

DUNDALK AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Chairman's Report 23.2.1983

The activities of the society over the last few years showed a marked decline, if one considers that, during a period of upsurge in radio related activities, we concentrated our efforts on one major project - the repeater.

This project has been very successfully managed and is now fully operational. We have now one of the best repeaters in Ireland in use in our locality.

Amateur radio is, I believe, about a lot of related activities. These range from contests, through construction projects to Oscar satellite communications. We have RTTY (teletype) opportunities and both fast and slow scan television. In Dundalk we have I believe the largest amateur population per capita in Ireland. To foster a healthy society we must bring together different interests and foster where we can the knowledge required in newcomers so that we might all derive the maximum benefit from any chosen area within our general licencing provisions.

To some extent the lethargy of our members is to blame. We have a hobby which permits instant communication when we want - so why bother getting together? When work had to be done very few were interested. As a result, the few dedicated people, and in particular I would mention Jim Bellew (EI4BX) in this context, worked to achieve the best result possible - and succeeded. The cost was that we did not enter for any contests - the Maytime Festival was poorly attended. In short the impetus within the society declined.

We can regenerate our society. We need all the help we can get from the members. Yet the only help needed is a little enthusiasm for our hobby and perhaps a few good suggestions. The repeater is an unqualified success and its technical problems are behind us. Should we not look to a future where we can as a group generate some enthusiasm for group activities.

It was not my intention to have an address as dour as this one. My hope is that it will generate a debate from which positive decisions will come.

I would ask the incoming committee to re-organise the contests and gear ourselves up to win as we did before, - to consider purchasing some elementary test equipment such as an AM/FM signal generator,

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a small oscilloscope etc, to encourage construction projects, and finally to encourage working on one of the more advanced communications facilities such as Oscar, RTTY, or FSTV.

I commend the committee for their dedication and perseverance during a difficult 2 years. All committee meetings were well attended and the affairs of the society were in very capable hands.

During the course of the last 2 years there was an upsurge in CB activity. One very welcome result was to direct a lot of interested people towards radio generally. During the last year a group of these lads passed the required examinations and now await their formal licences. To these lads I would extend the warmest welcome on behalf of the society, they showed great determination to achieve the results that they did. I hope some of them will come forward to serve on the incoming committee.

Larry EI9CN
Chairman
February 1983