

50 YEARS AGO IN THE RRC - MARCH 18, 1971

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By: Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, RRC Historian (02.23.2021)

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

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| 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 April 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 March 18, 1971, monthly meeting taken from the April 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 March 18, 1971, monthly meeting was held in the UGI lunchroom because the "Flame Room" Auditorium was in use by the local Orchid Society. The UGI building is located at 225 Morgantown Road, Reading, PA.

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

The March 18, 1971 monthly meeting was attended by about 30 Reading Radio Club members.

Frank Szilagyi and Pete Fowler were the winners of the door prizes. Frank, from Pottstown, was just accepted as a new RRC member. Pete was a guest at the meeting and has made application for RRC membership. A round of applause was given.

New RRC ID Badges have been received for:

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|------------------------|----------------------|
| Rian Robison, W3EMW | Walt Heister, WA3GRQ |
| Doc Hottenstein, W3DEJ | Paul Bayan, WA3JFN |

Rich, W3WJC, said that the estate of Bill Jones, K3WJE, has a list of equipment for sale. There is Swan, Hammarlund, and Johnson gear. Bob Jensen, K3HIU; Russ Nagle, WA3BHF, and Ed Rothermel, K3SZG, are helping the family. Contact Bob, K3HIU, for a copy of the list.

Treasurer Frank Esseluhn, K3MGO, announced that only seven membership sheets have been returned. Frank, K3MGO, asked the group to please return the sheets, and he ended with a thank you. President Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, informed the group that the RRC Six Meter has been used by fifteen local Radio Amateurs. Remember your rig should transmit on 52.575 MHz and receive on 52.640 MHz. No tones are needed.

Application has been made to the FCC to use the W3BN RRC call, on the six-meter repeater. Permission has not been received from the FCC as of March 18, 1971.

It is expected that a demonstration of the six meter will be given at the May 14, 1971 monthly meeting.

Rich, W3WJC, said that at the Friday April 16, 1971 monthly meeting there will be the big spring auction. The auction will be held in either the UGI "Flame Room" or the lunchroom depending on availability. Plan on taking part and bringing your surplus gear to the April 16, 1971 auction. (10% of the selling price goes to the Club). **PLEASE NOTE:** This is the third Friday in April 1971. Good Friday is the second Friday, on April 9, 1971.

President Rich, W3WJC, gave a report of the visit on March 3, 1971, to the Phil-Mont Mobile Club meeting in Philadelphia, PA. The following RRC members made the trip to the Franklin Institute:

Bob Plummer, W3ETJ (Now W3RP)
Stan Olanin, K3IOJ

Leroy Flamm, K3MNI
Rich Ahrens, W3WJC

The Phil-Mont Club had an open house, and they invited all the clubs in the Delaware Valley to attend. We had a fine evening, topped off with an excellent show, just for the Phil-Mont members and their guests, in the Franklin Institute's Planetarium. The Phil-Mont members were great hosts.

Rich, W3WJC, informed the group about the results of a survey that the ARRL conducted that he recently received. The information was obtained from 576 clubs, The ARRL tabulated results indicated that the "Median: club looks something like this:

34 Members - 17 Members attend meetings.
The annual dues are \$7.45.
Nine percent have mobile rigs.
The average club is down in attendance and membership.
Annual dues are going up fast.
The use of FM mode is on the increase.
The SSB mode is holding its own at 44 percent.

THIS WRITERS NOTE: The annual membership roster that was published in the April 1971 RRC BULLETIN showed that the RRC had

78 paid up members. Might be time for the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) to do another survey.

Bob Jensen, K3HIU, and Russ Nagel, WA3BHF, told the members that the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS), needs you, the active dedicated Radio Amateur, to take part in the six-meter net on Monday evenings starting at 7:30 p.m. The frequency is 49.980 MHz. Russ, WA3BHF, explained how the MARS network handles traffic from active-duty military personnel and their families at home.

RRC Treasurer Frank Esseluhn, K3MGO, handed out copies of the RRC 1971 proposed budget.

<u>ESTIMATED INCOME</u>	
75 Members at \$6.00 per member	\$450.00
Interest Income	160.00
Miscellaneous Income	<u>50.00</u>
Total Income	\$660.00
<u>ESTIMATED EXPENSES</u>	
RRC BULLETIN	\$200.00
Office Expenses	25.00
Field Day	100.00
Meetings	132.00
Flowers	20.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	25.00
Repeater Project & Equipment Maintenance	<u>168.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$670.00

President Rich Ahrens, W3WJC, expressed his disappointment with the CB type of nonsense taking place on the new RRC 6 Meter repeater. Someone squeals like a pig and there is quite a bit of kerchunking, all without any identification. Rich, W3WJC, said that this type of conduct is highly illegal and a bit childish.

Rich, W3WJC, said that with the weather (WX) moderating it is time to think about transmitter hunts using 2 Meter Amplitude Modulation (AM). The transmitter Hunting Committee is busy working on smaller, lightweight, and economical hidden AM transmitters. Time to break out that new super DF antenna. The RRC hunts will be held on Sunday afternoon and the starting point will once again be the Fire Tower on Skyline Drive. The Committee said they might try some nighttime transmitter hunts.

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