

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

Have you ever caught yourself asking this question? We often join an organization like the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) with good intentions and a gung ho attitude. After months of work and tiring aspirations we often sit back and look over our accomplishments or lack of and wonder "What's in it for me"? This is the time that we need to remember the what, when, where and why, we're doing what we do.

What do I do to help the ARRL? You must be confident in the way you portray the league and what it stands for. The proper attitude will make you feel better about what you're doing. Attitude and presence could eventually play a part in how long you'd continue to be a part of what you've chosen to do. Continuing education on the particular job you have accepted to do is a benefit to you and the ones you serve. The league will make every effort to provide that material. Depending on what you've chosen to do there is a possibility that there was someone that preceded you and they would be glad to help answer those questions that seem unanswerable, all you have to do is ask.

When do I need to be at the top of what I've chosen to do? This question is best answered by you and how much time you have to put in to what you're doing. Those who have to work and be away from the hobby for hours and maybe even days at a time will have a different answer than those who are retired and able to concentrate on the hobby at their leisure. We can only ask that when you accept a position or become part of an organization that you consider the time you have to give before asking or accepting a given position. This should be the only difference though between the two as the public and prospective hams will see you in this light. Here again if you're confident and honest with those whom you're serving as league official you will prosper. If you deny or don't show an interest, your actions will let others know that you're not really giving your all. Carl Ruh, W4TZZ once told me, if you don't live up to the obligations of your duties, then you must take a keen awareness as to the respect that was given to you by the members as to your leadership. This should be something we all strive to abide by as a representative of the ARRL.

Where do I start then? First, start by asking yourself what's in it for the league if I volunteer? In answering this you'll have some sort of idea as to what you should be expecting from yourself. If you feel that you can give the time, effort and values then it's going to be half the battle. As in anything we chose to do, we should set the proverbial bar set high enough to achieve with satisfaction and recompense. Rewards should come when we see others willing to join and help take part of the load and serve as we have served.

Why then do we volunteer? This question has been asked by many of the folks in the ARRL and can best be answered by you and you alone. No one person can make a difference, but together we can calm the waters and make it interesting for those to come behind us. When we became an amateur we all were quizzed over the FCC rules and regulations. The basis and purposes include recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, (97.1a). Yes, we are to provide communications free to the public which can be done in many ways. But, more important is the fact that it will enhance the hobby, which the league is very big part.

I hope that if you're not a member of the ARRL, you'll take the time and join. The league offers many different aspects to the hobby and I'm sure that you will find something that will fit you. It is not just a magazine; in fact none of your dues goes towards the publication of QST.

Remember it is not "WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME", but rather "WHAT'S IN IT FOR THE LEAGUE AND THE HOBBY". You can make a difference.

73

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