

COP

Having read with interest your stories in ARA about the joining of C.B. and A.R. bodies, I thought you might be interested in this story.

The South West Amateur Radio Group Inc and the Bunbury Radio Club Inc have recently affiliated with each other. They are sharing the premises leased by the Bunbury Radio Club.

The Bunbury Radio Club has been in existence since March 1977 and they have issued over 570 membership numbers since then. The origins of this club are strictly of C.B. orientation, but they have gathered their own small group of amateurs over the years. About two years ago VK6AJJ John and VK6YNE Nick, with some prompting from a few of the C.B. operators in the district, decided to start a study group for Amateur Radio. This group grew rather rapidly, and with quite a bit of success in swelling the ranks of A.R. in our district. The club, through W.I.A., now conducts A.R. exams for the district.

After a lot of discussion and pushing from VK6WOG Peter, it was decided to approach the S.W.A.R.G. about some form of affiliation of the two groups because it seemed senseless having two groups, with the same common interest, using different premises. The initial reaction being, "Can the two groups successfully co-exist?".

The S.W.A.R.G., with quite a bit of history of its own, pondered over this question for some time. Under the guidance of their newly elected president, VK6HX Mitch, it was decided to form the affiliation of the two clubs. This took place in early June '92 and all S.W.A.R.G. members became members of B.R. Club but retained the S.W.A.R.G. identity for amateur studies and other group activities.

If the reaction so far is anything to go by, the merger should have happened years ago. The interaction of the two groups has been nothing short of spectacular, with both groups wanting to take on projects together.

The first project was to provide Check Point communications for Rally Australia - This was carried out by both A.R. and C.B. members using the two metre band under the blanket cover of W.I.C.E.N..

If you have the same situation in your district, I would advise you to consider a merger - It may be just what your clubs need to rejuvenate them, as we have found.

The club rooms used by the combined club is quite a place for a Regional Radio group - The building consists of a Hall, Office, Kitchen, two Store rooms (One now a Radio Room), and two change rooms. Amenities include Pool Table, Video Games, Darts and a Juke Box to name a few - quite an achievement for such a small group we feel.

We wish you all the best should you take the same course we did.

Yours in Radio.

B.R.C. and S.W.A.R.G.