

73

AMATEUR
RADIO

APRIL 1977
\$2.00



with a government that had, as Thomas Jefferson put it in the Declaration of Independence, "a long train of abuses and usurpations," one of these usurpations being "the abolishing of the free system of English laws."

Americans in 1776 were justified in doing what they did because, as noted earlier, the rule of law had broken down in the then American colonies. Today a free system of American laws is alive and well despite the best efforts of some. In fact, the rule of law is very strong, as recent political events have demonstrated. This is also something we celebrated the 200th birthday of last year.

This last achievement is perhaps the greatest of all. For in this system Americans can and do daily change the laws by both judicial and legislative action. But until a law is changed, Americans are duty bound to abide by it. For no man is above the law and no man is below it, nor do we ask any man's permission when we require him to obey it.

To the heart of the matter: I agree with you in that a discussion of the pros and cons of the 55 mph speed limit is beyond a letter such as this. In fact, such a discussion is not needed. What is needed is a recognition of the fact that murder, bribery, not using a valid callsign on the ham bands, and yes, speeding, to name a few, are against the law. Not as some people feel, just a good idea you can take or leave.

I, like you, am very proud of people who have the guts to stand up against what is wrong in our society. That is the only way change is accomplished and wrongs righted. This has held true from the patriots at Valley Forge to those who attack social injustice today.

But unlike those at Valley Forge, we do not have to resort to arms and violating the law. Instead, Americans seek to change the law through established legislative and judicial channels. This can range from an individual petition to the FCC, or a judicial challenge to the state Blue Laws, to a legislator down here in Texas trying to *legally* change the speed limit.

I have, however, absolutely no pride in an individual who attempts to either change or enforce the law by breaking it. In fact, I have only pity, for these people are the ones who have missed completely the spirit of the revolution and indeed the nation. Good examples of these folks who, as you say, did their own thing, are the HF bootleggers who have recently been apprehended by the FCC. I am quite sure those arrested think those laws are bum and will do what they can to break them down and get rid of them. But, may I ask, what will happen to radio should they and others continue operating as they were?

It is easy to see the chaos and disorder that would erupt if people only obeyed laws they personally liked. It would not only be the demise of ham radio, order, and justice — it would be the demise of the country.

I am aware, in regards to the WARC, of the one country, one vote

rule. I have thought what we as a hobby have needed is a representative to spread the amateur radio cause officially. I also believe, however, that anti-ham feelings could hardly get better by selling one amateur frequency for the purpose of breaking the law. It only adds to the list of excuses available to cast a negative vote regarding amateur appropriations.

For were I a delegate who had read "The Mobile Smokey Detector," I wonder how law-abiding hams were. The case of WR6ABE is a timely, sad, and scary example. Again, those involved with causing the shutdown of that repeater probably were disregarding laws they felt were unnecessary and felt no duty to obey.

In closing, I believe *73 Magazine* has and will always be a leader in the field of ham radio. I am hoping that your code tapes will help me hang a 2nd Telegraph next to my First Telephone (with Radar Endorsement) and replace my Advanced with an Extra. I just hope that in the attempt to lure CBers to a very exciting hobby, we stress good and legal operating procedure, and not another way to beat Smokey. If not, we need not worry about WARC in 1979, for ham radio is finished.

Robert Oler WB5MZO
College Station TX

I disagree with your comments concerning "The Mobile Smokey Detector," Bob. Based on the amount of mail we have received, there are a great number of people using the Smoke Detector for what it is, a microwave receiver. Have you seen any easier method of getting started in amateur microwave communication lately? I doubt it. — Ed.

MUFON

The January issue of *73* with the article titled "The UFO Connection" by David L. Dobbs K8NQN indicates that you still maintain an interest in the UFO phenomenon, even though it may be secondary to your current hobby. Everyone enjoyed the humor of the article, but some thought it was perhaps a fictitious case due to the "spoof" address used in the "open letter" concept. As you probably noted, David simply made minor changes for literary purposes. Amateur radio friends quickly recognized the addressee, especially since Texas and the zip code were correct. Needless to say, it did confuse the post office department in some cities. However, David's address was correct and correspondence will be forwarded to MUFON (Mutual UFO Network, Inc.).

MUFON presently has two active UFO nets operating weekly. The 75 meter net on 3975 kHz meets each Saturday morning at 0800 CST with Marshall Goins WA9ARG in Quincy IL as net control. A 40 meter phone net also meets on Saturday mornings on 7231 kHz with Joe Santangelo W1NXY, in Waltham MA as net control. We invite ham operators interested in the UFO phenomenon to

check into these nets not only to share their own UFO sighting experiences, but also to obtain the latest newsworthy UFO events occurring around the United States. Many of the ham operators participating in these nets are also state directors, state section directors, and field investigators for the MUFON.

We publish a 20 page monthly magazine titled *The MUFON UFO Journal*, which covers UFO sighting cases from all over the world. MUFON has members in all fifty states and in thirty-five foreign countries.

We have received, through David Dobbs, several personal UFO sighting reports made by your readers in response to this fine article. I am confident that many of the subscribers to *73* would like to have our correct address; therefore, we would appreciate having this letter published in a subsequent issue.

Walter H. Andrus, Jr. W5VRN
International Director
MUFON
103 Oldtowne Rd.
Seguin TX 78155

HILLBILLY NOVICE

I just received my first copy of your fine magazine and, wonder of wonders, it took me over an hour to just thumb through it. What a delight it was for me, a hillbilly Novice, to find all the variety of information and subjects. I even found some I could understand! Hi! It seems that someone must remember what it was like to be a unlearned, untrained, but willing Novice when they wrote some of your articles. Please include as many illustrations and pictures on your construction projects as possible as many of us (notice my pride) hams have no experience but want to start someplace.

I certainly got fired up when I read about "A Vest Pocket QRP Rig" by K5JRN in the January issue. When I read that he had just worked Tennessee, 500 miles with a 569 signal report, you know what I did? Yes, I checked my log, but it wasn't me he worked.

As a Novice on 40 meters, one of my best remembered QSOs was with Milt W8TZ in Columbus, Ohio, 70 years young, QRP 3 Watts on a home brew rig he made 30 years ago. QSL said it was in a 3 x 5 card file box and consisted of 117L7 tube and crystal. For me, that was some fun talking to a ham with 56 years experience and wisdom. What progress those "ex-sparkers" must have seen!

So, Wayne, hook up the old key and drift down on the Novice bands sometime and encourage others to do the same. We sure do have a big time there.

Mike Wechsler WA4SPX
Kingsport TN

I'll look for you. — Ed.

MIAMI

We did it one more time: The 17th Annual Miami Hamboree had an attendance of more than five thousand with 64 display booths. The chairperson of the Hamboree was Evelyn Gauzens W4WYR and the sponsor was the Dade County Radio Club.

Guest speaker was Armin H. Meyer W3ACE, Ambassador to Iran and Japan.

Bill Halligan W4AK/W9AC, former owner of Hallicrafters, was on hand to greet some friends from up north.

Of course *73 Magazine* had an excellent display and was one of the most busy booths in the Hamboree.

Larry Price W4RA delivered a couple of speeches representing his position as Southeast Director for the ARRL. The ARRL booth was manned by Terry Williams W1UED and Ellen White W1YL.

The computers booth monopolized a great part of the attention, having unusual coverage by the local TV stations. I am afraid I'm hooked for good and my personal budget is going to suffer great loss this year.

One of the parking lots was open to enlarge the swap meet and fortunately we had some of the best weather of the season.

Albert H. Coya WB4SNC
Miami FL



The Miami Bayfront Park Auditorium had wall to wall hams.