

612-12-1  
612-12-1

ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT RUNNING A RADIO CLUB  
CONVENTION BUT DIDN'T KNOW WHO TO ASK

BY FATHER JACK PEJZA

FROM TIME TO TIME, PEOPLE QUIETLY GO CRAZY. NOBODY NOTICES THAT THEY'VE GONE OFF THEIR GOURD, BUT THEY HAVE ALL THE SAME. THEY MIGHT NEVER BE DETECTED EXCEPT THAT THEY PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE THEIR INSANITY. TO THE UNTRAINED PERSON, THE ONE CLEAR SYMPTOM MIGHT GO UNNOTICED, BUT TO THE ONE WHO HAS HIMSELF SUFFERED FROM THE MALADY, THE SIGNS COULD NOT BE CLEARER. THAT ONE CLEAR AND UNMISTAKEABLE SIGN THAT A PERSON HAS LOST HIS MARBLES IS HIS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO HOST A RADIO CLUB CONVENTION.

AS ONE WHO HAS TWICE BEEN AFFLICTED WITH THE DISEASE OF "CONVENTIONITIS" AND WHO WAS FINALLY CURED ONLY BY THE SHOCK OF ACTUALLY HOSTING TWO CONVENTIONS, I WOULD LIKE TO PASS ON A FEW OBSERVATIONS SO THAT OTHERS, SHOULD THEY BE AFFLICTED BY THE DISEASE, MIGHT RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS IN THEMSELVES, AND WHAT TREATMENT CONSISTS OF.

THE FIRST SIGN OF CONVENTIONITIS GENERALLY OCCURS AROUND THANKSGIVING, WHEN ONE HAS BEEN COOPED UP WITH HIS RADIO ALONE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. THE URGE TO GLOAT ABOUT ONE'S CATCHES IS NOT SATISFIED BY FORUM OR MUSING REPORTS. THE PRINTED PAGE, ONE FINDS, IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO DESCRIBE ADEQUATELY THE "MANO-A-MANO" ENCOUNTER WITH THE RARE SIBERIAN OR ZEDDER. ONE NEEDS A FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER WITH A WILLING LISTENER TO RELIVE FULLY THE EXPERIENCE. IF YOU ARE BLESSED WITH A SMALL GROUP OF DXERS IN YOUR VICINITY, SOON THEY GROW JADED WITH YOUR EXPLOITS. REALIZING THIS, YOU YEARN FOR A LARGER AUDIENCE, AND THEN IT STRIKES YOU--LET'S HOST A CONVENTION, AND THEN I'LL REALLY HAVE AN AUDIENCE.

FEVERISHLY YOU ENLIST A FEW WILLING NEIGHBORING DXERS TO HELP YOU WITH THE PLAN. YOU SEARCH OUT A HOTEL WHICH IS WILLING TO PUT UP WITH A CRAZY BUNCH OF NUTS (ALTHOUGH YOU DON'T TELL THE HOTEL THAT) AND THEN YOU SUBMIT YOUR BID TO THE CLUB SOLICITING THEIR VOTES FOR YOU TO HOST THE CONVENTION. IF YOU ARE UNLUCKY ENOUGH (OR AS IN OUR CASE, IN THE 1972 IRCA CONVENTION, NO ONE ELSE SUBMITS A BID), YOU GET TO HOST THE CONVENTION.

THE SECONDARY PHASE OF THE ILLNESS, BETWEEN APPROVAL OF YOUR BID AND THE ACTUAL CONVENTION, VARIES IN INTENSITY AND SYMPTOMS. IN SOME CASES, PREPARATION HAS CONSISTED SIMPLY OF GETTING A MEETING ROOM AND BUYING A CASE OF BEER. IN OTHER CASES, THE VICTIM OF THE DISEASE MIGHT SPEND HOURS AND DAYS IN PLANNING EVENTS (DOWN TO THE LAST MINUTE) IN WRITING UP CONVENTION GUIDEBOOKS, AND IN MAKING ELABORATE DISPLAYS.

IN ANY CASE, THE TERTIARY AND WORST STAGE OF CONVENTIONITIS OCCURS DURING THE ACTUAL CONVENTION. IN SOME CASES THE DISEASE HAS PROVED TO BE TERMINAL. THE CONVENTION HOST IS NEVER HEARD OF IN DXING CIRCLES AGAIN. HE HAS GONE TO THE HAPPY HUNTING GROUND OF DXERS, THE LAND WHERE TVI IS UNHEARD OF, AND WHERE THE AURORAL ZONE IS NON-EXISTENT.

SERIOUSLY, THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF PREPARATION WHICH IS INVOLVED IN A CONVENTION. THAT IS, IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A GOOD, LIVELY CONVENTION. IF NO ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED, OR IF YOUR FACILITIES ARE LIMITED OR NON-EXISTENT, THEN PEOPLE WILL FEEL SHORT-CHANGED. THEY HAVE COME TO THE CONVENTION TO HAVE A GOOD TIME, TO LEARN ABOUT DXING, TO TALK OVER THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH OTHERS, TO GET HELP WITH THEIR TECHNICAL PROBLEMS. THEY LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIT AROUND AND TALK OVER THINGS WITH OTHERS, BUT THIS TENDS TO DRAG AFTER A WHILE. IF ACTIVITIES ARE NOT PROVIDED, AT LEAST SOME WILL GO AWAY FEELING UN-SATISFIED. FOR SOME, ATTENDING THEIR FIRST CONVENTION, THE MERE ABILITY TO MEET OTHER DXERS AND EXCHANGE POINTS OF VIEW IS SUFFICIENT. FOR THE EXPERIENCED CONVENTION-GOER, HOWEVER, MORE IS NEEDED.

IF YOU'RE PLANNING ON HOSTING A CONVENTION, DON'T PLAN ON OPENING UP THE CONVENTION ROOM AND THEN ADJOURNING TO THE BAR FOR THE REST OF THE TIME. YOU'LL FIND, IF YOU WANT TO DO IT RIGHT, THAT YOU'RE GOING TO SPEND LESS TIME TALKING WITH OTHERS THAN YOU WILL RUNNING AROUND. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO AND BUY ADDITIONAL BEER AND SOFT DRINKS; YOU'LL BE AT THE AIRPORT OR BUS TERMINAL PICKING UP PEOPLE; YOU'LL BE LEADING THE TOURS OF LOCAL RADIO STATIONS. AS GRANT MANNING PUT IT, "I SPENT MORE TIME ON THE FREEWAY THAN I DID IN THE MEETING ROOM." MAYBE THAT'S AN EXAGGERATION, BUT YOU WILL BE KEPT BUSY.

THE FIRST THING YOU'RE GOING TO FIND OUT IS THAT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO HOST A CONVENTION SINGLEHANDEDLY. IT IS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ONE PERSON TO DO THE JOB ADEQUATELY. YOU WILL NEED AT LEAST 3 OR 4 PERSONS WHO CAN DRIVE, WHO ARE OLD ENOUGH TO BUY BEER, AND WHO ARE WILLING TO PITCH IN AND DO SOME WORK. THERE MIGHT BE A LARGER GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO SIGN UP AS CO-HOSTS, BUT INEVITABLY IT TURNS OUT THE MAIN INSPIRATION (AND PER- SPIRATION) WILL COME FROM 2 OR 3. AND OF THESE, ONE PROBABLY WILL DO MORE THAN THE OTHERS. HE'S THE ONE MOST AFFLICTED WITH CONVENTIONITIS. INVARIABLY, BECAUSE OF HIS PUSHING THE PROJECT, HE TURNS OUT TO BE THE CHAIRMAN, JUST BECAUSE HE TAKES OVER THE JOB. (NOBODY ELSE WANTS IT.) HE WILL BE THE ONE WHO DOES THE MOST RUNNING AROUND. IT HELPS IF HE HAS A LOT OF EXTRA TIME TO DEVOTE TO THE CONVENTION. IN MY CASE, SINCE I WAS FINISHED TEACHING AT 2:30 EACH DAY, I WAS ABLE TO DO A LOT THAT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN DONE ON WEEKENDS OR IN THE EVENINGS.

THE FIRST STEP IN PREPARING A BID FOR THE CONVENTION IS THE CHOICE OF A DATE. TRADITIONALLY IRCA HAS HAD ITS CONVENTION ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST, AND NRC HAS ITS OVER LABOR DAY WEEKEND. IN 1971 WHEN THE SAN DIEGANS PUT IN THEIR FIRST BID FOR A CON- VENTION, WE PLANNED ON THE WEEKEND BEFORE LABOR DAY, SINCE NRC'S WAS IN SACRAMENTO THAT YEAR. IN 1972 WE SCHEDULED IT FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND, SINCE THE REPUBLICANS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE IN TOWN TOWARD THE END OF AUGUST. AFTER THE GOP DECIDED TO MOVE TO MIAMI, IT WAS TOO LATE TO RESCHEDULE THE CONVENTION IN AUGUST. THE ANARC CONVENTION IN 1973 WAS AT THE END OF JULY. I WOULD THINK THAT YOU PROBABLY WOULD GET THE BIGGEST CROWD BY SCHEDULING THE CONVENTION ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST.

NEXT WAS THE SELECTION OF A HOTEL. THE SAN DIEGO CONVENTION AND TOURIST BUREAU WAS HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD. THEY SUGGESTED WE TRY ONE OF THE SMALLER HOTELS RATHER THAN HAVING OUR SMALL GROUP (BY CONVENTION STANDARDS) LOST IN THE VAST REACHES OF ONE OF THE LARGER RESORT HOTEL COMPLEXES IN TOWN. ACCORDINGLY, WE WENT TO ABOUT 8 HOTELS. SOME HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED BY THE TOURIST BUREAU; SOME WE JUST TRIED BECAUSE OF THEIR SIZE AND LOCATION.

IN EACH CASE WE TALKED TO THE SALES MANAGER FOR THE HOTEL. WE EXPLAINED OUR SITUATION TO HIM. WE EMPHASIZED THE FOLLOWING POINTS: IRCA WAS A HOBBY-TYPE CLUB, WITH A GREAT MANY YOUNGER (HIGH-SCHOOL AND COLLEGE AGE) MEMBERS. MOST OF THESE WOULD BE ON LIMITED BUDGETS; THEY WOULD WANT TO SHARE ROOMS. THE FIRST QUESTION THAT WAS INVARIABLY ASKED OF US WAS "HOW MANY HOTEL ROOMS WOULD BE RENTED?" THE HOTELS AREN'T INTERESTED IN THE FACT THAT YOU EXPECT TO HAVE 50 PEOPLE ATTENDING; WHAT THEY'RE INTERESTED IN IS HOW MANY ROOMS WOULD BE RENTED. IN OUR CASE, WE ACTUALLY WOUND UP IN 1972 WITH 20 ROOMS RENTED--8 SINGLES, 7 DOUBLES, 5 TRIPLES. A TOTAL OF 38 PERSONS ACTUALLY STAYED IN THE HOTEL. WE MADE A BIG PLAY OF PROMOTING QUADRUPLE ROOMS IN OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE BULLETIN, BUT ACTUALLY NONE WERE RENTED IN 1972. (IN 1973, FOR THE ANARC CONVENTION, WE HAD ROUGHLY THE SAME NUMBER OF ROOMS RENTED, ALTHOUGH WE DID HAVE ONE OR TWO QUADRUPLES.) SEVERAL--ABOUT 4 OR 5--WERE FOR 4 NIGHTS, BUT THE MAJORITY WERE FOR 3 NIGHTS--FRIDAY, SATURDAY, AND SUNDAY. SOME LEFT ON SUNDAY; WE PROBABLY HAD 20 ROOMS FILLED FOR ONLY TWO NIGHTS.

FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS THE HOTEL COULD OFFER WERE LOW-COST ACCOMODATIONS AND AN ADEQUATE MEETING ROOM. IF YOUR HOTEL ROOMS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE, YOU DRIVE AWAY THE TEENAGERS WHO CAN'T AFFORD IT. FABULOUS INNS, IN OUR CASE, BENT OVER BACKWARD TO GIVE US LOW RATES. THEY OFFERED, FOR INSTANCE, A ROOM WHICH ORDINARILY WOULD HAVE RENTED FOR ABOUT \$15 FOR \$12.75, THUS CUTTING THE COST PER NIGHT PER INDIVIDUAL TO

\$4.25 PLUS TAX. THE RATES GOT RAISED A BIT IN 1973, BUT STILL IT WOULD HAVE COST ONLY ABOUT \$5 OR SO PER NIGHT, FOR A GROUP OF PEOPLE IN A ROOM.

AN ADEQUATE MEETING ROOM IS A MUST FOR A CONVENTION. IN VANCOUVER, IN 1970, THE CARRIAGE INN PROVIDED A BANQUET ROOM (IN WHICH THE BANQUET AND AUCTION WERE HELD), BUT FOR THE REST OF THE CONVENTION, THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL MEETING ROOM. DXERS MET IN ONE ANOTHER'S ROOMS, PARTICULARLY IN A 2-ROOM SUITE WHICH DON ERICKSON RENTED. FABULOUS INNS PROVIDED A ROOM ABOUT 50' x 20', WITH A BUILT-IN KITCHEN AND TWO BATHROOMS. IT WAS JUST ABOUT THE RIGHT SIZE FOR OUR GROUP. IF THERE IS A CHARGE FOR THE ROOM, FIND OUT IF IT WILL BE WAIVED IF YOU RENT A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF ROOMS. IN HOLLYWOOD IN 1968, ONE MEMBER HAD PICKED OUT THE HOTEL; THE REST OF THE COMMITTEE DIDN'T FIND OUT UNTIL THE LAST DAY OF THE CONVENTION THAT THEY OWED THE HOTEL \$100 FOR THE MEETING ROOM. IN OUR CASE, THE ROOM WOULD BE FREE IF WE RENTED 20 OR MORE ROOMS FOR AT LEAST ONE NIGHT; OTHERWISE IT WOULD COST \$25 A DAY. WE MADE THE 20 ROOMS IN 1972; WE DIDN'T IN 1973, SO HAD TO PAY THE \$75.

BANQUET FACILITIES ARE THE NEXT CONCERN. MOST HOTELS HAVE A DINING ROOM WITH BANQUET FACILITIES AVAILABLE. IT TURNS OUT THERE IS A WIDE RANGE OF PRICES ON BANQUETS, EVEN FOR THE SAME TYPE OF MEAL. WE WERE QUOTED PRICES FROM \$4 TO \$10 PER HEAD. SINCE FABULOUS INNS DIDN'T HAVE ITS OWN RESTAURANT, THEY HAD AN ARRANGEMENT WITH A NEARBY RESTAURANT. HERE THE ENTREES RANGED FROM \$4.10 TO \$7.55. NATURALLY WE CHOSE THE MOST INEXPENSIVE, OR CLOSE TO IT. WE HAD A STANDARD CHOICE OF ENTREES--POT ROAST, VEAL CUTLET, HALIBUT STEAK, SWISS STEAK, CHICKEN-FRIED STEAK, FRIED CHICKEN, OR GROUND SIRLOIN. IN THE PAST AT SOME CONVENTIONS, CONVENTION GOERS HAD A CHOICE OF 3 DIFFERENT ENTREES, BUT WE HAD ONLY ONE, SO EVENTUALLY WE HAD TO CHOOSE ONE. MOST BANQUET FACILITIES WILL PREPARE A FEW DINNERS OF A DIFFERENT TYPE, IF PEOPLE CAN'T EAT YOUR CHOICE. THE BEST WAY TO GO ABOUT FINDING OUT HOW MANY WILL BE AT THE BANQUET IS TO HAVE A SEPARATE

PLACE ON YOUR REGISTRATION FORM. MAKE SURE YOU FIND OUT FROM THE HOTEL IF THE PRICES QUOTED FOR THE BANQUET INCLUDE TAX AND TIPS. IF THEY DON'T, ADD ABOUT 20%. ALSO IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO CHARGE A LITTLE MORE THAN THE AMOUNT YOU'RE CHARGED BY THE HOTEL; THAT WILL HELP PAY FOR YOUR GUEST SPEAKER'S DINNER, FOR INSTANCE. ANOTHER COMMON PRACTICE OF BANQUET FACILITIES IS TO WANT YOU TO GIVE A DEFINITE NUMBER AT LEAST ONE DAY IN ADVANCE. THEY WILL ALLOW UP TO 10% ADDITIONAL SERVINGS, BUT IF YOU SAY 24 AND THEY SERVE ONLY 20, YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR 24. IN 1972 OUR REGISTRATION FORM REALLY DIDN'T MAKE IT CLEAR WHETHER THE CONVENTION GOER WAS GOING TO BE AT THE BANQUET OR NOT; SO WE REALLY DIDN'T HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF HOW MANY WE WERE GOING TO HAVE UNTIL THE VERY LAST MINUTE. TEENAGERS, IN PARTICULAR, MIGHT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO GET TO THE CONVENTION BUT NOT TO THE BANQUET. YOU'LL ALSO FIND OUT THAT THERE WILL BE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WILL WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TELL YOU THEY'RE GOING TO BE AT THE BANQUET. I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN, FROM PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES IN RUNNING BANQUETS, BUT WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR US TO INDICATE EXACTLY HOW MANY WE'D HAVE (I THINK IT WAS THURSDAY AFTERNOON, 48 HOURS BEFORE THE BANQUET), WE HAD ONLY 28 DEFINITE RESERVATIONS. I TOOK A DEEP BREATH, AND TOLD THEM WE'D HAVE 40. AS IT TURNED OUT, WE HAD 41. INCIDENTALLY, IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO TRY OUT THE RESTAURANT FACILITIES BEFORE YOU DECIDE ON A HOTEL. THAT WAY YOU'LL KNOW WHAT KIND OF FOOD TO EXPECT.

ON THE SUBJECT OF FOOD, MAKE SURE THERE ARE ENOUGH INEXPENSIVE EATING PLACES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR OTHER MEALS DURING THE CONVENTION. PLACES LIKE THE COLONEL'S, MCDONALD'S, ETC. DURING A CONVENTION, GENERALLY NOT TOO MANY WILL GO OUT AND GET A FULL MEAL; THEY'LL GET HAMBURGERS OR WHATEVER AT THE NEAREST COFFEE SHOP.

ON A RELATED TOPIC, MAKE SURE THERE ARE SUFFICIENT BAR FACILITIES NEARBY. THERE ARE A FEW WHO WILL SPEND THE ENTIRE WEEKEND ENSCONCED ON A BARSTOOL. IF YOUR STATE OR PROVINCE HAS UNUSUAL LAWS GOVERNING THE SALE OF LIQUOR, SPREAD THE WORD TO CONVENTION GOERS WELL IN ADVANCE. WE DIDN'T FIND OUT IN VANCOUVER UNTIL SUNDAY AFTERNOON THAT LIQUOR COULDN'T BE SOLD ON SUNDAY. BY THAT TIME THE BOTTLES BROUGHT ACROSS THE BORDER DUTY-FREE (AND THEY WERE BIG BOTTLES) WERE EMPTY. FORTUNATELY, WE FOUND OUT THAT A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE LAW HAD BEEN CHANGED TO ALLOW RESTAURANTS TO SERVE LIQUOR WITH MEALS. AN OBLIGING HOTEL CLERK FOUND SUCH A RESTAURANT, FOR A GROUP OF 8 THIRSTY AMERICANS APPARENTLY BOUND TO DRINK THE PLACE DRY.

WHEN YOU HAVE SELECTED A HOTEL, TRY TO ESTIMATE THE OTHER EXPENSES YOU WILL HAVE. SO YOU CAN COME UP WITH A REASONABLE REGISTRATION FEE TO COVER ALL EXPENSES. WE THOUGHT OF THE FOLLOWING EXPENSES:

MEETING ROOM	\$ 75
BANQUET	170
BEER AND SOFT	
DRINKS	40
PICNIC	20
DOOR PRIZES	20
OTHER FOOD	<u>20</u>
	\$345

WE TRIED TO ESTIMATE HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD ATTEND THE CONVENTION. WE WORKED ON THE BASIS THAT 40 WOULD PAY THE FULL REGISTRATION FEE, AND 40 WOULD ATTEND THE BANQUET. WE SET OUR REGISTRATION FEE IN 1972 AT \$8.50--\$4.00 FOR THE BANQUET AND \$4.50 FOR THE REST OF THE CONVENTION. LATER ON, WE DECIDED TO CHARGE JUST ONE BUCK FOR PEOPLE WHO DROPPED IN JUST FOR ONE DAY, TO COVER THE COST OF REFRESHMENTS THEY CONSUMED. AS IT TURNED OUT, WE HAD ONLY 34 WHO PAID THE FULL \$8.50, 13 WHO ATTENDED THE BANQUET AT \$4.50 (WIVES AND GUESTS), 7 WHO PAID \$4.50 FOR THE CONVENTION WITHOUT THE BANQUET AND 9 WHO PAID \$1. (THERE WERE ABOUT 6 WHO MANAGED TO GET BY WITHOUT PAYING ANYTHING, BUT ONLY ONE OF THESE, A TEENAGER, STAYED FOR MORE THAN ONE DAY. THE \$1 GOERS WERE MOSTLY PEOPLE WHO HAD DRIVEN DOWN FROM LOS ANGELES FOR THE DAY. THERE WAS AN OUTRIGHT GIFT OF \$25; THERE WERE ALSO A FEW SMALLER DONATIONS.

IN 1973, WE CHANGED OUR REGISTRATION POLICY, AND SEPARATED THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE FROM THE BANQUET. WE CHARGED \$5 FOR THE CONVENTION, \$5.75 FOR THE BANQUET, AND \$2 FOR A ONE DAY REGISTRATION. MY RECORDS INDICATE WE HAD 35 WHO PAID \$5, 7 AT \$2, AND 37 BANQUETS.

AS BEST AS I CAN FIND OUT FROM WHAT RECORDS I STILL HAVE FROM THE TWO CONVENTIONS, THE FOLLOWING WERE OUR INCOME AND EXPENSES:

1972		1973	
REGISTRATIONS	\$280	REGISTRATIONS	190
DINNERS	81	DINNERS	<u>212</u>
GIFTS	<u>55</u>		402
	416	BANQUET	170
		SOFT DRINKS	100
		AND BEER	100
		DOOR PRIZES	21
		FOOD, PICNIC	46
		POSTAGE	10
		TIP TO MAID	<u>10</u>
			357
		MEETING ROOM	75
		BANQUET	195
		SOFT DRINKS,	
		BEER	40
		FOOD, PICNIC	38
		POSTAGE	-
		TIP TO MAID	<u>10</u>
			375

IN 1972 THE MEETING ROOM WAS ROBBED THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE CONVENTION; ABOUT \$20 OR SO OF BEER AND SOFT DRINKS WERE STOLEN. THE DIFFERENCE, THOUGH, BETWEEN THE AMOUNTS OF MONEY SPENT FOR BEER/SOFT DRINKS, I THINK, REFLECTED A DIFFERENT AGE GROUP. IRCA IN 1972 WAS A MUCH YOUNGER GROUP THAN ANARC IN 1973.

IN SOME CITIES THE CONVENTION BUREAU CAN HELP YOU IMMENSELY. HERE IN SAN DIEGO THEY SUPPLIED US WITH FREE BADGES (WHICH THEY EVEN TYPED UP FOR US), PENCILS, PADS, A MAILER, TONS OF TOURIST INFORMATION. THE HOTEL ALSO SUPPLIED US WITH A BROCHURE.

TRY TO ASSEMBLE A CONVENTION GUIDE, WITH INFORMATION ON LOCAL STATIONS, WHAT RECEPTION CONDITIONS EXIST DURING THE DAY, EVENING, AND AFTER MIDNIGHT; NEARBY RESTAURANTS, (AND BARS), THINGS TO SEE, AND ESPECIALLY THE PROGRAM FOR THE CONVENTION. SINCE THINGS HAVE A WAY OF CHANGING AFTER YOU GET THE GUIDE PRINTED UP, TRY TO HAVE SOME WAY OF LETTING EVERYONE KNOW WHAT THE CHANGE IS. WE HAD A BLACKBOARD IN THE MEETING ROOM; WE PUT EACH DAY'S SCHEDULE ON IT.

LINE UP STATION TOURS WELL IN ADVANCE, AND THEN REMIND THE STATION SHORTLY BEFORE THE CONVENTION. SATURDAY IN A WAY IS A BAD DAY FOR TOURS, SINCE THE OFFICES ARE GENERALLY CLOSED, BUT IT HAPPENS TO BE PERHAPS THE MOST CONVENIENT DAY FOR YOU. THE SAME IS TRUE FOR YOUR GUEST SPEAKER. TRY TO LINE UP ONE WELL IN ADVANCE, SINCE YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY. IN 1973, WE ATTEMPTED TO GET THE GENERAL MANAGER OF A LOCAL STATION, THEN THE CHIEF ENGINEER, AND FINALLY IN DESPERATION CALLED THE NAVY, WHO SENT OUT A VERY GOOD SPEAKER, WHO ALSO SHOWED A FILM.

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO HANDLE HOTEL RESERVATIONS. ONE IS TO LET EACH CONVENTION GOER MAKE HIS OWN RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL. THE PROBLEM WITH THIS IS THAT IT PREVENTS MUCH EFFECTIVE SHARING OF ROOMS (AND COSTS). THE OTHER IS TO LET SOMEONE ON THE COMMITTEE GET THE CHECKS, ETC. IN THE MAIL, THEN GO TO THE HOTEL AND MAKE THE RESERVATIONS, FINALLY EITHER SENDING DEPOSIT RECEIPTS BACK OR LETTING THE HOTEL DO IT.

IN ORDER TO KEEP CONVENTION FUNDS (REGISTRATIONS, HOTEL RESERVATIONS, BANQUET, ETC). SEPARATE FROM PERSONAL FUNDS, WE SET UP, AFTER WE HAD ABOUT \$100 IN CHECKS, A CHECKING ACCOUNT, MADE OUT IN THE NAME OF IRCA CONVENTION COMMITTEE (OR ANARC CONVENTION COMMITTEE.) YOUR OWN PERSONAL BANK USUALLY WILL BE AMENABLE TO SUCH AN ACCOUNT; EXPLAIN THAT IT WILL BE ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME. USUALLY THEY'LL GIVE YOU A BUNCH OF UNPERSONALIZED CHECKS; THERE'S NO NEED FOR PERSONALIZED CHECKS SINCE YOU'LL BE USING THE ACCOUNT ONLY A SHORT TIME, AND YOU WON'T BE DRAWING THAT MANY CHECKS. REMEMBER, BANKS ARE CLOSED ON WEEKENDS; GET ENOUGH CASH ON HAND DURING THE CONVENTION WEEKEND TO BUY EXTRA SUPPLIES.

PUBLICITY FOR THE CONVENTION IS A MUST. BESIDES ADVERTISING THE CONVENTION IN THE CLUB BULLETIN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, TRY TO GET PUBLICITY IN YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS. PREPARE A NEWS RELEASE AND TAKE IT TO THE CITY EDITOR OF THE PAPER(S) SOME TIME IN ADVANCE. THE NEWS RELEASE SHOULD INCLUDE THE BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE CONVENTION--NAME OF THE CLUB, PLACE, TIME, AND GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CONVENTION. TRY TO FEATURE SOME UNUSUAL ASPECTS OF THE HOBBY--SOME OLDTIMER WHO'LL BE THERE WHO'S BEEN LISTENING SINCE MARCONI FIRST TWITCHED A CRYSTAL, OR THE RARE COLLECTION OF VARIETIES SOMEONE IS BRINGING, ETC. YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE THE STORY INTERESTING ENOUGH SO THAT THE EDITOR WON'T SIMPLY CHUCK YOUR STORY INTO THE TRASH CAN, BUT MIGHT BE INTRIGUED ENOUGH TO HAVE A REPORTER CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ACTUALLY COME TO THE CONVENTION AND TAKE PICTURES. ENCLOSED IS PAGE 1 OF THE PRESS RELEASE WE ISSUED IN 1972. I CAN'T FIND PAGE 2/ MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE THE NAME AND PHONE NUMBER OF SOMEONE WHO CAN BE CALLED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

SEND OUT A BUNCH OF POSTCARDS TO DXERS LIVING WITHIN 200 MILES OF YOUR CITY, INVITING THEM TO ATTEND. THERE ARE MEMBERS WHO ARE TOO SHY TO ATTEND UNLESS YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO INVITE THEM AND MAKE THEM FEEL WELCOME. SEND A NOTICE TO ALL THE OTHER DX CLUBS, MAKING IT A POINT THAT ALL DXERS, REGARDLESS OF CLUB, ARE WELCOME. SINCE MOST OTHER CLUBS PUBLISH ON A MONTHLY BASIS, TRY TO GET THE INFORMATION TO THEM WELL IN ADVANCE. USUALLY, PLACE, TIME, AND ADDRESS/PHONE OF SOMEONE TO CONTACT, PLUS COST, IS SUFFICIENT. THERE PROBABLY ARE OTHER DXERS IN YOUR AREA WHO WILL ATTEND IF THEY KNOW ABOUT THE CONVENTION.

ONCE THE CONVENTION GETS GOING, TRY TO HAVE SOMEONE FROM YOUR COMMITTEE IN THE MEETING ROOM AT ALL TIMES, WHEN IT IS OPEN. VISITORS, NEW MEMBERS THAT NO ONE KNOWS, AND STRANGERS WILL WANDE IN. YOU DON'T WANT TO LEAVE A LOT OF VALUABLE RADIO EQUIPMENT SITTING AROUND UNGUARDED. IF THE HOTEL WANTS THE ROOM LOCKED AT NIGHT, HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE AUTHORIZED TO GET A KEY TO OPEN UP. HAVE THE POLICY THAT THE LAST ONE OUT AT NIGHT LOCKS UP. IF THE HOTEL HAS A SECURITY FORCE, ASK THEM TO CHECK ON THE MEETING ROOM AT NIGHT.

IF YOU ARE GOING TO DEPEND ON OUT-OF-TOWN DRIVERS TO DRIVE TO THE STATIONS FOR THE TOURS, MAKE SURE YOU PROVIDE A MAP SHOWING HOW TO GET TO AND FROM THE STATIONS.

FOR REFRESHMENTS AT THE CONVENTION, WE BOUGHT (FROM A WHOLESALE GROCER) LARGE

QUANTITIES OF POTATO CHIPS, PRETZELS AND COOKIES. FOR BEER, GENERALLY A LIQUOR STORE WILL HAVE ONE BRAND ON SPECIAL; GET ABOUT 6 CASES TO START. THE SAME WITH SOFT DRINKS. YOU'LL HAVE TO HAVE SOME WAY OF KEEPING THEM COLD; VERY OFTEN YOU CAN USE THE BATHTUB IN THE MEETING ROOM BATHROOM. TRY TO KEEP THE TEENAGERS AWAY FROM THE BEER IF POSSIBLE; IT CAN CAUSE PROBLEMS, WITH THE HOTEL MANAGEMENT AT THE VERY LEAST.

FOR THE PICNIC, WE PROVIDED HOT DOGS AND ROLLS, BEER, SOFT DRINKS, AND POTATO CHIPS. DON'T GET MAMBURGERS; TMEY'RE TOO HARD TO WORK WITH. MAKE SURE TO GET A SOFTBALL AND SOME BASS FOR THE GAME. (DON'T FORGET CHARCOAL AND A GRILL FOR THE PICNIC.)

AS FAR AS THE AUCTION IS CONCERNED, MOST ITEMS WILL COME FROM THOSE ATTENDING. HAVE A TABLE SET ASIDE WHERE THEY CAN PUT THE ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED. THE AFTERNOON BEFORE THE AUCTION, GO THROUGH THE STUFF, BUNDLING IT INTO LOTS, NUMBERING EACH AND INDICATING THE STARTING BID. LIMIT THE BIDS TO 10¢ INCREMENTS FOR ITEMS LESS THAN \$3; 25¢ FOR MORE EXPENSIVE STUFF, OTHERWISE THE AUCTION WILL LAST ALL NIGHT. THE AUCTIONEER SHOULD ALSO LOOK OVER THE ITEMS IN ADVANCE, SO HE HAS SOME IDEA OF WHAT WILL BE OFFERED. DURING THE AUCTION, HAVE ONE OR TWO PEOPLE HANDING THE ITEMS TO THE AUCTIONEER, WITH SOME INDICATION OF WHAT IT IS. TWO OTHERS SHOULD BE CLERKS, COPYING DOWN THE LOT NUMBERS, PRICES, ETC. ON THE LABEL ATTACHED TO EACH LOT, HAVE THEM PUT THE PRICE PAID, AS WELL AS THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BUDDER; ALSO KEEP A SEPARATE LIST. KEEP ALL ITEMS UNTIL AFTER EVERYTHING IS AUCTIONED, THEN HAND OUT THE ITEMS. CREDIT FOR 30 DAYS IS ACCEPTABLE. TRY TO KEEP THE AUCTION FUNDS SEPARATE FROM THE REST OF THE CONVENTION FUNDS. I DON'T THINK IT'S EVER BEEN DONE, BUT IT HAS BEEN CONSIDERED THAT AUCTION FUNDS WOULD BE USED IF NECESSARY TO PAY FOR ANY DEFICITS IN CONVENTION EXPENSES.

IN THE AUCTION, TRY TO MIX UP THE ITEMS, SO THAT THE GOOD STUFF IS WELL DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE EVENING. YOU'LL FIND THAT MOST OF WHAT YOU GET IS JUNK--OLD VOLUMES OF BULLETINS, TOP 40 LISTS, ETC., BUT THERE WILL BE SOME ITEMS OF VALUE. TRY TO GET AN AUCTIONEER WHO CAN KEEP THINGS MOVING AND WHO IS INTERESTING.

TRY TO KEEP FAIRLY CLOSE TABS ON YOUR EXPENSES; OTHERWISE YOU MIGHT WIND UP PAYING FOR A GOOD BIT OF THE CONVENTION OUT OF YOUR OWN POCKET. OBVIOUSLY IT WILL COST YOU SOMETHING--IN TIME AND LABOR, IF NOT IN ACTUAL HARD CASH.

AFTER THE CONVENTION, SETTLE UP WITH THE HOTEL. IF YOU HAVE BEEN SATISFIED WITH THE SERVICE, LEAVE A TIP WITH THE SALES MANAGER FOR THE MAIDS AND BELLBOYS WHO HAVE HELPED CLEAN UP THE MEETING ROOM. WRITE LETTERS OF THANKS TO THE HOTEL, RADIO STATIONS, GUEST SPEAKERS, AND ANYONE ELSE WHO HELPED. AND FINALLY, BREATHE A DEEP SIGH OF RELIEF. YOUR CASE OF CONVENTIONITIS HOPEFULLY HAS BEEN CURED.

912-12-7

SAMPLE

7

ANARC CONVENTION

--SENT OUT WITH  
OTHER INFORMATION ON THE  
CONVENTION.

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME Larry M. Nebron

ADDRESS 27 Garden Grove Drive

CITY Daly City, STATE CA. ZIP 94015

PHONE 415-756-0135

I AM A MEMBER OF (PLEASE CIRCLE) NASWA SPEEDX WTFDXA ASWLC NRC IRCA CIDX  
NNRC

I WANT TO RESERVE A HOTEL ROOM:

SINGLE (\$13.65) \_\_\_\_\_

DOUBLE: QUEEN (\$16.80) \_\_\_\_\_

STUDIO (\$18.90) \_\_\_\_\_

KING (\$18.90) \_\_\_\_\_

2 DOUBLE BEDS (\$21.00) \_\_\_\_\_

STUDIO (FOR 3) (\$6.25 PER PERSON) X

QUADRUPLE (\$5.25 PER PERSON) \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO ROOM WITH two other NASWA memberS if possible

I WILL STAY AT THE HOTEL THE NIGHT OF 7/27 X 7/28 X 7/29 \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

I PLAN TO ATTEND THE BANQUET X

ENCLOSED IS MY REGISTRATION FEE OF \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_ ONE DAY REGISTRATION \$2.00 \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED IS HOTEL DEPOSIT OF \$ 6.25 FOR ONE NIGHT (48 HOURS NOTICE NEEDED FOR REFUND) (SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE ENCLOSED FOR RETURN OF DEPOSIT RECEIPT)

PLEASE SEND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING: SAN DIEGO ZOO AND ANIMAL PARK X SEAWORLD \_\_\_\_\_ TIJUANA X BASEBALL TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_ (SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE ENCLOSED)

RETURN TO:

FATHER JACK PEJZA  
ANARC CONVENTION CHAIRMAN  
3266 NUTMEG ST.  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92104

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO  
"ANARC CONVENTION COMMITTEE"

10 <sup>75</sup> received  
\$6.25 received

IRCA 1 of 2

NEWS RELEASE

The International Radio Club of America will hold its ninth annual convention at Fabulous Inns, Mission Valley, from Friday June 30 to Monday July 3. IRCA is one of the largest radio clubs of its kind in the world, with over 450 members. Its members search the radio spectrum to hear distant and rare radio stations. This hobby, known as DXing, is shared by thousands of persons throughout the world. The best known aspect of the hobby is shortwave listening. An older and perhaps more difficult part of the hobby is broadcast-band DXing, that is, listening only on the frequencies between 540 and 1600 kilocycles. IRCA concentrates on this phase of DXing. Its members do not transmit or broadcast, as do amateur or "ham" operators, but simply listen; some using ordinary table radios and others with highly sensitive and specialized communications receivers and antennas.

A large percentage of broadcast band DXers, as well as shortwave listeners, concentrate on listening to foreign stations. Some DXers have heard over 100 different countries on the broadcast band. Others specialize in trying to hear a portion of the more than 5000 stations in the United States and Canada. Old-time DXers, such as James Critchett, 1504 Glenwood Drive, San Diego, have heard over 2500 stations in the course of over forty years of listening.

IRCA has held its annual convention in San Diego before, in 1965. The convention is primarily an opportunity for members to learn more about the hobby. It is one of the few occasions throughout the year when members actually get together face to face. Radio listening is usually a solitary hobby, pursued late at night, since that is the time that ionospheric conditions permit long-distance reception. To keep members in touch with each other and to pass on tips on stations heard, the club publishes a 30 page bulletin, "DX Monitor", 34 times a year--weekly during the winter and less frequently during the summer "off-season". The bulletin lists hot tips, reports from members listing specific information on stations recently

MORE



IRCA 2 of 2

heard. It also lists special programs or test conducted by hard-to-hear stations. Special features in the bulletin include "State of the Month" lists, summarizing formats, hours of broadcasting, and other information on stations.

IRCA also conducts annual contests in which the members vie for prizes, trying to log and verify domestic and foreign stations. Achievement awards are presented to members for their accomplishments in the hobby. Annually at the convention, an award is made to the one member who has been voted by the club as making the greatest contribution to the hobby during the preceding year. President Percy Kesteven, of Edmonton, Alberta, will make this presentation at the annual business meeting on Saturday evening.

During the convention, members will tour radio stations KFMB and KOGO, and will have an opportunity to see how radio stations actually operate. They will have an opportunity to see displays of radios and special loop antennas used to improve chances of logging rare stations. On display throughout the convention will be cards and letters of verification from radio stations throughout the world. About fifty DXers are expected to attend the convention.

-30-

For more information, contact either of the following:

Father Jack Pejza, foreign editor for "DX Monitor", 282-0076

Grant Manning, 274-4233, broadcast editor for American Shortwave Listeners' Club,  
another DX club, primarily a shortwave club.

Convention headquarters: Fabulous Inns, 291-7700, Suite 400, Friday morning to  
Monday morning.

## AGENDA

FRIDAY-- REGISTRATION--USUALLY PEOPLE WILL BE COMING IN ALL DAY, AND MANY WILL ARRIVE IN THE EVENING. DON'T HAVE ANYTHING REALLY SCHEDULED FOR MOST OF THE DAY, EXCEPT PERHAPS FOR SMALL INFORMAL TOURS (PRE-ARRANGED) OF STATIONS, OR OF OTHER LOCAL SITES.

FRIDAY EVENING-- THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO HAVE SOME SORT OF OPENING SESSION; I FORGET WHAT WE DID IN 1972, BUT IN 1972, WE HAD A ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF DXING.

SATURDAY MORNING--STATION TOURS. DON'T SCHEDULE TOO MANY; TWO IS PROBABLY AS GOOD AS ANY. TRY TO HIT A STATION WHICH HAS AM-FM-TV CAPABILITIES; THERE ARE SOME WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEE A TV STUDIO. WE ALSO SCHEDULED A TOUR OF THE NAVY TRANSMITTER FACILITY/

SATURDAY AFTERNOON- I DON'T THINK WE HAD ANYTHING FORMALLY SCHEDULED IN 1972; FOR ANARC IN 1973 WE HAD MEETINGS OF THE VARIOUS CLUBS, EVERY HALF-HOUR.

SATURDAY EVENING-- COCKTAIL HOUR (GENERALLY IN THE BANQUET ROOM), FOLLOWED BY THE BANQUET (AND GUEST SPEAKER). FOLLOWED BY BUSINESS MEETING OF CLUB, AND AUCTION. THIS IS THE LONGEST SESSION OF THE CONVENTION, AND IS THE ONE THAT MOST WILL ATTEND.

SUNDAY MORNING-- LEAVE FREE FOR PEOPLE TO GO TO CHURCH, SIGHT-SEE, ETC.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON-- SOFTBALL GAME AND PICNIC.

SUNDAY EVENING--SOME WILL HAVE LEFT ALREADY, BUT THERE SHOULD BE A SUFFICIENT NUMBER TO EITHER HAVE A GUEST SPEAKER OR A TECHNICAL DISCUSSION.

SUNDAY LATE--DX SESSION. USUALLY THERE ARE TOO MANY FLUORESCENT LIGHTS AND TVs IN A HOTEL TO DO MUCH SERIOUS DXING. NRC HAS HAD THE TRADITION OF HAVING A DXPEDITION-- GOING TO SOME QUIET LOCATION AND SEEING WHAT CAN BE HEARD.

MONDAY-- CHECKOUT TIME.

GENERAL IDEAS AND  
AGENDA SUGGESTIONS

FOR AN ANARC CONVENTION, I THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO TRY TO HAVE TALKS ON AS MANY ASPECTS OF DX'ING AS POSSIBLE. WE MADE THE MISTAKE OF NOT ARRANGING MANY TALKERS IN ADVANCE; AS A RESULT WE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE MUCH PREPARED. IRCA CONVENTIONS GENERALLY HAVE BEEN MORE INFORMAL THAN ANARC AFFAIRS, AND AS A RESULT FEWER TECHNICAL SESSIONS HAVE BEEN PLANNED.

2. MOST UNEXPECTED CIRCUMSTANCE WE ENCOUNTERED-- A THEFT OF ALL OUR BEER AND SOFTDRINKS DURING THE IRCA CONVENTION. FORTUNATELY THE THIEF DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT RECEIVERS ( OR FIGURED THEY'D BE TOO HARD TO GET RID OF, SO THE ONLY ONE HE TOOK WAS A ZINITH TRANSOCEANIC.
3. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TABLE SPACE IN THE MEETING ROOM FOR RECEIVERS, BERIC COLLECTIONS, FREEBIES FROM THE VARIOUS CLUBS, ETC. FOUR 10 OR 12 FOOT TABLES WOULD BE A MINIMUM.
4. AS HOST I SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF MY TIME REGISTERING PEOPLE, AND JUST GENERALLY BEING IN THE MEETING ROOM TALKING. IF YOU'VE GOT THINGS PLANNED IN ADVANCE, IT WON'T TAKE TOO MUCH OF YOUR TIME DURING THE CONVENTION ATTENDING TO SMALL DETAILS.
5. REFERRING BACK TO ITEM 1, WE FOUND THAT VERY FEW VOLUNTEERED TO GIVE PRESENTATIONS, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO BEAT THE BUSHES TO GET PEOPLE TO TALK.
6. TRY TO GET SOME KIND OF SOUVENIRS FOR THE CONVENTION. WE HAD THE ENCLOSED CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE PRINTED BP. THE 1974 IRCA CONVENTION PROVIDED A GOODIE BAG OF ALL KINDS OF FREEBIES, RANGING FROM PHONE COMPANY PERSONAL DIRECTORIES TO BUMPER STICKERS, BALL POINT PENS, KEY CHAINS, ETC., WHICH VARIOUS RADIO STATIONS AROUND TOWN WERE GIVING AWAY AS PROMOTIONAL IDEAS.

# ANARC

(ANACHRONISTIC and NOMADIC AURORAL RADIO CLUB)

## CONVENTION 1973

*san diego*

*Father Jack Pizzo*  
OFFICIAL PARTICIPANT

*Dan D. Receiver*

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

*Mike R. O'Phone*

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

*F*ABULOUS  
INNS OF AMERICA