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Teens ham it up, sound off on radio bulletin board dubbed The Wall
The idea came from a Menomonie High School student

MENOMONIE (AP)- Christine Fuller felt teen-age ham radio operators needed a place to voice their opinions and share their thoughts.

So the 17-year-old Menomonie High School student created a sounding wall, so to speak, aptly named The Wall.

The bulletin board Fuller started seven months ago is accessible via packet radio.

Amateur radio operators hook up a packet machine to their radios, which translates words typed into computer tones that are sent over the radio air waves.

To receive the messages, the tones are then translated back to written words on the computer screen.

When Fuller first started The Wall, there were few responses. But by November, more teens and young adults started sounding off.

"I figured if I made a place, sooner or later kids would catch on to it," said Fuller, a no-code radio tech.

"We're in the future and we need to get together. Younger kids don't want to write to a bunch of older people."

"It's just gives us a place to let our two cents be known."

The average age Fuller remarked for the bulletin board is about 12 to 19.

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Editing appendage:

Packet Bulletin-Board Systems (PBBS)

Some of you may be familiar with landline telephone bulletin-board systems. The packet-radio equivalent is the Packet Bulletin Board System (PBBS). The PBBS computer allows packet stations to store messages for other amateurs, download and upload computer files, and even to link one packet station through a "gateway" to another band.

Some PBBS computers can automatically forward messages from one computer to another, so you can store a message at one PBBS that is ultimately meant for an amateur thousands of miles away. The message will be forwarded from one PBBS to another until it reaches its destination. A network is a system of packet stations that can interconnect to transmit data over long distances.

To use PBBS, you must locate one. In any area with even a small amount of packet activity there is usually at least one PBBS. In addition, there are several HF PBBS stations. Although many of the HF stations are set up for long-haul massage traffic, not for individual-user contacts.