

as though nothing was gained. I now value the rag-chew above other QSOs and hunt for the fella that has something in common with me to chew the old sock about.

There will always be the young squirt, the old-timer, et al. That makes ham radio. Let's let come "what comes naturally."

— W. W. Simpson, WSKPL

3631 Oakland Ave., Minneapolis 7, Minn.

Editor, QST:

. . . I strongly disagree with J. H. Paist, W9RBA, that the new, inexperienced op should be restricted to frequencies above 30 Mc. If those of poor operating ability are unable to contact more proficient operators they're not going to get much worthwhile experience. It's standard procedure to transmit at the same speed as the station being worked. The experienced op who refuses to answer a call at a slower speed than his original CQ or won't come down to the other fellow is breaking one of the rules of good operating and is therefore, in my opinion, inclined to be a lid because he knows better and refuses to do so. Then there is the guy who transmits much faster than his own ability to receive. Of course he's just asking for it and should be taken aside and told a few things. . . .

— Marvin H. Asp, W0WFF

STARTING RIGHT

18 Garden St., Potsdam, N.Y.

Editor, QST:

I just want to say a few words in appreciation for the reception this LSPH has had. It makes me feel very proud to be one of the gang which has given me encouragement, praised my efforts and which has heeded my call to QRS. They even say they are proud to be my first contact on any of the bands.

Yes, it's swell to be received as a brother!

— Carl A. Emerson, W8RWH

1101 West 40th St., Baltimore 11, Md.

Editor, QST:

I am only a tyro in amateur radio and I want to express my thanks to W. H. Fraser for his article "For Beginners Only." It certainly hit the spot with me and I am sure with many others. Let's have some more of the same. Many thanks.

— Nelson L. Ellis

THAT WORD AGAIN

Drygulch, Texas

Editor, QST:

When the fences hereabouts need patchin' we aim to fix up all the holes. And now that us fellers know we done wrong — goin' around them bands, askin' and tellin' our "handles," we aim to quit it, pronto. And, jest so's it'll be a real big event, we aim to stop on the same day when them hired hands on the QST ranch stop usin' technical baby talk. Youall know what we mean? That dadburned stuff like "snivvy," "sniggle-sniggle snoopers" and the like which don't make no better sense to a grown man than "handle" does to KBW.

— Brazos Bill

Kipperin'-on-the-Charles, Mass.

Editor, QST:

The controversy in QST over the use of "handle" should not be taken lightly, since the knowledge of the other operator's nickname is such an important part of amateur radio. It should be obvious to even the most casual operator that the other man's handle, or "sine" as it was called in the days before trigonometry and plastics, is one of the most useful bits of information to be garnered from a QSO,

ranking, perhaps, with the vital facts about QSL. However most operators stop giving out dope after this point, a deplorable condition that cannot be derided too vociferously if amateur radio is to survive. It is with the knowledge that something must be done, and done quickly, that the Rapp Plan is promulgated at this time. The Rapp Plan can save ham radio for the hams!

Briefly, the Plan consists of a code group or "HAHWEHS" reports sent immediately after the signal report (RST) and the location (QTH). A sample HAHWEHS report would be "LARS 55 6-1 180 BWN BLK 76-42-6060." This brief bit indicates to the receiving operator that the man at the other end is called "Lars" by his friends, that he is 55 years old, stands 6 feet 1 inch tall, weighs 180 pounds, has brown eyes and black hair, and that his social security number is 76-42-6060. The HAHWEHS system derives its name, of course, from the first letters of each of these gens of information (Handle-Age-Height-Weight-Eyes-Hair-Social Security) and makes it easy to remember the sequence. I urge its immediate adoption, or amateur radio is doomed!

— Larson E. Rapp, W10U

830 Airport Rd., Muskegon, Mich.

Editor, QST:

"Handle" is only slightly distasteful. Consider the term "hams" as applied to amateur radio operators by newspaper writers, the general public, and even by radio amateurs themselves. To me it is much worse than "handle." It grates me when someone asks me if I am a ham. I usually answer them in words such as "I am an amateur radio operator."

As a suggestion for a single word name for the sake of brevity, I have utilized a system popular with the late FDR — that is, a word made up of the first letters of the full name. Applied to us, the plural word would be AROS (pronounced "arrows") for Amateur Radio Operators.

If that name doesn't suit you, might I suggest SWAYBACK, the full meaning of which is, "Short-Wave Amateur Yarnspinnin's Brotherhood And Celebrated Kegtilters." Or if people ask if you are a SWELL, tell them, "That's right — I am a Short-Wave Emitter Legally Licensed." Maybe you will be a DRIP (Department of Radio's Immortal Perfectors). Or rather than be called a "ham" I would stick out my chest with pride on being called a LOUSE, which may mean I belong to the League Of Ultra-Short-wave Experimenters.

— Edward Eggebrecht, W8OAH

INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS, 'PHONE-C.W.

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Editor, QST:

Possibly it is too early to be giving much serious consideration to plans for an international radio conference [Ed. Note: We started in 1944!], but there is a problem that will take considerable thought beforehand if anything approaching a satisfactory agreement is to be reached. I refer to the indiscriminate radiophone operation by foreign stations in the American amateur c.w. allocations.

Although the use of c.w. is legal in the U.S. 'phone bands, the great majority of code stations do not take advantage of that fact, but stay in the exclusive c.w. portions. On the other hand, foreign 'phone stations operate almost exclusively in the American c.w. portion and indiscriminately from one end to the other. At the moment it is next to impossible to have a code contact that is not interfered with by foreign 'phone stations. . . .

— E. W. Mayer, KP4KD

[EDITOR'S NOTE: In a considerable number of countries in the world, particularly Latin America, there is very small use of c.w. and almost all activity is 'phone, so that such countries are commonly unwilling to regard any of the DX portions of bands as exclusively c.w. Further, outside of Canada and the United States, the major countries of the world are opposed to making any division of bands as between 'phone and c.w. Interested readers are referred to

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