

# **Survey of PARC Member Interests**

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**Presented at the PARC Meeting April 18, 2008**

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## **Purpose of the Questionnaire**

**To measure the degree of interest of club members in various ham radio topics**

**To provide information that can be used to plan future meetings that will be of maximum value to members**

# What was asked

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Questions were posed on:

Operating interests (14 topics), Technical topics (4), and club meetings (5)

## Operating interests

CW  
SSB  
FM repeaters  
PSK31  
RTTY  
Slow scan TV  
Packet radio  
Contests  
DX  
ARES  
QRP  
Field day  
Traffic handling  
Net operations

## Technical topics

Antennas  
Construction  
Emergency/  
backup power  
Upgrading license

## Club meetings

Refreshments  
Planned meeting programs  
Keeping meetings shorter  
Making meetings longer  
Don't mess with meeting length

# What happened!

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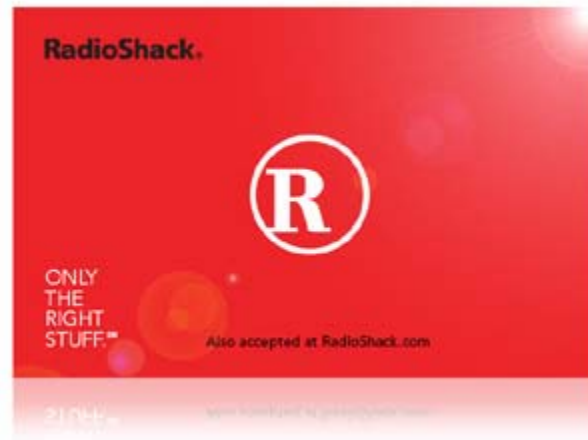
**90 questionnaires were e-mailed, 1 was mailed via SNAIL mail.**

**30 responses were received as of 1500 this afternoon.**

**We did provide an incentive for sending in a response.**

# Our original incentive idea:

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**A \$50 RadioShack gift card!**

# Our backup consolation prize:

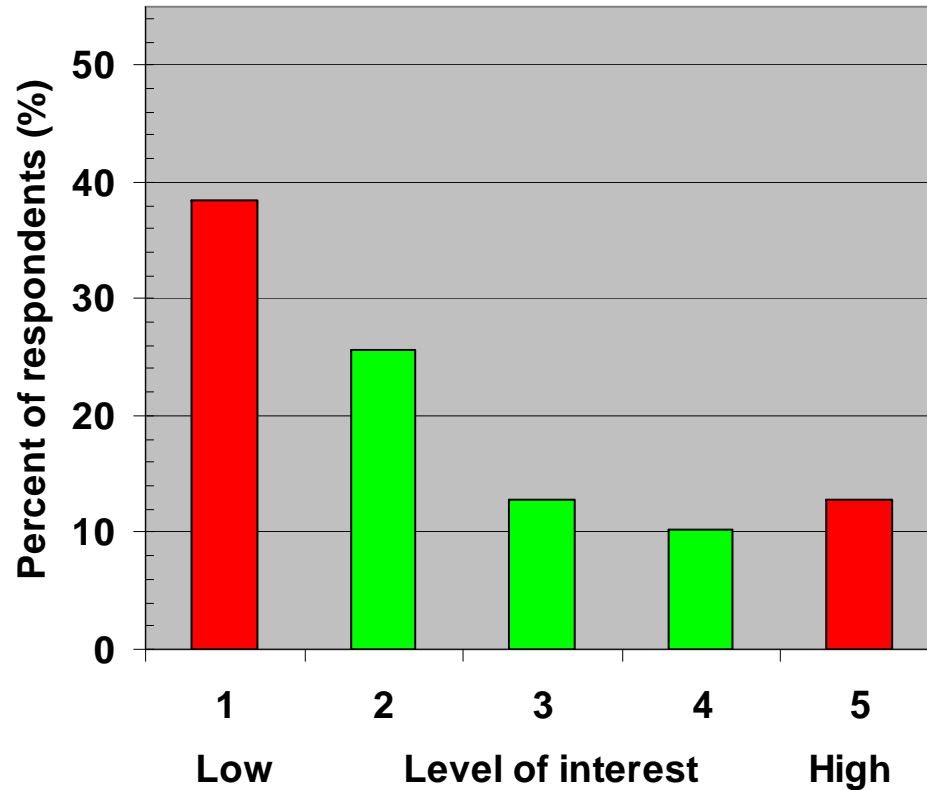
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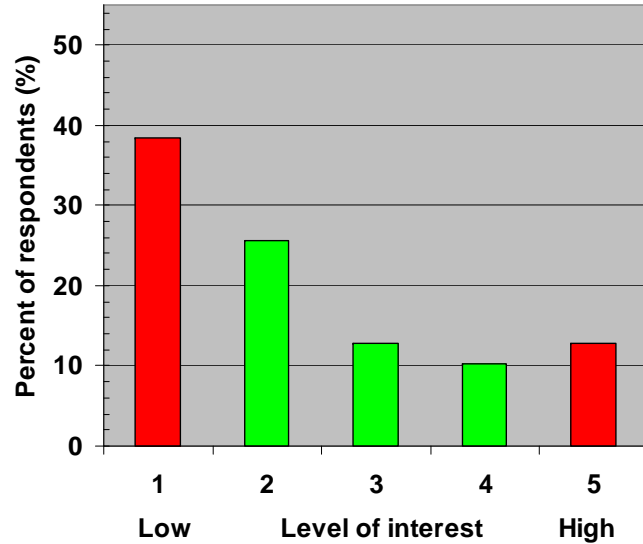
**Spendable at any store!**

# The results

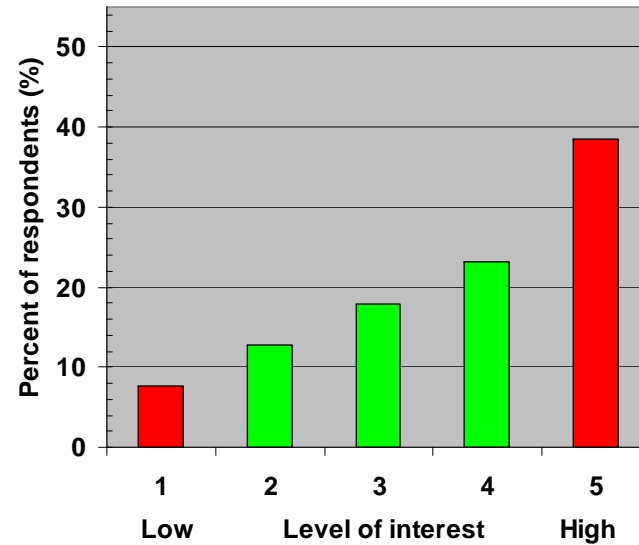
## CW Interest



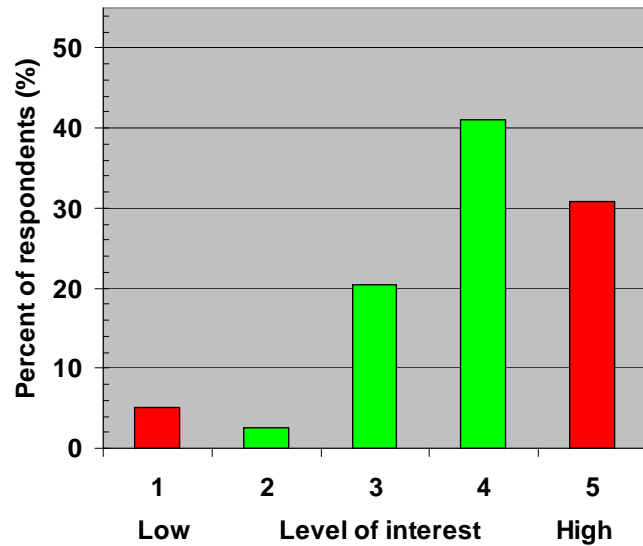
### CW Interest



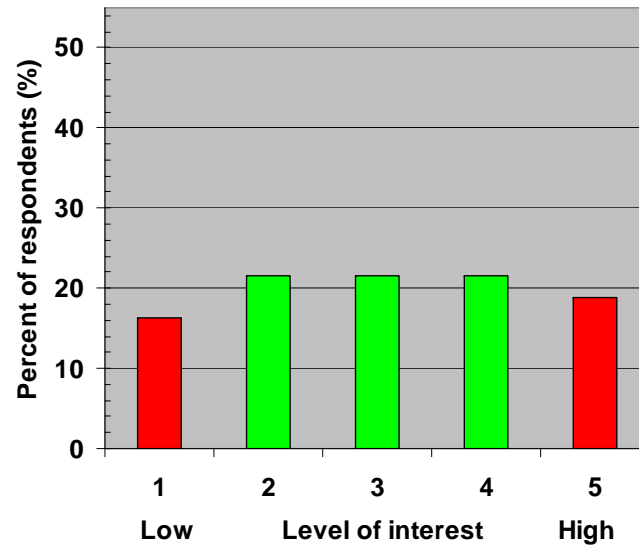
### SSB Interest



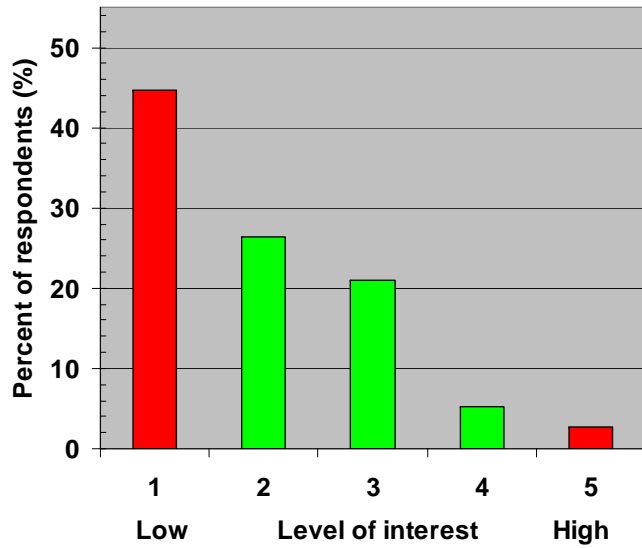
### FM Repeater Interest



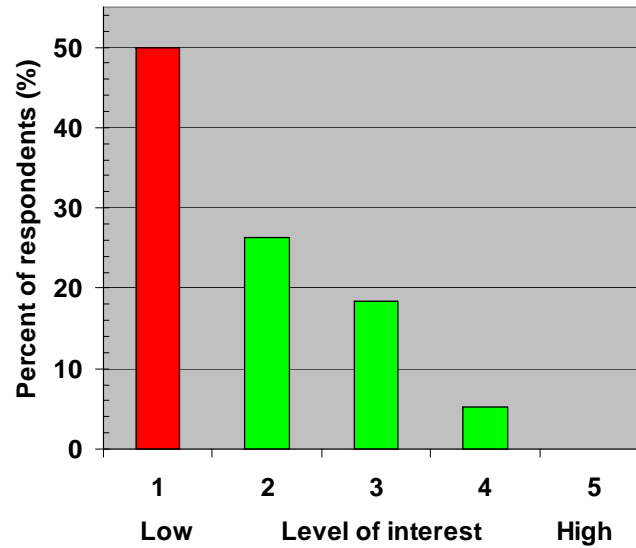
### PSK31 Interest



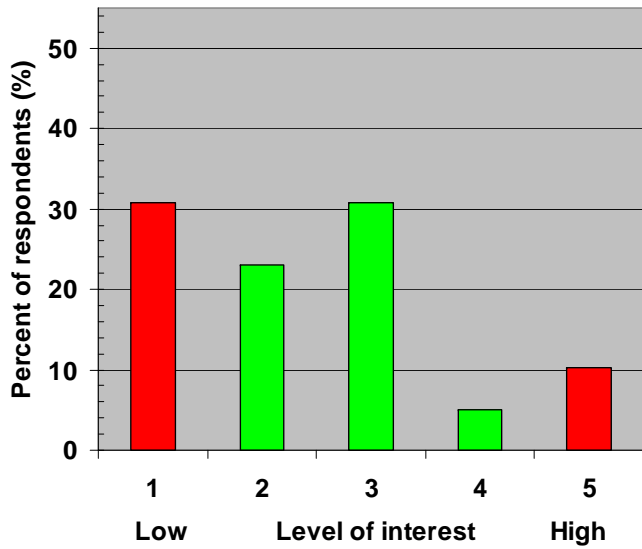
### RTTY Interest



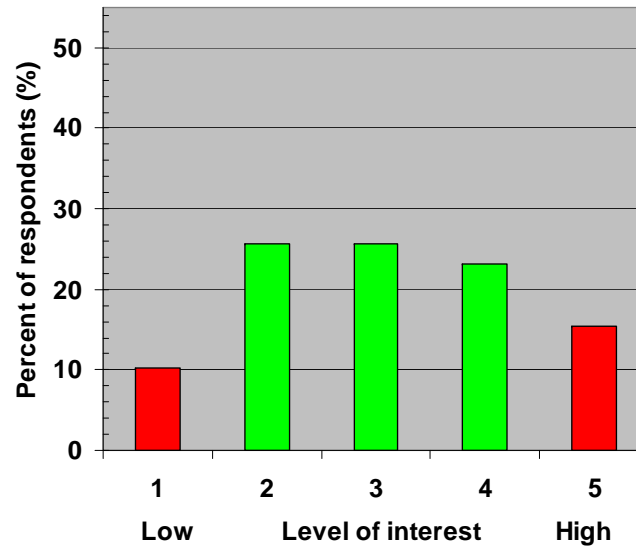
### Slow Scan Interest



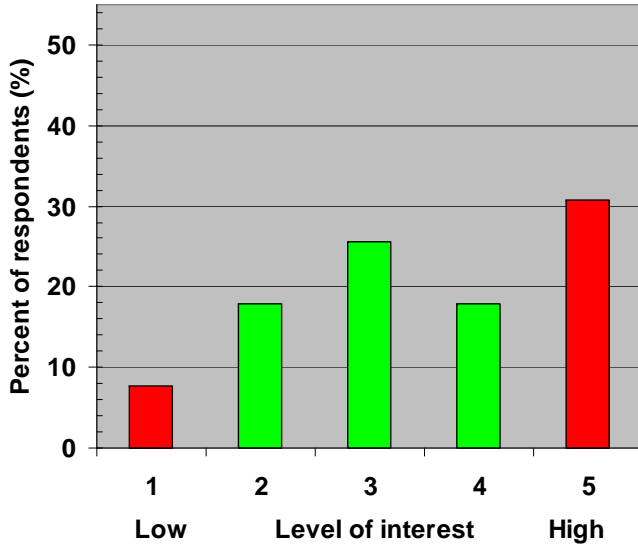
### Packet Radio Interest



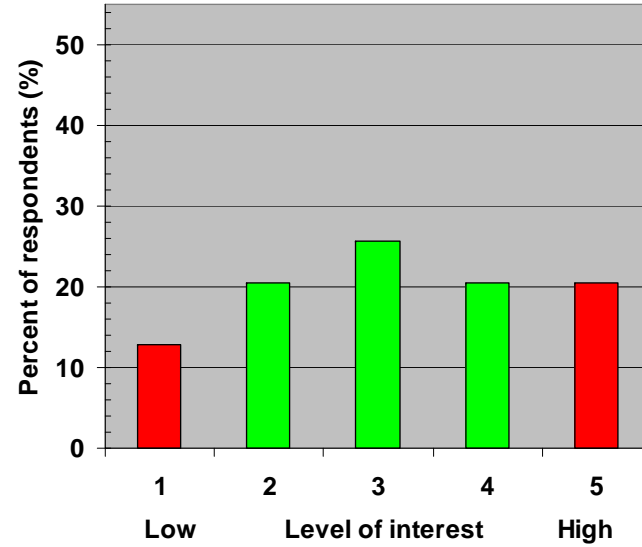
### Contests Interest



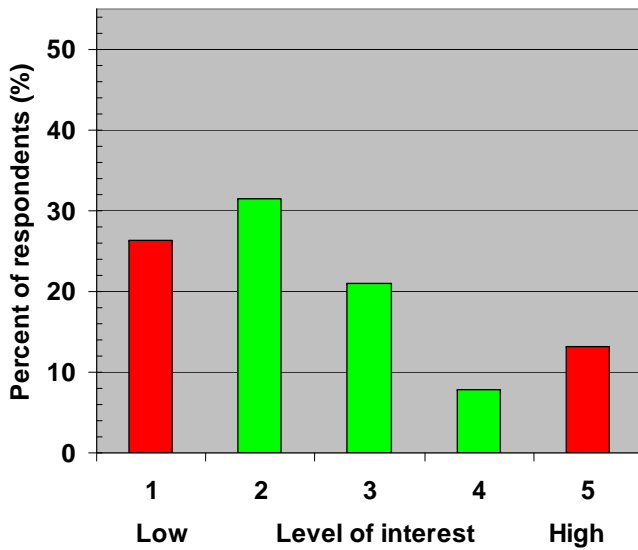
### DX Interest



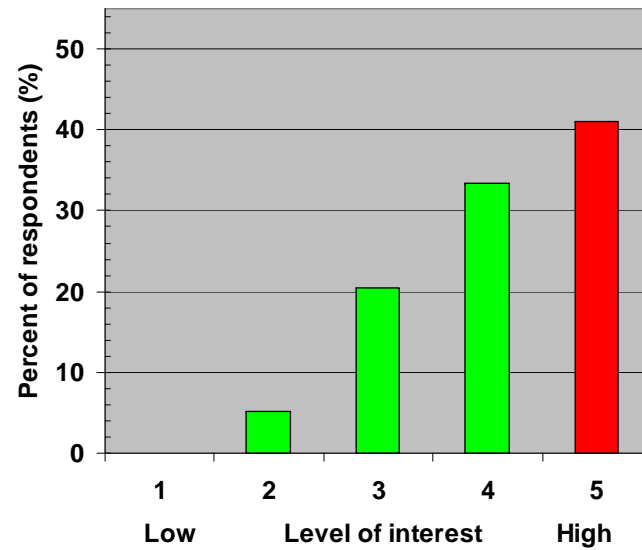
### ARES Interest



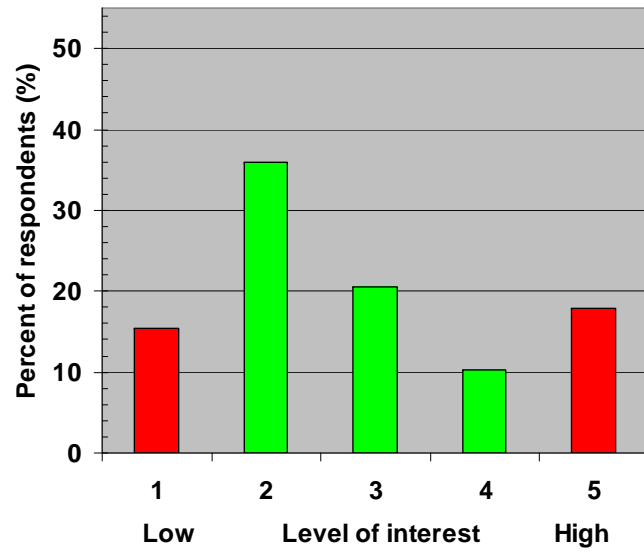
### QRP Interest



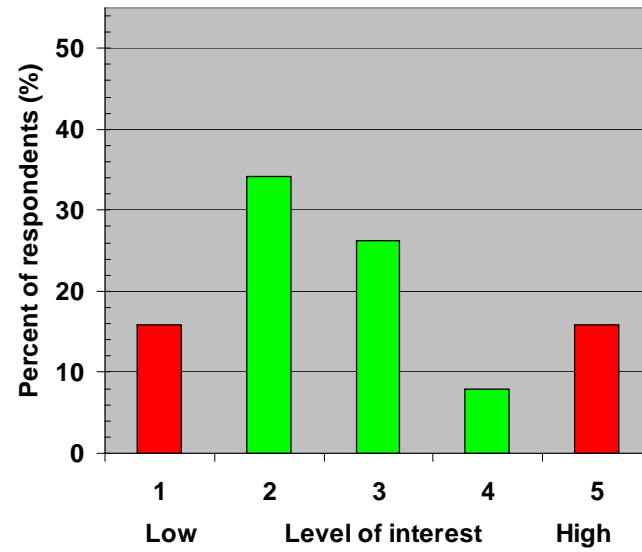
### Field Day Interest



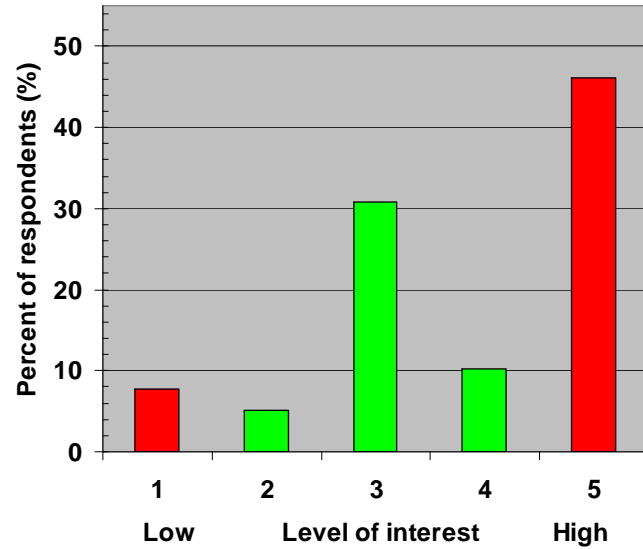
### Traffic Handling Interest



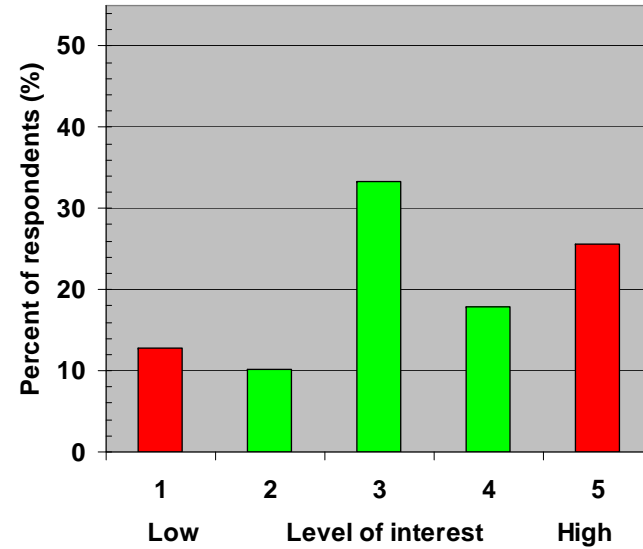
### Net Operations Interest



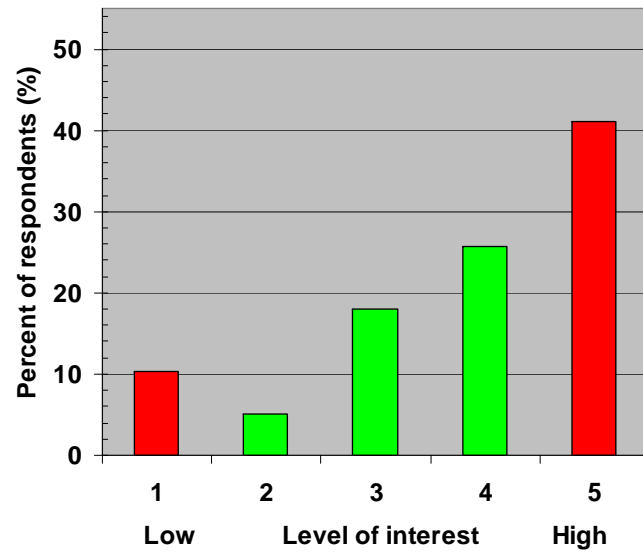
### Antennas Interest



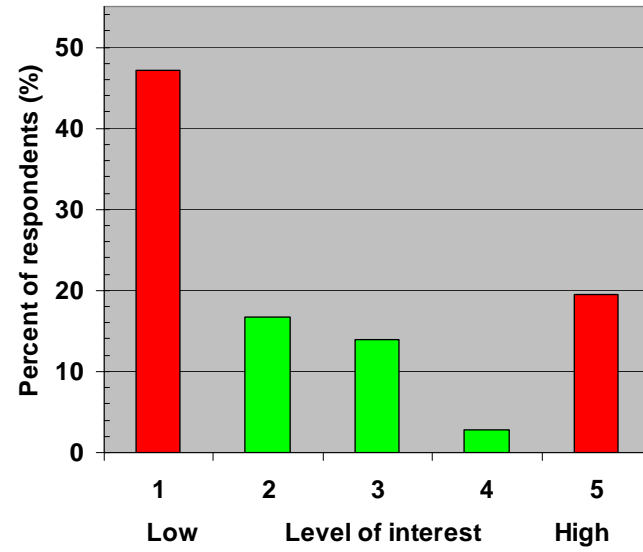
### Construction Interest



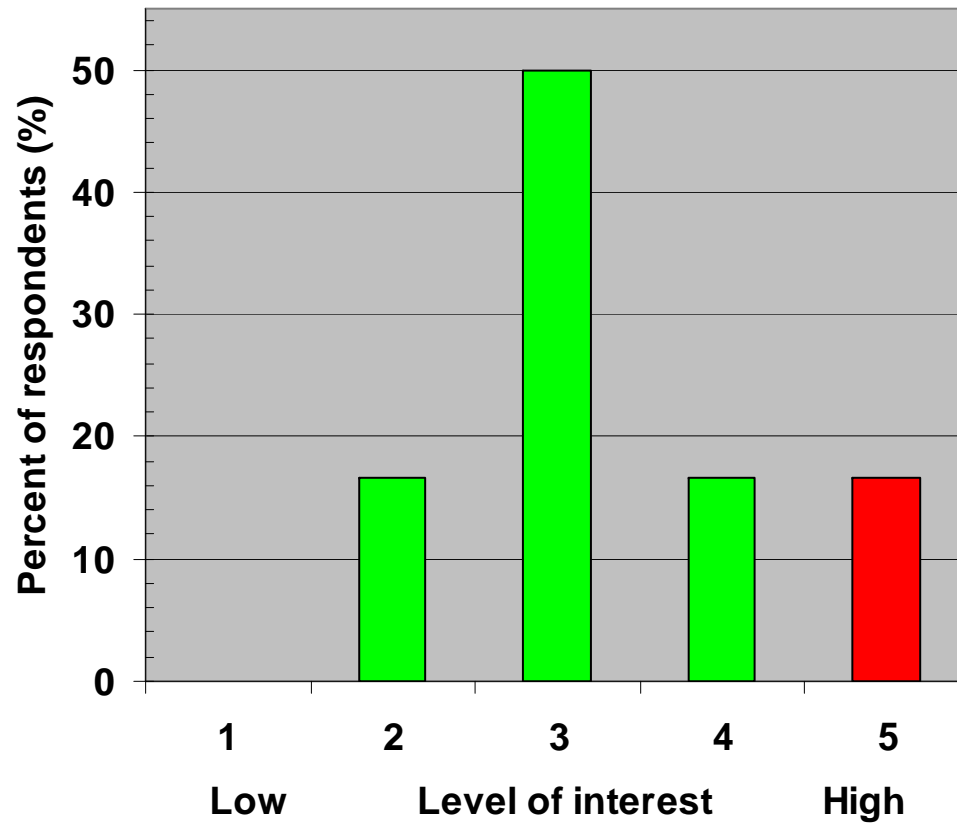
### Emergency Power Interest



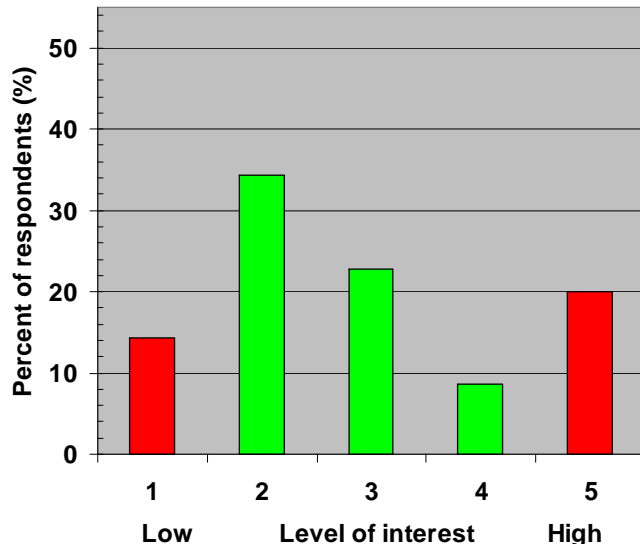
### Upgrading Interest



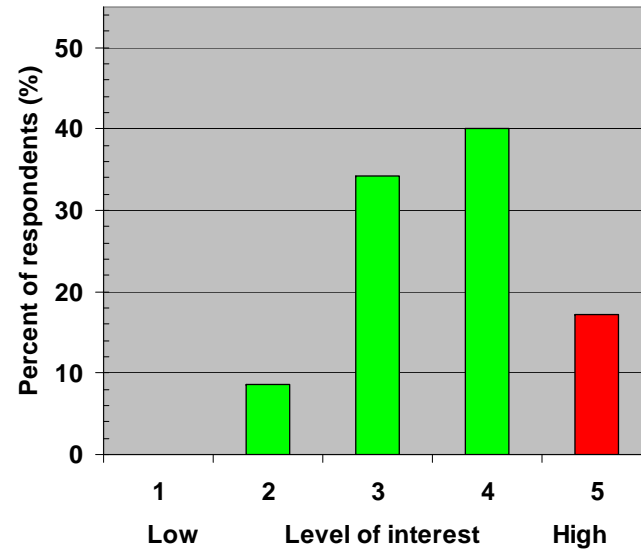
## Other Interest?



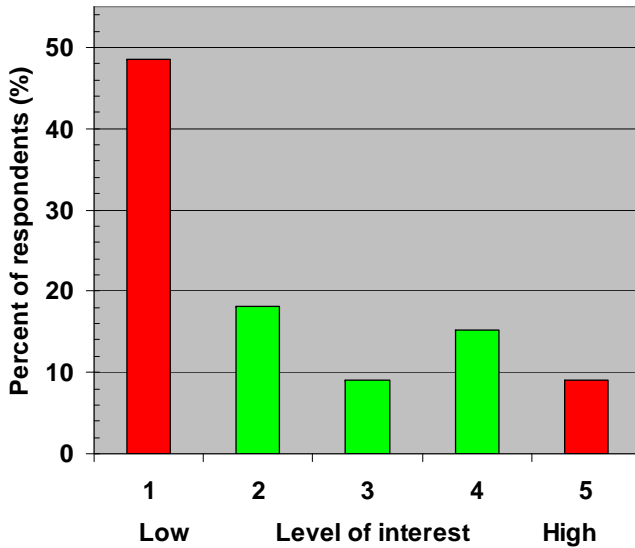
### Refreshments Interest



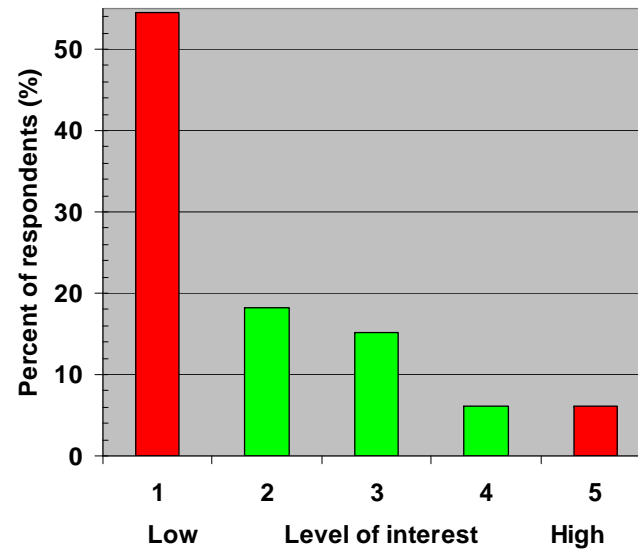
### Planned Meetings Interest



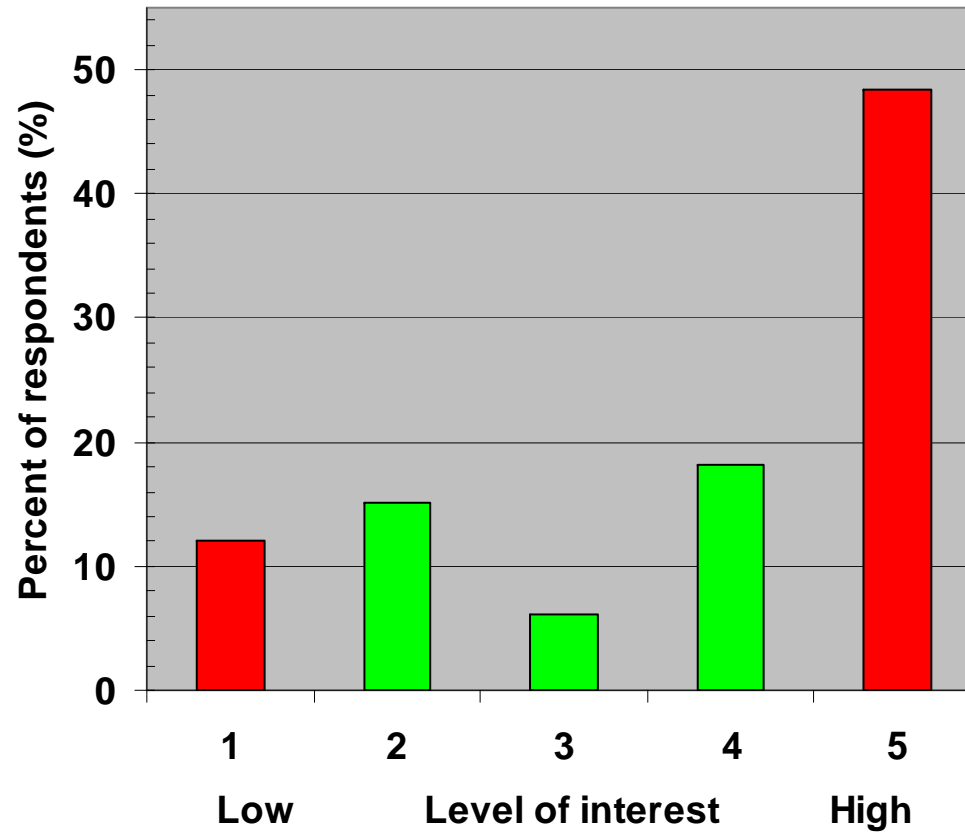
### Shorter Meetings Interest



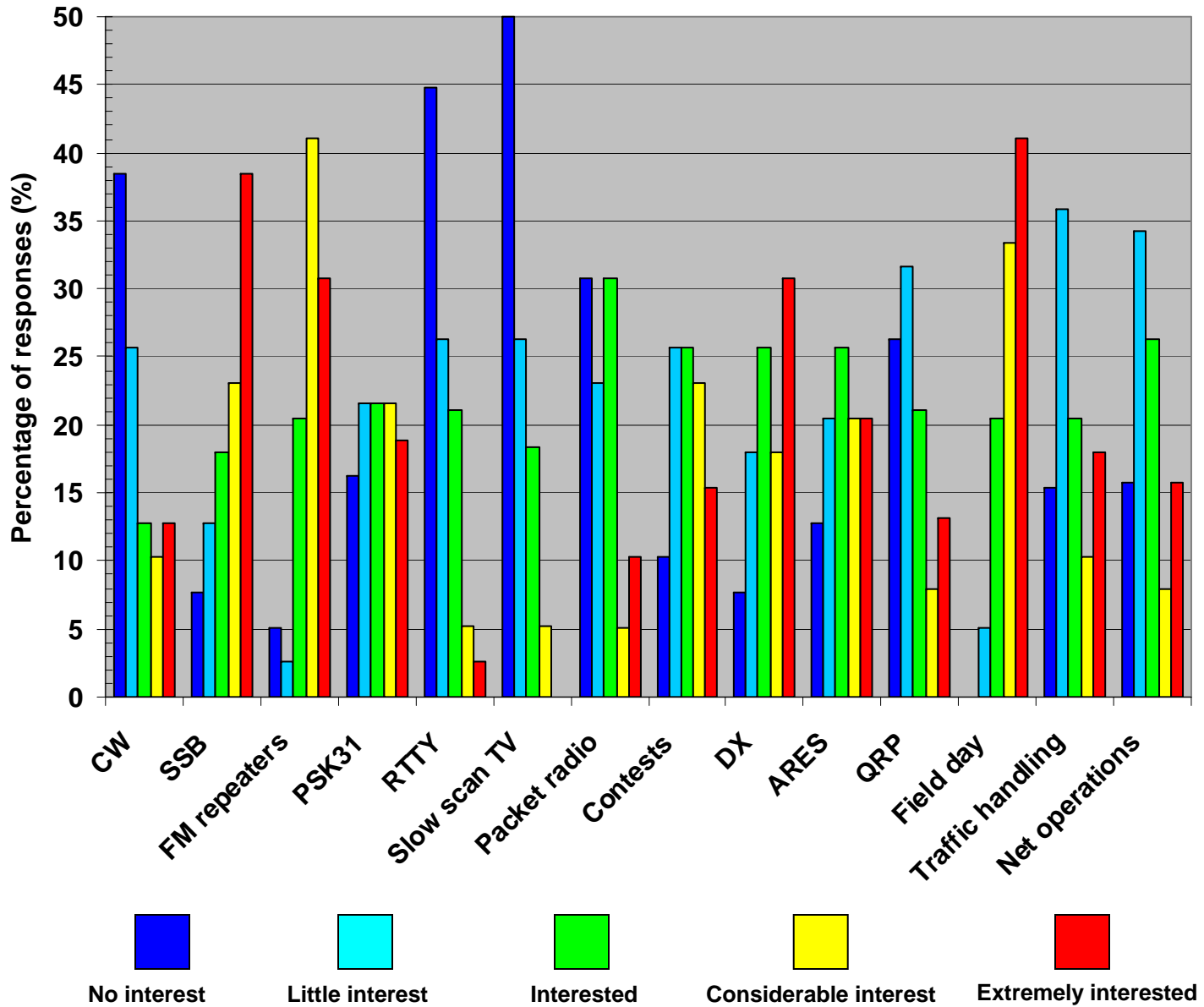
### Longer Meetings Interest



## Current Meeting Time Interest



## Relative Interest of Respondents in Different Topics



# Tentative Conclusions

## Operating Interests

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Highest interest is in FM repeaters followed closely by SSB.

These respondents, as a group, don't like CW!

Interest in RTTY, slow scan, and PSK31 is relatively low.

There is more interest in DXing than in contests.

Members either don't know what QRP is or don't use it.

Members, as a group, are, generally, not real enthusiastic about traffic handling, net operations, and ARES operations.

Extreme interest in Field Day was indicated by the greatest number of members.

# **Tentative Conclusions**

## **Technical Topics**

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**Antennas and emergency backup power most popular.**

## **Quite a few members are interested in “other” topics, such as:**

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**Learning about different frequency bands and what makes them different**

**Better understanding how voice can be sent over radio waves**

**Radio control for model airplanes**

**Echolink and IRLP**

**Basic electronic theory**

**Understanding how many of the features of my radio work**

**How to use other repeaters than just 146.62 MHz  
D-Star/P25/etc.**

**Microwave linking**

**Tower construction/safety**

**Backup repeater operations**

**Equipment reviews**

**Homebrew antenna tuner**

**Transmitter hunting**

**Satellite communications**

**Winlink packet and pactor**

**Accessory items for station**

# **Absolute Conclusions**

## **Meeting length**

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**Strong reaction against making meetings shorter or longer, happy with status quo.**

# **Please explain why you come to the club meetings**

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**I have been a past officer, my yl does the refreshments, and I have to unlock the door and let everyone in.**

**To associate and learn from others in a common hobby (radio). Learn of future planned activity. To build a deeper relationship with local emergency services and our ham operators.**

**I come to learn from the great presentations like Guy's presentation on PSK31.**

**I enjoy the camaraderie of all the unique people that I have met at the meetings. Sometimes we have had some very lively meetings and a few times we have had interesting topics and lectures. Ham radio has broadened my horizons in communication.**

**Because I am President.**

**I got my license for personal emergency communications (i.e., better coverage than cell service in Stevens County.) I don't touch a radio during most events, such as Field Day, but love the social aspects of our group. There are a lot of interesting conversations outside of radio!**

**I believe that having an organization where people with common likes (Ham Radio) can come together to share their accomplishments and knowledge. A club also, in my mind, should offer the ability for folks to practice their hobby (Field Day, contests, etc). I've been a proponent of "club stations" since I first experienced one when I was a kid. In lieu of that, the aforementioned activities are the next best option.**

**A club, like ours, also enables us the ability to draw in more prospective members as well as facilitate our "emergency services" function through information exchange and camaraderie.**

# The one thing you would change in our meetings.

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I would like to see the “old timers” paired up with “newby” operators. We used to call this “Elmering”.

Add a question and answer 15 minutes.

Strive to make the meetings more of a family affair.

A little more show and tell, but not so much as to make others feel they're not in line with the rest of the group and stop coming to Meetings.

Maybe have classes maybe for different interest 1-2 hours a morning workshop.

## More Activities

I'm not very big on having debates over by-law issues. I think that if an issue arises, and a significant portion of the club membership is present, most issues should be able to be settled with a simple majority vote.

Add more educational presentations to the meeting, especially hands-on type.

## Location

Identifying ourselves by name and call sign at each meeting so that those of us who haven't put a face to each name/call yet have a better chance to learn who's who. What about large name tags?

I'd like to see more fruits and veggie type stuff and less baked goods.