

James G. Coote WB6AAM
WB6AAM Repeater 146.01/146.61
2265 Westwood Blvd. #561
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Concerned Amateurs

FCC

Amateur Media

Repeater Owners

Friends of Six-One

I have sent you this letter because of events in the two-meter L.A. ham community, that if allowed to continue will set a bad precedent for the entire service of amateur radio.

You will be shocked and angered as I was, once you learn what is really going on.

Some of you have already heard of my 146.61 repeater. For those who haven't, my repeater is regarded as controversial in some circles. My repeater is run on a "Free and Open" basis. Six-one is set aside for discussions and fun. When the discussion takes an unusual turn I do not turn the repeater off, or censor amateur conversations.

All I ask is that hams abide by the FCC rules. Unidentified transmissions, "Bootleggers", jamming, and music broadcasts are out.

Over a year ago I announced a "Get Tough" policy towards the bootleggers and "No I.D.'ers". A control device was installed to prevent the illegals from dominating my repeater. Users were asked to expose troublemakers by direction-finding. Users were also asked not to encourage jamming and bootleggers.

Shortly after our policy was put into operation, I caught a jammer in the act. It turned out that this jammer was a ham.

It was immediately after this jammer was exposed (and our new policy) that the real trouble began.

A large number of anonymous publications, some entitled "Gazelle"; "Take a Number", and "Last Call" appeared. They were sent to our users, and many L.A. hams.

The group responsible gave their reasons for the flyers. The slander, lies and attacks were to get me to "See the Light"... to force me to return the repeater to the "Old days" before our anti-bootlegger policies.

This group threatened to do all in their power "To see my repeater fall, and me with it if necessary".

Soon after the first newsletters (about a year ago) the owners of KJOI radio (from whom I was renting the repeater site at the time) sent me a letter.

They (KJOI) had received an anonymous tape and letter carefully edited in order to exaggerate the operations on the repeater. KJOI asked me to "Clean up" the transmissions or vacate the site.

The "Bootleggers" succeeded in evicting my repeater from it's site!

It was ironic that the "Tape" contained excerpts of things that occurred over a four or five year period, and that these transmissions were a very small part of my repeaters operation. It's downright hypocritical that this group sent a tape of the type of operation they condone to KJOI.

Had I kept the repeater at KJOI, on their terms, the jammers would have kept up a constant barrage of their broadcasts..to keep the repeater shut off per terms dictated by KJOI.

Since these events my repeater is in another rented site with poorer coverage.

The threats,harassment, and "Newsletters" have continued.

Last week a newsletter titled "Last Call" was circulated.

This latest newsletter threatens another campaign to get my repeater evicted from it's current site, and any new sites it is moved to.

The reason is the same. I won't allow my repeater to be dominated by "Illegals" and the few hams who support their activity.

This time, the illegals have threatened to put up a repeater that does encourage their type of operation.

Please- this is not just factions fighting over club policy. This affects all hams. A group who supports unlicensed and illegal operation wants to force a repeater off the band!

If this group shuts down my repeater they surely won't get FCC-backed coordination for one of their own. They may move on to other repeaters.

There aren't many choices for a repeater under siege. A repeater group can "Live and let live" or "Go with the flow" as the bootleggers put it.

A repeater group can dump the repeater, turn it off on the jamming.

Putting up with "Radio Terrorism" or turning off are weak, temporary solutions to a growing problem.

The illegals don't care which repeaters come and go, as long as they have a wide audience to broadcast their show to. Like real terrorists, they believe "The ends justify the means".

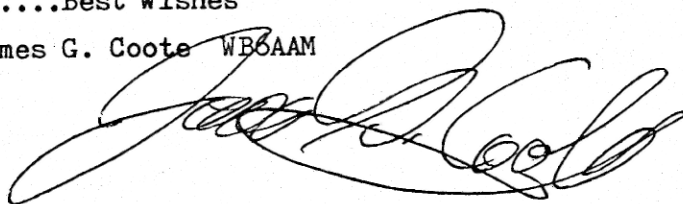
I think all hams, especially those in large cities with high VHF populations had better wake up, even if the problem is not in your own back yard at present.

Enclosed are excerpts and clippings from the anonymous newsletters and threats.

Also attached are copies of the anonymous letter to KJOI and other related material.

73....Best Wishes

James G. Coote WB6AAM

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James G. Coote', is written over the typed name and call sign.