

I'm probably over reacting and forgive me if its true. When I started this year I wasn't even an officer for the Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club. I came to the meeting in April and there were four people. Mark took over as president and their was a board of directors meeting. We had over 40 paid members last year, now we have about 25.

Several have told me they won't come because all they hear is complaining and fighting and it isn't any fun. So we decided to take club business to board of directors meetings. Then people could get together at the Club meetings to have fun, talk about radios, antennas, have presentations, etc.

The next meeting about seven showed up. In September about 6 showed up. At the last board of directors meeting 4 showed up.

Now I am Vice-President. At the last meeting there was no secretary. We don't take notes any more. Not enough people. Now I am doing the newsletter. I'm discouraged. You get the picture.

I suggest we all get out our Radio Amateur Handbook, turn to the inside front page and read The Amateur's Code. Let me quote part two:

Two - The Amateur is Loyal...He offers his loyalty, encouragement and support to his fellow radio amateurs, his local club and to the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio is represented.

There are six parts to the code altogether. It is the same in my 1965, 1982, and 1992 books.

Quoting from the October 1993 QST "We all tend to think that what interests us is important, or at the very least that it is deserving of respect. That's all well and good...the danger comes when we begin to believe that what we want to do is more important than what someone else is doing...This kind of thinking is disappointing and short-sighted. Imagine if it were applied to the various threats facing Amateur Radio. Tower restrictions: "Who cares? I only operate mobile." Loss of microwave bands: "I get a nosebleed above 148 MHz." Telephone interference: "I only run QRP and never have a problem." Ineffective representation of Amateur Radio locally: "My interest is DX; let somebody else worry about it." No guidance for newcomers: "Who wants 'em? The bands I like are too crowded as it is." There are about 600,000 people in the US who are licensed radio amateurs--and there are about 250 million people who are not. Motorola, Cellulink, TV, Hewlett Packard, NCR, the Navy want your frequencies.

The Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club can remain an effective force in our community. Let us learn how to put our personalities aside and deal with the important issues we have responsibility for. We sponsor the 146.76 repeater. We are to provide emergency communications for this Valley. We are to help amateur radio as a whole survive so we can pursue our individual interests.

Ed Mahlum AA7TN - Be at the meeting or else I'm firing all of you. Hi. Hi. and 73s.