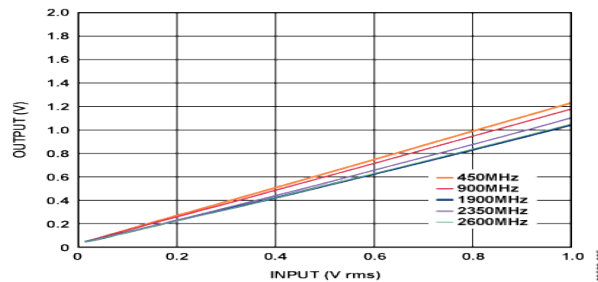
Or

Can You *Do* Decibels In Your Head?

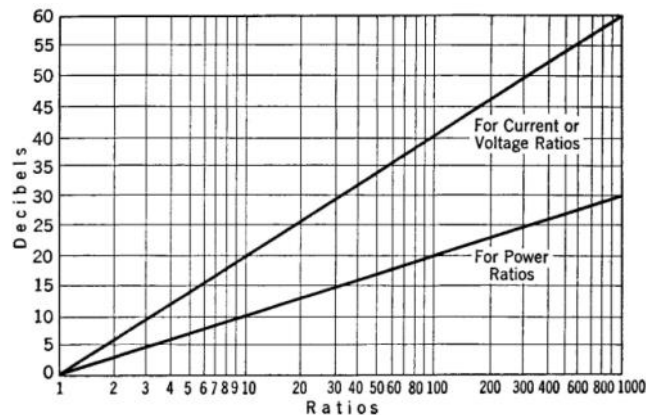
Well, I warned you’z people what would happen if I got no feedback regarding this series. Today we will have a short diversion regarding decibels, which are very important in antenna theory and many other aspects of Amateur Radio!

Decibels are very important in electronics in general and Amateur Radio specifically, yet the concept is often misunderstood. When you learn a few basic principles you will find that they are simple to work with (and they are always asked about on the Amateur Radio written qualifying exams, so it is better to be as comfortable with them as possible).

One of the first problems is that decibels are units on a “*logarithmic scale*”. Most people are much more use to “*linear scales*”:



You might recognize what a logarithmic scale looks like:



This is an excellent *crib sheet* as well as a graphic representation to see how decibels are related to power gain and by thinking of the inverse (-dB and 1/ratios) the inverse, in power loss.

A decibel is a logarithmic unit used to express the ratio between two values of a physical quantity,

often power or intensity. It is defined as ten times the logarithm - base 10, of the ratio of two power quantities. The decibel is one tenth of one bel - it is supposed to be named in honor of Alexander Graham Bell but is spelled “bels” not “bells” and is almost always defined in *decibels*, so I think Alexander got a raw deal on this honor. The mathematical equation for a decibel is as a function of power is:

$$\text{dB} = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{P_1}{P_0} \right)$$

Now don't be frightened, it's a harmless little math equation. You can just remember a few conversion factors and you'll never have to bother to calculate conversion factors ever again! The simplest is 0 dB:

$$0\text{dB} = 10^{\frac{0}{10}} = 10^0 = 1\text{x gain} = \text{unity gain} \quad (\text{i.e. } 10 \text{ watts in } \rightarrow 10 \text{ watts out})$$

If a system has 0 dB gain it has no gain nor loss - it's just like a 1 inch piece of wire - whatever went in goes out!

10dB increase is reasonably easy

$$10\text{dB} = 10^{\frac{10}{10}} = 10^1 = 10\text{x gain} \quad (\text{i.e. } 10 \text{ watts in } \rightarrow 100 \text{ watts out})$$

What would -10 dB of gain be or more accurately -10 dB of loss be:

$$-10\text{dB} = 10^{\frac{-10}{10}} = 10^{-1} = 1/10\text{x loss} \quad (\text{i.e. } 10 \text{ watts in } \rightarrow 1 \text{ watt out})$$

Quite simply a negative unit of decibels means you invert the ratio from x/1 to 1/x. Positive 10 dB multiplies your power by a factor of 10, MINUS 10 dB decreases your power by a factor of 1/10<sup>th</sup>!

There are a few numbers that it just pays to remember when dealing with decibels. 3 decibels is doubling the power. When you add decibels you need to multiply their power factors, so 3 dB + 3 dB is the same as 2/1 factor increase TIMES 2/1 factor increase which equals 4/1 factor increase:

$$6 \text{ dB} = 4\text{x gain}$$

If you want to show off, you can recall that adding decibels multiplies their power factor, so subtraction decibels must mean dividing their power factor:

$$10 \text{ dB} = 10\text{x gain} \quad 3 \text{ dB} = 2\text{x gain} \quad 10 \text{ dB} - 3 \text{ dB} = 10\text{x factor}/2\text{x factor} \quad 7 \text{ dB} = 5\text{x factor}$$

Just try and remember these few numbers and by adding them together or subtracting you will figure out the power gain or loss of most situations! Amaze and mystify your Ham friends!

Those “S” units you see on your receiver are logarithmic power scales! One “S” unit is 6 dB each, and as we learned earlier 6 dB is an increase by a factor of 4 or a decrease by a factor of 1/4<sup>th</sup> depending on whether it is +6 dB or -6 dB. That means if your friend is receiving you on his receiver with 6 “S” units of strength and you get a big fat linear amplifier and boost your signal sixteen times more powerful, your “booming” signal will read only a 2 “S” units increase on his S meter - logarithmic scales can be very disappointing!

As another practical example, the other day the question was brought up regarding the power loss differences between using 40 feet of LMR 400 vs hardline transmission line for a VHF Repeater. Well, according to one chart I looked at LMR 400 coax has 1.5 dB of loss per 100 feet of length, at VHF frequencies. Helix hardline 1/2 inch coax has a loss of 0.814 per 100 feet. So the difference in power loss would be:

$1.5 - 0.814 = 0.686$  dB per 100 feet or  $0.686 \text{ dB}/100 \text{ feet} \times 40 \text{ feet}/100 \text{ feet} = 0.2744$  dB of additional loss using the LMR400 for the full 40 foot length.

Let's cheat and use a calculator (I promise you the Amateur Radio Exams will all have numbers that you can do in your head)!

$$\text{Power factor change} = 10^{-0.2744/10} = .94$$

So, there you have it, a power loss of 6 percent! If you remember that a single "S" unit is 6 dB of power your receiver would register how many "S" unit's increase from this more difficult installation?

$$0.2744 \text{ dB change}/6 \text{ dB per "S" unit} = 45 \text{ THOUSANDTHS of an "S" unit!}$$

Not exactly worth the trouble, eh?

Decibels don't only have to be simple ratios. You can define a specific absolute value for 0 dB and indicate that by sticking a suffix on the end of the unit. As an example 0 dBm is 1 milliwatt of power. So 10 dBm is equal to 10 milliwatts, 20 dBm is 100 milliwatts and 30 dBm is a watt! There are all kinds of dB's that use reference values in acoustics, audio electronics, radio power, antennas and many more!

Power gain/loss and antenna gain/loss are the most important kinds of dB's for us Amateur Radio Operators. The radiation pattern of an idealized antenna that radiates equally over 360 degrees, sorta like an incandescent light bulb uses dBi (the "I" is for isotropic). The radiation pattern reference of a  $\frac{1}{2} \lambda$  dipole uses the term dBd. As an example, the peak gain of a dipole, perpendicular to its antenna's axis is written as 2.15 dBi (or 1.7 times more power). Of course theoretical, symmetrically equally radiating antennas are and will remain theoretical - they do not exist in the real world, so using them as the standard of comparison can be considered questionable. That is why most times papers discuss antenna gain in dBd, except when you get to marketing departments - if you use dBi you always can boast a "higher gain number in dBi units", and that's what they do! So check what kind of units of gain that ad is promoting (it's still more likely that those gain figures were not experimentally measured, or even simulated on a computer simulation, but some nice numbers that the marketing and sales departments thought would "sell").

Deci-bels	Loss-Power Ratio	Gain-Power Ratio
1	0.794	1.26
2	0.631	1.58
3	0.501	2.00
4	0.398	2.51
5	0.316	3.16
6	0.251	3.98
7	0.200	5.01
8	0.158	6.31
9	0.126	7.94
10	0.100	10.00
20	0.010	100.00
30	0.001	1,000.00
40	0.0001	10,000.00
50	0.00001	1000,000.00

Here's a nice little crib sheet in table form, of power gain and power loss for a number of decibels. Don't go and memorize them, you shouldn't need to. This is meant as a quick reference and an opportunity to get an idea of what these numbers should mean to you.

See... that wasn't so bad. Now you can do all those decibel questions on the Ham license exams in your head and annoy people when you tell them how much a difference in "S" units that expensive linear amplifier is going to get them. Have fun...

But before we leave this topic, I need to tell you about a tiny little complication that you should be aware of. That very first equation described decibels for power. They are a little different for different kinds of values, like voltages. Voltages dissipate power typically proportional to the square of voltage when the impedance is held constant, so for dB of voltage ratios the equation is a little different:

$$G_{dB} = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{V_1^2}{V_0^2} \right) = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{V_1}{V_0} \right)^2 = 20 \log_{10} \left( \frac{V_1}{V_0} \right)$$

So a circuit that boosts the *voltage* by a factor 10 has a gain of 20 dB!

Don't worry about it, just keep it somewhere in the back of your head if you ever plan to consider ratios that aren't direct power ratios.

Decibels are our friends. Don't be afraid of them. Use them to gain a better understanding of many aspects of Amateur Radio!

Next time, just antennas, nothing but antennas (perhaps?)...

-The Editor- (I can be contacted at [TheEditor@KC2RC.com](mailto:TheEditor@KC2RC.com))

# The 2014 Annual KCRC Holiday Party



Juan, KC2QNK is awarded the 2014 KCRC Presidential Award presented by our President, Ed, W2DEV



The first annual KCRC President's Award



Manny, AC2PE, Robert, AB2LO and Howie, N2GOT



Juan, KC2QNK, Tommy, KB2GTO, Steve, W2GOP and a rare XYL visit

Thanks to Mitch, N2RGA and Howie, N2GOT for providing the photographs.



## Ham Radio for Fun and... Profit?

Hams have always been a bit frustrated by the way *The Media* seems to portray us, on the rare times that they DO portray us. Dramas centering on a radio transceiver have never been a popular means of conveying action or drama. It was somewhat popular for war movie scenes but those have grown very few and far between, and they don't really touch on Amateur Radio. Everyone recalls that scene from *The Munsters* in the 1960's when Fred Munster played with his Ham Radio Gear in a hilarious manner. Most Hams, of a certain age, remember *Gilligan's Island* with the transmitter that "The Professor" cobbled together using coconut shells for a microphone.

Then there seemed to be a pause for a few decades.

Sure, there was the odd Movie, like "Frequency" (which, reportedly is going to be made into a television series), but Amateur Radio hasn't even been poked fun at in the popular media for decades!

The past ten years have included a few jabs at Ham Radio in one way or another. A mediocre action show, "The Finder" that only lasted one season had a scene where the main character was stuck in a little town in Florida during a hurricane when all power went out. He announced to his colleagues that he will just use his Ham gear! That led to a scene in his barn where the main character is shown generating power by using a small motor generator hooked up to a stationary bicycle. The only part of his radio visible was a chrome microphone with a coiled wire leading off stage and he then transmitted not on a Ham band, but illegally on a law enforcement frequency, without any call sign identification. He reached his law enforcement buddy and saved the day. So, I guess "sort of" using Ham Radio, although completely illegally, in a clown-like manner saved the day!

Seth McFarlane, the man that turned cynical "snarkiness" into a highly profitable entertainment form, as seen in his "Family Guy" cartoon, took the time to take a swipe at Ham Radio. A regular character, that had been portrayed as a randy commercial airplane pilot had his toupee blow off and reveal that he was bald. He decided he would "act his age" and when he wasn't shoo-ing kids off his property, or using a personal radar gun to yell at people driving past his house at too high a speed, he was hunkered over an open chassis radio with glowing tubes asking the other sad guy on the other end of his QSO if that guy was an old, white, bald guy too (he was). A short lived HBO comedy, "Family Tree", had a secondary character that was a Ham, but as the series progressed, he was shown to be a bit of a wacky "Prepper", those guys that are expecting something like a Zombie Apocalypse any day now...

Perhaps that's why Ham Radio Operators were thrilled when they heard about "Last Man Standing". It was widely written up in every possible Ham related venue. It was reported that the "Producer" was a Ham and he intended to add Ham Radio as a recurring hobby of the main character. Yippee!

The problem was that “the Producer” was in fact one of many producers for the show, and really was a “Production Producer” - he was in charge of coordinating the building of sets. He could talk to the creative people, but he had no influence in what the characters would be doing. He did build a little ham shack in the corner of the main character’s work office set (how many of you guys have a shack at work?), but I don’t think it was ever physically used.

I guess that they couldn’t trick all the Ham Radio publications and podcasts to continue drumming up enthusiasm, so they wedged an unnecessary scene where the main character’s daughter seems to find a basement room that she was previously unaware of, that contained an Icom transceiver that was left on and set to a frequency that received a call from another Ham. The daughter started having a QSO, but never ID-ed herself and her back story had no mention that she was licensed. Some people picked it apart, but a lot of Hams were thrilled and asked for more. It took another year to see another scene that was also wedged into that week’s plot and could have just as easily not been included, where the main character takes his little grandson down to his shack to ask the Hams on frequency if they too are hiding from Thanksgiving partyers.

These don’t seem to be the most rewarding portrayals of the hobby, but any mention is better than none and a mention that didn’t portray us as a bunch of clowns was a definite plus.

I just get the feeling that all this is just a bit too manipulative, to give the show a plug, albeit in a small community with less coveted demographics. When you figure that it all amounts to two scene dressings and two small isolated scenes in three years I fail to understand why the show gets so much press in Ham circles. If you really liked Home Improvement (I didn’t) you might like “Last Man Standing” it looks like a Sit-Com that could have been produced in the early 1990’s and then” freeze dried” to be shown today. It’s a bit old and a bit tired and clichéd. Most of the actors are great, but the material is... not. I am always amused when the plugs describe it as “a Comedy Hit”. In my book, *Comedy Hits* don’t languish with very iffy ratings on Friday nights and had to undergo a severe recasting of many of the main characters and their relationships with each other at the beginning of their second season. It’s more accurate to say it is “limping along” rather than a hit.

Last year the Production Producer came up with a QSO party to promote the show. It would seem he was unaware that Part 97 of the FCC rules is pretty clear that you can’t promote for financial gain on the air. He tweaked it a little and re-labeled it as “A Celebration of Hollywood”, but the QSL cards and almost all of the promotion was directed at “Last Man Standing”. They did the same thing this year!

So, are you allowed to promote financial ventures on the Ham Bands or not? Apparently, some people can. Do I think they saved the show with this “trick”? Probably not, but I find all this promotion to be a waste of Amateur Radio News’s bandwidth.

What would have happen if “Honey BooBoo” had been gifted a shiny new transceiver? Would we have to read about her and the rest of her flawed relatives in our monthly QST? (If you don’t have the faintest idea who the heck Honey BooBoo might be, I congratulate you!)

If it's suddenly fine to profit from your Amateur Radio hobby, I hear "Earth Shoes" are going to be making a comeback. Maybe I should promote them with a QSO Party...

The (Cranky) Editor

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### Closing statements (from the Editor):

On behalf of The Editor, our Writers, our regular Columnists, our Proof Readers, our Technical Department, our Art Department, the kid that goes out for the coffee, and all the guys involved... so I guess, just me...

Merry Christmas

Happy Hanukkah

Happy Kwanza

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Our Editorial Staff (well, okay, just me again) would like to take this time to commend and congratulate our Club Officers for 2014. Despite the unexpected demise of two valued and beloved Club Officers early this year, others stepped into the fray and not only kept "the ship afloat", but struggled to make our Club a more relevant organization with a brighter future. Kudos to you all! (I'd give you all an award plaque if it were within the monthly Newsletter's budget!)

Now on to 2015! "Take the second star on your right and straight on 'til morning."

For your ideas, your thoughts, your dreams, your kind words or even your epithets, I can be contacted at [TheEditor@KC2RC.com](mailto:TheEditor@KC2RC.com) .

Good luck to us all...

- The Editor -

(December 2014 Supplement)

## Guest Column

(cut and pasted from the internet—it's Homage, not IP theft!)

Note: This "Rusty Bumpers" column is from the May 1993 issue of "Solid Copy", the Richmond (VA) Amateur Telecommunications Society's monthly newsletter. Most of the examples used by "Rusty" have happened on the local repeaters exactly as written, although some of the items are exaggerated slightly for humor.

# HOW TO SOUND LIKE A LID

by Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

In many areas I have noticed a tendency of people making a distinct effort to sound like a "LID" on the local repeater. Since this appears to be the new style in Amateur Radio, I thought I would present this incomplete guide to radio LID-dom. The following is what I call: "How to sound like a Lid in one easy lesson."

- 1) Use as many Q signals as possible. Yes, I know they were invented solely for CW and are totally inappropriate for two-meter FM, but they're fun and entertaining. They keep people guessing as to what you really meant. For example, "I'm going to QSY to the kitchen." Can you really change frequency to the kitchen? QSL used to mean "I am acknowledging receipt," but now it appears to mean "yes" or "OK." I guess I missed it when the ARRL changed the meaning.
- 2) Never laugh, when you can say "hi hi." No one will ever know you aren't a long time CW ragchewer if you don't tell them. They'll think you've been on since the days of Marconi.
- 3) Utilize an alternative vocabulary. Use words like "destinated" and "negatory." It's OK to make up your own words here. "Yeah Bill, I pheelbart zaphonix occasionally myself."
- 4) Always say "XX4XXX" (Insert your own call) "for I.D." As mentioned in Step One, anything that creates redundancy is always encouraged. That's why we have the Department of Redundancy Department. (Please note that you can follow your call with "for identification purposes" instead of "for I.D." While taking longer to say, it is worth more "LID points".
- 5) The better the copy on the repeater, the more you should use phonetics. Names should be especially used if they are short or common ones. I.E. "My name is Al... Alpha Lima" or "Jack.. Juliet Alpha Charlie Kilo." If at all possible use the less common HF phonetics "A4SM... America, Number Four, Sugar Mexico." And for maximum "LID points", make up unintelligible phonetics. "My name is Bob... Billibong Oregano Bumperpool."
- 6) Always give the calls of yourself and everyone who is (or has been) in the group, whether they are still there or not. While this has been unnecessary for years, it is still a great memory test. You may also use "and the group" if you are an "old timer" or just have a bad memory. Extra points for saying everyone's call and then clearing in a silly way - like "This is K2xxx, Chow, Chow."
- 7) Whenever possible, use the wrong terminology. It keeps people guessing. Use "modulation" when you mean "deviation", and vice-versa. And even if the amplifier you're using is a Class C type amp, and thus not biased for linear amplification, be sure to call it your "linear." Heck, refer to all FM-style amplifiers as "linears." You'll be king of the "wrong terminology" hill. Or better yet, refer to them as "lin-e-yars."
- 8) If someone asks for a break, always finish your turn, taking as long as possible before turning it over. Whenever possible, pass it around a few times first. This will discourage the breaker, and if it is an emergency, encourage him to switch to another repeater and not bother you.
- 9) Always ask involved questions of the person who is trying to sign out. Never let him get by with a yes or no answer. Make it a question that will take a long time to answer.

- 10) The less you know about a subject, the more you should speculate about it on the air. The amount of time spent on your speculations should be inversely proportional to your knowledge of the subject.
- 11) If someone on the repeater is causing interference, you should talk about that person at great length, making sure to comment on at least four out of six of the following: (1) His mental state; (2) His family; (3) His intelligence, or lack of same; (4) His sexual preference; (5) His relationship to small animals, his mother, or both; (6) His other methods of self entertainment.
- 12) Make sure you say the first few words of each transmission twice, especially if it is the same thing each time. Like "roger, roger" or "fine business, fine business". I cannot stress enough about encouraging redundancy.
- 13) You hear someone on the repeater giving directions to a visiting amateur. Even if the directions are good, make sure you break-in with your own "alternate route but better way to get there" version. This is most effective if several other Lid trainees join in, each with a different route. By the time the amateur wanting directions unscrambles all the street names whizzing around in his head, he should have mobiled out of range of the repeater. This keeps you from having to stick around and help the guy get back out of town later.
- 14) Use the repeater for an hour or two at a time, preventing others from using it. Better yet, do it on a daily basis. Your quest is to make people so sick of hearing your voice every time they turn on their radio, they'll move to another frequency. This way you'll lighten the load on the repeater, leaving even more time for you to talk on it.
- 15) See just how much mobile flutter you can generate by operating at handheld power levels too far from the repeater. Engage people in conversations when you know they won't be able to copy half of what you're saying. Even when they say you are uncopyable, continue to string them along by making further transmissions. See just how frustrated you can make the other amateur before he finally signs off in disgust.
- 16) Give out wacky radio advice. When a newcomer's signal is weak into the repeater, tell him he can correct the problem by adjusting the volume and squelch knobs on his radio. Or tell people they're full quieting except for the white noise on their signal. Or....well, you get the idea.
- 17) Use lots of radio jargon. After all, it makes you feel important using words average people don't say. Who cares if it makes you sound like you just fell off of Channel 19 on the Citizen's Band? Use phrases such as "Roger on that," "10-4," "I'm on the side," "You're making the trip," and "Negatory on that."
- 18) Use excessive microphone gain. See just how loud you can make your audio. Make sure the audio gain is so high that other amateurs can hear any bugs crawling on your floor. If mobile, make sure the wind noise is loud enough that others have to strain to pick your words out from all the racket.
- 19) Be as verbose as possible. Never say "yes" when you can say "He acquiesced in the affirmative by saying 'yes'." (No kidding, I actually heard that one.)
- 20) Start every transmission with the word "Roger" or "QSL." Sure, you don't need to acknowledge that you received the other transmission in full. After all, you would simply ask for a repeat if you missed something. But consider it your gift to the other amateur to give him solace every few seconds that his transmissions are being received.
- 21) When looking for a contact on a repeater, always say you're "listening" or "monitoring" multiple times. I've always found that at least a half dozen times or so is good. Repeating your multiple "listening" IDs every 10 to 15 seconds is even better. Those people who didn't want to talk to you will eventually call you, hoping you'll go away after you have finally made a contact.
- 22) Give out repeater FM signal reports using the HF SSB R-S system ("You're 5 by 9 here"). Sure it's considered improper for FM operation and you may even confuse some people, but don't let that spoil your fun!
- 23) Always use a repeater, even if you can work the other station easily on simplex -- especially if you can make the contact on simplex. The coverage of the repeater you use should be inversely proportional to your distance from the other station.
- 24) If you and the other station are both within a mile or two of the repeater you are using, you should always give a signal report. ("I'm sitting under the repeater and I know you can see it from there, but you're full quieting into the repeater.

How about me?")

25) In the same vein as the previous step, when monitoring a repeater, you should always give signal reports as if the repeater didn't exist. ("Yep, I'm right under the repeater. You've got a whopping signal. You're S-9 plus 60. That must be a great rig.")

26) On repeaters with courtesy tones, you should always say "over." Courtesy tones are designed to let everyone know when you have unkeyed, but don't let that stop you. Say "over," "back to you," or "go ahead." It serves no useful purpose, but don't worry -- it's still fun.

27) Think up interesting and bizarre things to do to tie-up the repeater. The goal here is not to facilitate communications, but to entertain all the scanner listeners out there. Do something original. Try to hum CTCSS (PL) tones. Sing pager tones. You're getting the idea.

28) Make sure that if you have a personal problem with someone, you should voice your opinion in a public forum, especially a net. Make sure you give their name, call, and any other identifying remarks. For maximum points, make sure the person in question is not on the repeater, or not available.

29) Never say "My name is...". It makes you sound human. If at all possible, use one of the following phrases: A) "The personal here is...." B) "The handle here is...." Normally, handles are for suitcases, but it's OK to use them anyway. Don't forget, this has worked just fine for CBers for years. The best retort I ever heard: "My handle is pink, my name is..."

30) Use "73" and "88" incorrectly. Both are already considered plural, but add a "s" to the end anyway. Say "best of 73's" or "88's". Who cares if it means "best regards" and "love and kisses." Better yet, say "seventy thirds"! Or be funny and say "seventy turds." Or talk like a 1960s CBer and sign off with "Threeeeeeees to ya!". (By the way, 70 thirds equals about 23.3, the average CBers IQ.)

31) Make people think you have a split personality by referring to yourself in the plural sense. When you're in conversation and are alone at your radio, always say "We're" or "We've" instead of "I'm" or "I've" (i.e. "we've been doing this...", "we're doing that...", "we're clear"). Everyone knows you're by yourself, but when they ask you who is with you, make up somebody important like Arnold Schwarzenegger or Bill Clinton.

32) Always attempt to use the higher functions of the repeater before you have read the directions. Nothing will work, but you'll have great fun and get lots of people to give you advice.

33) Test repeater functions repeatedly (that's why they call it a repeater). Test your signal strength from the same location several times every day. Concentrate on testing the things that really matter, like the number of time the repeater has been keyed-up. That stuff is fun to track. Test the outside temperature, or the transmitter heat sink temperature as often as possible. The farther the temperature goes from the norms, the more often you should test it. Also, if you get a pager set to the repeater's output frequency, as soon as you receive it set it off every 30 seconds or so until the battery runs down. Better yet, interrupt conversations to test it.

34) If the repeater is off the air for service, complain about the fact that it was off the air as soon as it's turned back on. Act as though your entire day has been ruined because that one repeater wasn't available when you wanted to use it. Even though you have never donated a penny to help out with the upkeep of it, and despite the fact that you have all 42 local repeaters programmed into your mobile radio.

35) Always make sure you try to communicate with only a handheld and a rubber duck antenna. Also, make sure you work through a repeater that you can hear very well, but it cannot hear you. This will put out a kind of "LID mating call": "Well, Joe, I can hear the repeater just fine here. I wonder why it can't hear me?" You will score maximum LID points if you are mobile, and with the radio lying in the passenger seat.

36) If an annoying station is bothering you, make sure your other "LID" buddies have a "coded" frequency list. Even though "CODES" are strictly forbidden on Amateur Radio, it's really neat to practice "James Bond" tactics.

37) Always use the National Calling Frequency for general conversations. The more uninteresting, the longer you should use it. Extra points are awarded if you have recently move from an adjacent frequency for no reason. Make sure when DX is "rolling" in on 52.525 that you hang out there and talk to your friends five miles down the road about the good old CB days!

38) If you hear a conversation on a local repeater, break in and ask how each station is receiving you. Of course they will only see the signal of the repeater you are using, but it's that magic moment when you can find a fellow "LID", and get the report. Extra points are awarded if you are using a base station, and the repeater is less than five air miles from you.

These easy steps should put you well on your way to "LID-Hood". I hope these helpful hints will save you some time in your quest to sound like the perfect "LID". I should also note that these steps can also apply to simplex operation, but nobody really cares because that pawn-shop HTX-202 isn't going to get out too far with just a rubber duck.

73,

Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

P.S. "Rusty Bumpers" is a pen name. He maintains anonymity so he can sit peacefully at club meetings and avoid the wrath (and breath) of the uninformed.

