

## 50 YEARS AGO IN THE RRC - FEBRUARY 12, 1971

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By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, RRC Historian (01.20.2021)

The officers serving the Reading Radio Club, Inc. in Feb. 1971 were:

President - Rich Ahrens, W3WJC  
Vice President - John Freeman, K3CBE  
Secretary - Al Brailer, W3UQC, (SK)  
Treasurer - Frank Esseluhn, K3MGO, (SK) (Not a BOD Member)

Other RRC Board Members serving the RRC in February 1971 were:

Bill Ader, WA3GTR (SK)	Art Gantert, W3OLG (SK)
Gerry Baldauf, W3WX (SK)	Leo Hood, WA3FBP (SK)
Russ Frederick, W3CDS (SK)	Bob Wagner, W3GII (SK)

The Editor of the March 1971 READING RADIO CLUB BULLETIN was William "Bill" Ader, WA3GTR, (SK).

*The following is, in a large part, the republishing of the "Highlights" of the February 12, 1971, monthly meeting taken from the March 1971 issue of the RRC BULLETIN, and written by the RRC Secretary Al Brailer, W3UQC, (SK). Other information has been added that has been taken from the RRC BULLETIN, personal notes, and meeting agendas.*

The Friday February 12, 1971, monthly meeting was held in the UGI "Flame Room" Auditorium at 225 Morgantown Road, Reading, PA.

RRC President Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

The February 12, 1971 monthly meeting was attended by 30 Reading Radio Club members.

Ed Kennedy, WA3FSL, was the lucky one to win the door prize, an ARRL Handbook.

We were all saddened to learn of the passing of Bill Jones, K3WJE. Bill died in his home one day prior to this meeting. Bill, K3WJE, was very active in the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) and handled many messages, for members of the military, from all over the world.

**NOTE:** Since December 23, 2009, MARS is known as the Military Auxiliary Radio System.

March 1, 1971 is the deadline for paying your dues in advance, otherwise your name will be removed from the active list.

The new Pennsylvania Amateur Radio License Plates were on display and they are beautiful.

President Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, announced that the annual ARRL Affiliated Club paperwork was sent to the League.

The Phil-Mont Amateur Mobile Radio Club, Inc. extended an invitation to the members of the RRC to attend their March 1, 1971 meeting. Eight from the RRC are expected to attend.

Bob Plummer, W3ETJ / W3RP, is giving 5 WPM code practice weekly at the Wilson Junior High School.

President Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, had a message for the group. Rich said that the United States Customs House is located at second and Chestnuts Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For those of you have not seen this building for a few years (Or have never seen the building), this is the location of the well-known Federal Communications Commission (FCC); the place where you upgrade your Ham License. Have you done so in the last year? If not 1971 would be a good year for moving up to General, Advance, or Extra.

The RRC has a few members with the Extra Class license, who are NOT employed in the field of electronics....It can be done.

Rich, W3WJC, informed the group that RRC member Bill Emerick, W3MCX, is in the Reading Hospital recuperating from a broken leg. Rich suggested that you send Bill your QSL card with a short note of encouragement.

The East Able Fox Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) Net is now held weekly on Sunday morning starting at 9:00 a.m. on 3987.5 kHz.

Rich, W3WJC, said that at the Annual RRC Membership Roster of paid-up members would be published in the April 1971 Issue of the RRC BULLETIN.

The Transmitter Hunting Committee said that there would be some "Inside the meeting place" transmitter hunts and that they would be on a frequency between 7.500 and 11.000 MHz. A small portable radio is what you need. The committee said that the idea was to learn how to discover devices, in your home, that might be causing interference on the HF bands.

President Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, called attention to the editorial that was published on page nine of the February 1971 issue of QST. The seven-paragraph editorial was a report on "Industry Pessimism" about Amateur Radio. Rich, W3WJC, suggested that local Radio Amateurs should limit their pessimistic comments about Ham Radio that could come to the attention of local government officials and others.

Rich, W3WJC, informed the group that Sylvia Taylor, the cartoonist that entertains us each month, with her "K9" cartoons that are published in the RRC BULLETIN, has started a contest for "Miss Field Day." Sylvia will publish several "Character" Hams in the next few

issues. "Henrietta Ham" was in the February issue. In the April issue "Annie Antenna" will take the stage. In the May issue "Tina Transistor" will be featured. June will be the arrival of "Roxanne Resistor". Sylvia would like you to vote for your favorite "Miss Field day" candidate and she will publish the results in the July 1971 issue of the Reading Radio Club Bulletin.

The entertainment for the evening was the film "The Broken Hill" produced by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, located in Western Australia. The Broken Hill mine is one of the largest lead (Pb) and silver (Ag) mines in Australia.

Reading Radio Club President Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, adjourned the meeting, for a time of fellowship and refreshments.