



Zero Beat

Serving hams in the Tri-County Area

Comet collides with
Jupiter!

page 5

Volume 8 No. 9

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club

November 1994

P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601

1994 Election Results

The Annual Meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on October 6th. This year, we elected four officers to a one year term, and a trustee for three years. The duties of each were spelled out in last month's "Zero Beat".

This year's elections saw a few old faces and a couple new ones elected. With the exception of Trustee, all nominees ran unopposed.

The officers of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club for the 1994-5 year are as follows:

President-Pam Myers, N8IAK

Vice-President-Don Whitaker, K8OMO

Secretary-Gladys Wilson, KB8GIA

Treasurer-Mary Ann Royer, KB8IVS

Trustee-Ray Scoville, K8DEN

This is Pam's 4th consecutive term as president of the AARC. She has previously held the office of secretary, and is former editor of the "Zero Beat."

Pam has been a Ham for eight years and enjoys Two Meter operation.

Don begins his second year as Vice-President, but in the past has served as President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the old Alliance ARC. He has been licensed for 38 years, and enjoys all facets of Amateur Radio.

Gladys has been licensed for 5 years, and returns to a post that she has held in the past, in both an official capacity and in an unofficial one as a stand in when a secretary couldn't make a meeting. Gladys enjoys Two Meter operation.

Mary Ann has been licensed for four years, and enjoys Two Meter operation.

Ray has been licensed for 33 years and has held offices previously in the Tri-County Radio Club. He enjoys Ten Meter operation, and is a member of QCWA.

Operation Santa Claus

Are your little ones afraid that their letters to Santa might not make it on time? Well, tell them not to worry. The Alliance Amateur Radio Club is coming to the rescue. Santa Claus will soon be on the air to take your requests. The big event will happen on December 15th at 7 PM on the N8DZA(145.37) repeater.

Parents & grandparents, you can help out by writing and telling Santa a little bit about your little ones. He'd like the normal information, such as names & ages. But, he'd also like to know a little about each child.

Do they have a favorite pet? What was their favorite Christmas gift? Their most memorable Christmas? What do they like to do? I think you get the idea.

Please address all responses to Operation Santa Claus, C/O Alliance Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601.

You can also give your letters to Pam Myers N8IAK. Just remember to get those cards and letters in by December 8th. Merry Christmas & HO! HO! HO!

Another breakdown on the Information Superhighway!

This was on Paul Harvey's newscast on Thursday, October 13th, 1994: The Better Business Bureau received a complaint from a customer who had purchased a computer, and was having trouble getting it to function correctly.

The customer wrote that every program he/she loaded onto the computer would refuse to run. Each time, the same message would appear on the screen; "Press any key to continue." The customer could not find "any key" on his/her keyboard, and demanded that the "any key" be sent promptly, or the computer would be returned for a refund. The head of the Better Business Bureau called the customer and explained that there are 112 "any key's" on his/her computer keyboard.

Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be held on November 3rd at the Alliance Community Hospital. We will be meeting at 7:30 PM, in room A, which is just off the Cafeteria.

This month, our guest speaker will be Bob Mansen, WB8RWP, who will give us a video tour of the Coshocton County ARES program.

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club

P. O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH
44601

Officers

President

Pam Myers N8IAK

510 W. Harrison St.

Alliance, OH 44601 821-5513

Vice President

Don Whitaker K8OMO

8775 Edison St. NE

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6974 Rolling Ridge N.E.

N. Canton, OH 44721 492-3754

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Jim Ferguson N8DZA

115 E. Cambridge

Alliance, OH 44601 823-3925

Ray Scoville K8DEN

14096 Bandy Rd

Alliance, OH 44601 823-2304

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Thursday of every month, at The Alliance Community Hospital. Our meetings are held in room A, and begin promptly at 7:30 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

Editorial

by John Myers, WX8G

Well the elections are over, and not much has changed. Oh, a couple of the names are new, but what hasn't changed is that from 50+ members, we couldn't scrape up more than one candidate for four of the five offices to be filled. Perhaps this means that everyone was so happy with the names that were presented that they didn't feel the need to oppose them. I hope so.

Well, contest season is upon us. As you're reading this, I'm probably either operating the CQWW, or making plans for the ARRL Sweepstakes. The PA QSO Party is just a memory, but a pleasant one.

The weather was favorable, and the heater in the camper worked. Forty meters went long on the first day of the contest, which would be great if this were a DX contest, which the PA QSO Party is not. While activity on 80 meters was excellent all weekend, forty was a little too crowded on Sunday. Oh well, just wait till next year.

Here's an idea for you. How about having a contest that some of the No-Coders could participate in? This is an idea that's been in the editorial file since last spring. I thought that the object of this contest could be to work as many grid squares as possible in a short period of time. Say, about 3-4 hours on a cold Saturday night. It could be held on Two Meter Simplex, and yes, FM would be allowed. This contest could be held yearly, and with enough support, could grow every year. What do you think of this? Would you participate? Let's have your ideas. After all, this is your club.

Well, we're eating again. After the foxhunt on the 22nd, we had a bonfire/hayride at Larry Newton, N8BGJ's house. I'll fill you in next month on all the details.

The date for the next AARC Mall Show has been confirmed. We are moving the show back to the spring. Please mark your calendars for April 1st & 2nd of next year. This year's Mall Show went well, but I know that I could have done better. How about you? Do you have any suggestions? Maybe for new displays, or speakers, or whatever. If so, Please don't

continued on page 4

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Credits

Thanks to the contributors to

this month's Zero Beat

KB8GHZ

KB8GIA

KB8IVS

N8IAK

N8PII

W8WEN

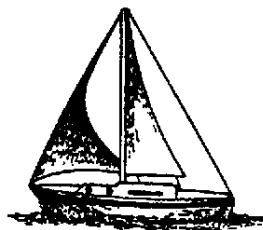
The Zero Beat is a publication of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601. Contributions to the Zero Beat are welcome, and can be given to any board member. Articles can be submitted in hard copy, or on IBM formatted disk (3.5" or 5.25" IBM). We can read most word processor formats. Transfer via Packet can be arranged by contacting KE8VE. Direct telephone transfer, via modem can be arranged by calling WX8G at 821-5513. Submissions can also be forwarded as E-mail, to 75027,1342 @ Compuserve.com.

Permission is freely granted to reprint portions of the Zero Beat, as long as credit is given to the author & source.

The editor & board reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Where's DX ?

By Jack Bennett, W8WEN



North America

10/17 C6AFN 14014MHz 2317Z

South America

9/20 CP8AL 14014MHz 0007Z

9/20 VP2MT 14037MHz 0020Z

Europe

9/16 HB0/HB9NL 14009MHz 1435Z

9/23 GD4EBA 21030MHz 1558Z

10/17 4N7ODX 21026MHz 1431Z

10/17 JW0I 21031MHz 1421Z

Africa

10/13 9K2TC 14.000MHz 1406Z

Asia

9/22 4S7WP 14017MHz 0108Z

10/2 HL9DC 14026MHz 0102Z

10/17 JR1DXE 21012MHz 2241Z

9/22 UA0KAE 21026MHz 0129Z

QST de W1AW Special Bulletin 28
ARLX028 From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT October 11, 1994
Relayed by KB8NW/OBS &
BARF-80 BBS To all radio amateurs
SB SPCL ARL ARLX028 ARLX028

Video award for CQ

"Getting Started in VHF," a video introduction to operating on the Amateur Radio VHF frequency bands and produced by CQ Communications, has won a Silver Hugo Award from "INTERCOM '94," the International Communication Film and Video Festival.

The video was honored in the competition's "Educational -- Adult Audience" category, CQ said in a press release.

Festival director Michael J. Kutza said that "there was a substantial increase in the number of entries this year and competition was more intense than ever." This was INTERCOM's 30th annual film and video competition.

"Getting Started in VHF" is intended both for new hams and for more experienced amateurs who are trying VHF operating for the first time, CQ said. The program was written, produced and directed by Richard S. Moseson, NW2L, executive producer of the CQ Video Library, and ARRL Northern New Jersey Section Manager.

"Getting Started in VHF" is the second CQ video to win an award. Earlier this year, "Ham Radio Horizons," an introduction to Amateur Radio, received a bronze CINDY award from the Association of Visual Communicators, and it was a finalist in the International Television Association's (ITVA) New Jersey Awards competition.

ARL ARLX030 ARLX030 Bill Leonard, W2SKE, SK

Bill Leonard, W2SKE, SK

Bill Leonard, W2SKE, a former president of CBS News, died October 23 in Laurel, Maryland. He was 78.

Leonard, an avid Dxr and contest operator in the 1960s and 1970s, was an advocate for Amateur Radio, writing, for example, an article for Sports Illustrated in 1958 entitled "The Battle of the Hams." It described the "sport of DXing" and Leonard's role in it from the contest super station of Buzz Reeves, K2GL, on Long Island.

Leonard said in 1981 that he was interested in radio as a child in the 1920s, and received his first amateur license, W1JHV, while a student at Dartmouth College in 1934.

After graduating in 1937, Leonard went to work as a reporter for the Bridgeport, Connecticut, Post-Telegram. After serving in the US Navy from 1941 to 1945, where he was involved with electronic countermeasures against German radio-controlled bombs, he joined CBS News in 1945.

As CBS president, Leonard was credited with the selection of Dan Rather as Evening News anchor, as a member of the team that developed the "60 Minutes" newsmagazine, and of helping develop techniques to predict election outcomes.

Asked in 1981 about the future of Amateur Radio, W2SKE said "I have a hunch that Amateur Radio is going to get more and more tangled up with amateur computer technology." He also said "My bet is that ham radio, in one form or another, will be around 100 years from now."

A profile of W2SKE appeared in March, 1981, QST. Bill Leonard leaves his wife, the former Norma Kaphan Wallace, and six sons.

DX news

Thanks to Tedd, KB8NW, the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin, Frank, AH0W/OH2LVG, the Yankee Clipper Contest Club PacketCluster network, Chod, VP2ML, The DX Bulletin, Bob, W5KNE, QRZ DX, GOMMI, Adam, N7VEW, and the Contest Corral column from QST magazine.

RWANDA. It has been reported that Hartmut, 9X5HG, has returned to Rwanda and is active once again. Several southeastern USA stations worked him on October 1 around 0330z on 7028 kHz.

ETHIOPIA. ET3BT has been on the 14226 DX Net almost daily. Try between 1800 and 2230z.

BURUNDI. 4U/F50WB/9U has been spotted on 14240 kHz around 2100Z. QSL via UNSCF Radio Tech, PO Box 200, Bujumbura, Burundi.

PACIFIC DXPEDITION DELAYED AGAIN. Masa, JE1DXC, aka A35XC, continues to have problems with flight reservations.DXpedition.

Editorial

continued from Page 2

keep it to yourself. Let one of the officers know, or address it directly to me.

You know, we get the stories for the *Zero Beat* from many different sources. I do some of the writing myself. The DX bulletins come from the Better Amateur Radio Foundation's BBS in Cleveland. The latest call signs come from the FCC's automated switchboard in Gettysburg. Jim & Gladys Wilson do an excellent job of wading through the 50 or so newsletters that arrive on my doorstep every month, and pick out some of the best filler material that you ever saw. I have Jack Bennett to thank for his regular submissions for "Where's DX?".

This brings us to you. I know that there is a story floating around in your head, if you'd only find the time to write it. I've heard plenty of people say that they would write that story as soon as they got some free time.

Well, here it is. On the weekend of October 29th & 30th, you will turn your clock back one hour resulting in one hour free time. How about using this hour to write a story for your newsletter? The grammar doesn't matter. Neither does spelling. I will gladly accept it in any form from crayon to Packet. Give this some thought. I'm not preaching, but I know that there are some great stories out there just waiting to be told.

For instance, what was Amateur Radio like when you were first licensed? What was the test like? How about your first contact? Your first DX? What facet of Amateur Radio interests you? Why? I think you get the idea. Look at page two for details on submitting material to the *Zero Beat*.

Next month, a new feature starts in the *Zero Beat*. "Dit & Dah Talk Radios" is a semi-regular feature in the River City ARCS (Sacramento, CA) "Newsletter". See you next month. 73 all DE WX8G

CQ DX

UGANDA. Paul, WF5T, will be active as 5X1XT from November 1 to 31. Activity will be on 80 through 10 meters CW and RTTY. QSL to his CBA.

Something to think about.

By Tony, N8WAC

One of the most striking features of Radio Amateurs as a group is the diversity of their interest. There is no such thing as a typical Ham these days. About all you can say about us is that typically, our Amateur Radio interests include several special interests, such as Fast Scan TV, Slow Scan TV, RTTY, Packet, CW, SSB, AM, FM, EME, QRP, VHF-UHF weak signal, passing traffic, Public service, working contests, and the list could go on & on.

In general, this diversity is good. It is to our credit as a group that we are progressive enough to keep adding new interests such as Oscar and Microwaves.

But, diversity can also breed division. It can be as great a weakness as it is a strength. We are prone to think that what we are doing is a lot more important and useful than what the other fellow is doing. And as there become more and more Amateurs, the opportunity for conflict increases.

Lately, with rumors of No-Code HF, the No-Code Tech's have been badly criticized. I've heard operators blaming No-Code Tech's for trashing Two Meters, and being called "Appliance Operators."

I am sure we will all agree, the majority of Amateurs do welcome newly licensed Amateurs with open arms. And interference has been around long before the No-Code(Tech) license. Lets not forget, this is a hobby. We entered this hobby to communicate, maybe to Amateurs across the oceans, or to a spouse across town. We have to cooperate with our fellow Amateurs, no matter what classification or interest. Even if we might like to think their interest isn't as important as ours. If we don't, there is no simple alternative, but chaos. If you want an example of what that sounds like, you know where to listen.

So lets treat the other operator the same way we would want to be treated, even if we don't agree with their classification or interest. 73's Tony, N8WAC

from the "Amateur Radio Beacon", October 1994 issue. Published by the Toledo Mobile Radio Assoc.. Chuck Krukowski KB8FXJ, ed.

Dear Elmer #3

by Elmer Quirk,

ex-WB6ZHH, -W7VJT

Dear Elmer, I worked a guy the other day who said his antenna is a beam. When I told him mine is a quad, he said he had considered a quad, but heard beams are better. So he put up a 3-element triband yagi beam. Isn't my quad a beam too? -Quad from Quincy

Dear Bamboo-zled (Fiberglassed?): Beam Schmeam, it's enough to make you scream. Any antenna more directive than a dipole is a beam- as in flashlight beam.

The boob you worked apparently subscribes to the perversion that the words beam and yagi are synonyms. They are not; a yagi is a fine beam, but it's just one type among a wide variety of beams.

When a ham says his antenna is a beam, it's a safe bet he's missing some dits. So cut it short. Tell him it's time for your tower climbing exercises. Then pull the big switch and go help wash dishes.

Some people of the beam persuasion think the word refers to the structure of a yagi antenna-an idea that smells suspiciously of 27 MHz origins. If you and he cross wavelengths again, tell him about your secure receiving antenna-the phase locked loop. If he buys that, don't bother trying to explain that your two-element quad is a beam.

from the January, 1993 ARNS Bulletin, AF6S

ed.

MOUNT ATHOS-Packetcluster spots show Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A has been active on RTTY. Listen for him around 14083 kHz around 0700.

TONGO. Baldur, DJ6SI, is signing 5V7DB, with most activity on 40, 30, 20, 17 and 15 meter CW. There is some RTTY, apparently by operator DJ6JC. QSLs for CW and SSB via DJ6SI. There has yet to be a route mentioned for RTTY contacts.

Comet colliding with Jupiter and Jupiter DX'ing

By Russ McMahan, N8PII

All eyes were on the planet Jupiter last July, when a speeding comet collided into the Jovian atmosphere.

Last year, comet hunters working at California's Palomar Observatory, looking toward Jupiter, discovered a comet trapped in orbit around the giant planet. The comet shattered into a train of 21 pieces by Jupiter's gravitational forces. The 21 fragments pelted Jupiter for six days. The impacts, at 95.54 kilometers (60 miles) per second, hit the Jovian atmosphere with the force of fifty million atomic bombs and the explosion was so great that it could be seen by telescopes on earth as the force of the explosion crested over the rim of the planet.

Dark spots can still be seen to the south on Jupiter, but the planet is going behind the Sun, and it is unknown if the dark spots where the comet fragments hit, will still be visible next spring.

This event marked the first time in recorded history that anyone has seen a comet collide with a planet in our solar system.

A comet is an orbiting object around our sun and is composed primarily of ice and frozen gases with very reflective dust particles that react to the solar wind, and can also have iron and solid matter. The size of the fragments were from .5 to 4 miles in diameter, and the diameter of Jupiter is 88,700 miles. Jupiter rotates in 9 hours, 55 minutes, which is faster than the earth's rotation.

The comet's impact was the most widely anticipated event in the history of modern astronomy. The data that has been received will still take scientists years to study. The comet was called Periodic Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9. Jupiter's atmosphere is mostly hydrogen and helium with ammonia and methane ice.

This also caused radio waves from electrical storms generated by friction of dust and gas passing through Jupiter's atmosphere as well as from the force of the impacts. All planets in our solar system as well as other stars and objects in the Universe give off a radio signal. The analysis of these signals are called

radio astronomy.

Jupiter produces noise-like signals over the spectrum of 5 to 40 MHz, with peaks between 18 and 24 MHz. The signals are plainly audible on the HF band anytime Jupiter is above the horizon, day or night. In order to eliminate the possibility of both local and terrestrial skip signals from interfering, Jupiter DX'ers prefer to listen around 2100UTC, (or whenever the Maximum Usable Frequency, MUF, drops significantly below 18 MHz), and local sunrise. The radio signals sound like rising and falling "swooshing" noises.

The antenna can be a simple dipole cut for the middle of the 18 to 24 MHz band (15 Meters). The antenna should be installed in the normal manner for any dipole, except that the wire must run East-West in order to pick up the southerly rising planet. Up next, the Galileo robot explorer is scheduled to reach Jupiter by the end of 1995.

My power level is Q-R-Oh-Oh!

By Jeanette Demario, K8PYN

I'd like to know if any other ham has a transmitter as powerful as mine. One of my neighbors claims:

1. I have caused her sewer to plug, so she can't flush her toilet.
2. I've caused her iron to get so hot that it burns all her clothes.
3. I've ruined her alarm clock; it won't ring anymore.
4. Her refrigerator "clicks"
5. Her hot dogs are "charged" when she cooks them. (Does that make them spicy?)
6. I'm causing her children to get pimples. (RF Rash?)

7. I'm causing the rust spots on her metal porch roof.

8. Her city water is charged, and so is her telephone. (She pulled the ground wire off the telephone.)

9. My radio burned down another neighbor's garage.

That's pretty impressive for 150 Watts, Don't you think?

from the March-April '94 "YL Harmonics," via the May '94 Richardson Wireless Klub (Texas) "The Chewed Rag"-Charlie Shaffer, W5ADH, Editor.

Ham cures electric fence noise

by John McLain, WB7CKY

I don't condone what a Phoenix Ham did. But it got results,

After wideband interference had made his HF operating far less enjoyable than it should be, he identified the source as his neighbors electric fence, he took the standard approach of trying to help solve the neighbors problem. But negotiations snagged when the neighbor refused to address his problem because he believed the ham's operations were causing the television interference he was suffering.

The Amateur installed a relay that keyed his rig whenever the receiver detected the noise from the fence. It didn't take long for the neighbor to discover that his TV problems only occurred when the electric fence was switched on. The neighbor didn't operate his fence much after that. He never did discover the true source of his TV problem either.

from the May/June IBM ARC (Boca Raton, Florida) "WB4QNX"-Neal Osborn, Editor.

Layout for this issue of the *Zero Beat* was done by trolls floating down the Mahoning river on a raft made up of old ZC6PM cards.

Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Christmas Party



Reservation Form

The annual Alliance Amateur Radio Club Christmas banquet is scheduled for Saturday, December 10th at Roadhouse Charly, 2239 West State Street. There will be a cash bar at 6, with dinner served at 7 pm. Please fill out this reservation form, and return it to Larry Ashburn, KE8VE, with your payment made out to the Alliance Amateur Radio Club. Larry's address is: 1080 West Beech St., Alliance, OH 44601.

Our menu this year will be as follows:

- Choice One - 8 oz. Strip Steak \$12.95
- Choice Two - Boston Broiled Scrod \$9.25
- Choice Three - 1/2 Honey or BBQ Chicken \$8.25

Dinners include: baked potato, salad and choice of coffee, tea or iced tea. Prices include tax, gratuity.

Name: _____

1 Steak # _____ @ \$12.95 = _____

2 Scrod # _____ @ \$ 9.25 = _____

3 Chicken

Honey # _____ @ \$ 8.25 = _____

BBQ # _____ @ \$ 8.25 = _____

Total enclosed = _____

*Note: All reservations must be received by December 5th.

November 1994

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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Don't forget to vote for your choice of "Ham of the Year"

Vote for your choice and return your ballot to last year's "Ham of the Year,"

Pam Myers N8IAK, 510 West Harrison St., Alliance, OH 44601

My choice is _____

Reason _____

FIJI. Ron, ZL1AMO, having completed his C21/ZL1AMO stint, is now signing 3D2RW, and has been worked from the northeast on 7006 kHz between 0945 and 1015z. He operates mostly CW on 40 and 30 meters. It has been reported that his next stop will be T31. QSL via CBA.

AFRICAN SAFARI. Listen for Kjell, SM7DZZ, to be signing D2ZZ and then V51/SM7DZZ before returning later this year to C91Z. QSL via SM7DZZ.

CHAD. F5IXR should be active until around year end. He has been signing TT8/F5IXR, but has requested the call TT8XR. No documentation has been received by the DXCC Desk for this operation.

Short Circuits

- Boy, we hams sure can be long winded, can't we? The September 29th Tri-County News & Information Net was ninety minutes long. Net control for this marathon net session was Jim Ferguson, N8DZA.
- In researching a story for the "Zero Beat", I called the ARRL Club Services department. I asked them for the date of affiliation for the Alliance Amateur Radio Club, to which they replied, "Which one? We have two listed for Alliance, Ohio." The AARC was first affiliated with the ARRL in February, 1925. So far, no one can recall anything about this version of the club; including the ARRL. WX8G has checked a couple of leads, but came up empty. Can you help? Let us know.
- OOPS! The time for the Santa net was incorrectly listed as 9 PM in the October issue. Correct time should be 7 PM. See the article on page 1, for more information.
- The FCC just installed a new 800 line to make it easier than ever, to check on the most recent call signs. The new number is 1-800-322-1117. They are late with the new calls, this month. As of October 20th, the new calls still were not in. (AA8QP, KG8LU, and KB8VBV - de KE8VE).

Alliance Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 3344
Alliance, OH 44601

5 years ago

from the November, 1989 Zero Beat.

Dennis & Janice Barber,
KB8GCF & KB8GCE Editors.

- We were trying to line up volunteers to help with the Youth Amateur Radio classes at the YMCA. At that time, the classes were being taught by Jim Ferguson N8DZA, and Bill Martikan, who would later be known as KF8JD.
- The series on couples in our club continued with biographies on KC3CL/N8LIP, KD8MQ/N8IAK, and KB8GCF/KB8GCE.
- Our friends at the Salem Area Amateur Radio Club were preparing for their second annual Pancake Breakfast, which was planned for December 2nd.
- The menu for the 1989 Alliance Amateur Radio Club's Christmas banquet consisted of your choice of strip steak or broiled scrod. The banquet was to be held at Roadhouse Charlie's, on December 23rd.

Pres Says

by Pam Myers N8IAK

"Welcome back my friends to the show that never ends*." As I left the annual meeting, I was humming the words to this song. It seems like every year it's the same thing. We can't get anyone to run for President or Vice President.

Don't get me wrong, I've enjoyed being the club's President, but do I have the position because of the job I do, or because no one else wants it? I really didn't want to take President again. After 3 years I feel we need some new ideas.

But on the other hand, I won't let the club run without a President. It was done in the past, and was almost a disaster. I will continue to do the job I was elected to do, but come next year's election, we'll see what happens.

Don't forget to get your Ham of the Year votes to me, I've received only one so far. See you in November. Pam N8IAK

*Emerson, Lake and Palmer

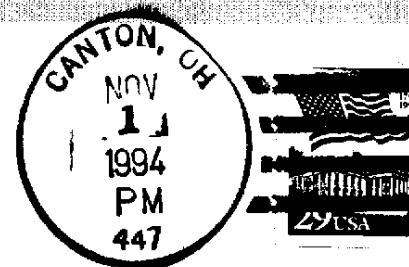
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