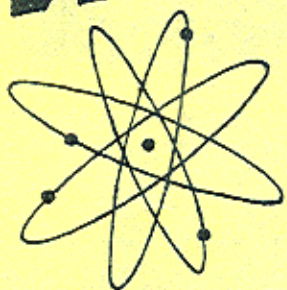


# W4CA LOG



*Amateur Radio News in  
The Roanoke Valley*

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TOM LAMONS WB4BLJ - EDITOR

5629 BRAHMA ROAD S. W.

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA 24018

PHONE 774-7726

W4CA LOG  
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Pap's Pertinent Poop

Surprise !! Someone got to counting and came up with a figure of 31 or something close thereto. 31 What? People with FM gear in the Roanoke Valley, that is. Now that's food for thought - so going back to what has been said in these pages about the Amateur and public service and looking at the potential in this gear we thought it would be proper to pass along the remarks make by George H. Goldstone, W8AP in his column "Reflected and Directed" found in the April issue of "Auto-Call".

"FM The Logical Local Emergency System"

Amateur radio has worn the laurels of public service for many decades. Looking at these laurels more closely, we find that they are wearing thin in spots; and as a mater of fact, they may no longer fit. Have you examined our capability lately?

Most amateur radio emergency work centers in two areas: (1) Furnishing local communications at the scene of a disaster, natural or otherwise, and (2) Furnishing communications between individuals and organization inside the actual emergency area, and concerned individuals outside the area of emergency. (The latter class of communications is accurately termed "agony traffic" when it relates to messages concerning the welfare of individuals). This discussion pertains only to local communications; the "agony traffic" problem can be discussed separately.

The natural disaster most commonly calling for amateur radio communications would be a flood, sleet or hail storm, or tornado. In our own locality, the incidence of tornadoes is not inconsequential; several suburbs and even a small part of the down town area, have felt the impact and horrible power of tornadoes. On two of these occasions, we listened in on 10 meters - and what did we hear? only a superabundance of QRM. When tornado alerts have been called, listening on 75 meters brings in more of the same. Experience indicates that tornadoes and really severe storms are fellow travellers. With this observation behind us, where should we look for emergency communications. the answer, we believe, is 2 meter FM. It is made for the job.

We will not dwell on the advantages FM has over AM in combating QRM. That subject was talked out long ago - and you will note that police, fire, and the emergency services all went to FM over 20 years past. AS a practical matter, during severe  
See Page TWO



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(Pap's Pertinent Poop)

electrical interference, 2 meter FM equipment will give reliable communication on the local scene, where AM (and SSB) run into trouble.

But the advantage of FM readability is not the only reason for utilizing FM for emergency use. Nearly all FM equipment in amateur radio hands is crystal controlled, both for receiving and transmitting. The establishment of a definite "Emergency Net" frequency on 2 meter FM means that equipment owners will be on frequency, ready to go by simply turning the rig on. No problem of tune-up, or trying to zero in on a Net Control who can't come within 10 kHz of the assigned spot! Yes, in that respect the equipment used is similar to CB equipment - but that crystal-controlled characteristic is the sole reason why CB watch operation on Channel 9 has been so successful. We can certainly profit by their example.

This brings us to the newest and most compelling reason for 2 meter FM. The development of FM repeaters. By placement of one or more repeaters on the perimeter of a metropolitan area, 2 meter FM mobiles (and even suitable located hand packed rigs) can utilize the power and antenna capabilities of the repeater station. Communication from the area of a disaster can thus be relayed to destination, or put on RTTY circuits, or phone--patched, all as the case may be.

FM equipment is becoming more and more available to amateurs. The need for amateur to participate in emergency communications plans is more necessary than ever before, if our use of ALL amateur frequencies is to be justified in the public interest. Rather than think about CW communications in the floods of 1963, or 10 meter AM nets of the late 1940's we should be building a workable FM system in 1969.

George H. Goldstone, W8AF

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### MARSFEST

There will be a Army MARSFEST held in Frinston West Virginia on May 31. For more details contact Ted Mathewson, A4FJ State Army Mars Director. Richmond, Virginia.

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### Log Misshap.

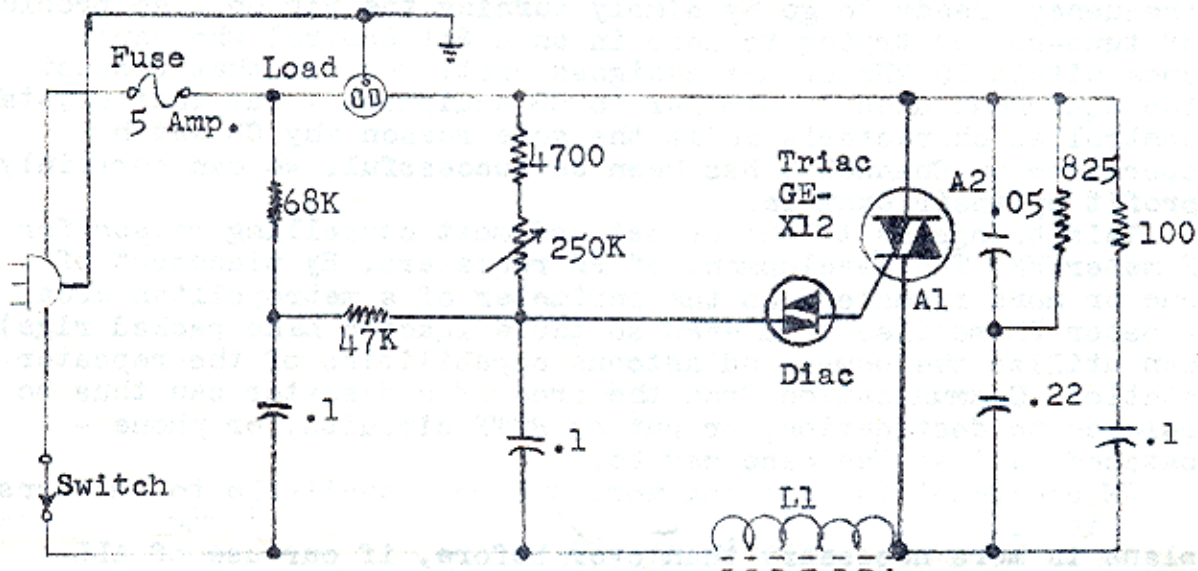
I would like to take this time to say sorry that the Log is about a week late getting out. Guess I looked at my Calendar wrong. I will try to do better next month.

Tom Lamons WB4BLJ Editor.

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Here is the Speed control mentioned in Gene Krumnacher's talk:



Notes:

1. Mount GE-XL2 on 3" X 3" X 1/16" Copper or Aluminum cooling fin. This cooling fin will be "HOT" electrically and thermally so care should be exercised in mounting fin.
2. All capacitors are 200V; values are in Microfarads.
3. All resistors are .5 watt carbon 10%.
4. All parts except L1 are available thru Peoples Radio.
5. L1  
Core: Ferrite rod approx .25" Dia X 2.75" Long. (Removed from a Ferri-Loopstick) 65 turns #18 enamel magnet wire wound over length of core.
6. This circuit will control 60 cycle inductive and resistive loads such as:
  - (a) Light Dimmer control
  - (b) Speed control for universal motors (Drills - 100% range)
  - (c) Shaded pole fan motor (Controls over a 4 to 1 range)
  - (d) Heater control
  - (e) Variac Substitution (Use on transformers)

Submitted by Earl Abbott  
K4GEJ

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Two Meter Activities in the Roanoke Valley.

Work is progressing toward installation of a 2 Meter repeater on Poor Mountain.

Present plans call for using 980 as the primary frequency. The input frequency is still being investigated. The WDBJ Antenna site is available and David Kinsey, K4ZGY has made available gear capable of 25 watts.

Some of the current needs are: Money, volunteers to install the equipment, to handle administrative duties, to build accessories to log and identify, and to determine how to control the repeater to comply with F.C.C.

980 will still be our basic communication and the repeater is only activated by you when you cannot communicate without it.

If you are interested in the repeater and would like to help with some of the projects please contact Gene R. Krumnacher, K4TSU on 344-1242 or drop him a card at 3345 Pasley Avenue, S.W. Roanoke, Virginia 24015.

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Meeting Notice

The second regular meeting of the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club will be held at the club house, 110 Union Street, Salem, Virginia on Friday night May 23 at 7:30.

This meeting will be used to discuss last minute plans for the Hamfest.

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Hamfest

The annual Hamfest of the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club will be held at the Vinton War Memorial in Vinton, Virginia on Sunday May 25. A general get together will be held at the Embassy Motor Lodge 4525 Melrose Ave. on Saturday night beginning at 7 pm. Be looking for everyone that weekend.

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# The Widders News



The regular "Widders" Club meeting was held Friday April 25th at the club house in Salem. There were 10 members present with Hilda Ferrell presiding.

**NEW BUSINESS** - The Hamfest will be Saturday, May 24 & Sunday May 25. The "Widders" Club offered to buy the large prizes for Bingo. For the smaller prizes, each widder was ask to bring one or more gifts of things like Jewelry, Pins, Scarfs, Lotions, Perfume or anything else they would have that would make nice small gifts for the women. Also they would like for each of us to wrap our gifts that we bring. Hope that you all will be there to pitch in and help. **DON'T FORGET - SATURDAY, MAY 24 AND SUNDAY MAY 25 , AT THE VINTON WAR MEMORIAL.**

**BRIEFS** - Betty Chillman and Sally Bobbitt were hostess at our April meeting and served some real good refreshments. Some of the Widders had to leave early so we didn't play any games.

Eva Wagner's grandson Michael is home from the hospital and is doing fine.

Heard that Pat Anderson was sick, hope you are feeling better Pat and hurry back to club meetings.

**ODDS AND ENDS** - Eva has still not smoked any. Noticed she had on a new dress and shoes, wonder if she saved her money from not buying cigarettes! Keep up the good work Eva.

Betty and George Chilman have just returned from Winston Salem where they went on a tour of Old Salem, bet that was a nice trip.

Hilda Ritter, Eunice Evans and myself went to Front Royal this past weekend to a Moose Ex. Meeting.

**ATTENTION VIRGINIA RUDOLPH!** Where are you? We miss you at the meetings!

**WELL GIRLS THAT IS ALL FOR THIS MONTH.**

**THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING THIS MONTH DUE TO THE HAMFEST.**

See you next month  
Your Roving Reporter,  
Nancy Davis