

de W2NSD

This UFO Network idea has led me into some interesting circumstances.

While trying to get Noel Nelson W3SSB to run another ad for Uncle George's Hamshack, I mentioned my net scheme and his ears perked up. Seems he has a friend who has been following the UFO news for some twenty years or so now. Sure enough, a bit later the phone rang and a Harold Salkin was calling from Washington, D.C. to find out what I was planning. I think we talked for an hour, for he was a mine of information. He gave me leads on getting UFO photos and fan bulletins.

A few weeks later Harold called again to say that he was down near Boston with a "contactee." He invited Lin and me to come down the next day and talk with Woody Derenberger, who claims to have talked with the UFO people and gone with them for a visit to their home planet. Woody was in town with Harold to give a lecture the next night and a radio interview.

Well, I couldn't pass up heady stuff like this.

We drove down and talked with Woody for a couple of hours and found his story fascinating. I'm afraid that Harold was disappointed that I came away still a skeptic. Woody most certainly was not an obvious fraud and I have to admit that there is a chance that he may be telling the truth. Perhaps we shall see, for he told me that the UFO people had recently bought some transceivers and that I could expect to be in direct contact with them within a month on our ham bands.

He explained that since their telepathic ability was so well developed they had never needed radio as a communications or entertainment medium. However, since they are now anxious to contact us without creating panic, they will be using radio. Woody felt that the radio amateurs might be the first large group contacted.

I wonder what prefixes they will use? Just about everything has been allocated by the ITU except, I believe, the calls starting with Ø, 1 and 2. Miller has kind of used up the 1's, so perhaps our friends from Lanulos (that's the name of the planet they come from over in Alpha Centuri . . . the

trip only takes a few minutes by space warp drive) will use the Ø calls. I do hope they check with the ITU before starting though . . . we don't want another upset over the use of illegal call signs.

They might use the call letter prefix of the area they are flying over as part of the call. Like ØW1NSD might be my call if I were fortunate enough to get a ride in a UFO equipped with a ham rig . . . or should I use ØW2NSD/1? Why not use a simpler call, as long as I'm making it up anyway, such as ØW1A? And if they decide to subscribe to 73 . . . which I assume they would do . . . what address should we use?

Say, if you work some of these fellows before I do, you'll let me know about it, won't you?

The E.I.A.

The manufacturers of amateur radio equipment are now organized as a section of the Electronic Industries Association. I may be putting the matter bluntly, but I don't think I am exaggerating if I say that this organization was born out of frustration with the League over the Incentive Licensing proposals. This is a large and powerful force and may well have a good deal to say about the future of amateur radio.

In its first move, the EIA has petitioned the FCC with regard to the Novices to:

1. Reduce the code speed requirement to the minimum consistent with the Geneva Convention of the ITU. Since the ITU regulations specify no code speed this would mean merely the recognition of the Morse characters and the ability to send them.
2. Restore phone in the 145-147 MHz band.
3. Set up a phone/CW band for Novices on 29.4-29.6 MHz.
4. Make the Novice license a five year renewable license.
5. Permit the Novice license to be issued to previous holders of licenses.

It will be interesting to see what the ARRL reaction is to these proposals and if they are published in QST.

The problem of code speed is one that

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