



## Editorial

## THE AGE-OLD TOPIC OF READER INPUT

A definition of a hobby might be that it's an activity especially loved by an individual who is willing to spend long hours and much effort in its pursuit.

Well, that being the case, one would think that there would be few things easier in this world than penning a few lines every once and awhile and sending in said contributions to your editors for inclusion in your various hobby publications. Right?

WRONG? Hobby editors have been screaming since the inception of the hobby, itself, over 60 years ago, that getting bulletin input from readers is worse than pulling teeth!...And, in fact, in most cases it simply can't be done. As an editor, one can beg, plead, cajole, threaten, shame...it normally does no good at all. Usually, at best, the result is simply polite excuses as to why it's not going to happen. At worst, there's simply that deafening silence from the vast *silent* majority...and, boy, are they silent!

What's the problem? Are readers just INHERENTLY EVIL, attempting to thwart the Editor's angelic goal of producing a good, interesting bulletin?—Well, perhaps...a few...(I could name a couple, come to think of it! hee hee). But, the majority, I suspect, are good-hearted souls who just can't find the time or inclination to do so.

For a significant number, I believe, the problem may simply be a lack of confidence when it comes to writing. On initial examination, I'd have to admit, it would appear a fairly daunting prospect to have to lay your thoughts out in front of any audience at all, but to additionally do that in the form of writing, where your thoughts are not only open to scrutiny, but your vocabulary, mechanics, and syntax are, as well, would make that prospect even more unattractive for some people [*although certainly not for those of us who are opinionated, verbose, and extroverted!—that's why we become editors!*]

The problem of lacking confidence to write is the same as that involved in being wary of public speaking—and the solution to both is the same...success brings confidence...so you try your hand, perhaps in a small way at first, and test the waters. A letter to the Ed., a small article, etc., just to see what happens. And, when you see that no one is going to pounce on you and take your head off, and that your peers are actually interested in what you have to say, your confidence builds. One thing leads to another, and pretty soon you're not only writing larger, more in-depth offerings, but you're writing letters to the editor of your local newspaper and attending city council meetings. The next thing you know, you're on the local school board...then you've been elected mayor. You successfully run for state assemblyman...then governor...and one day, there you are, comfortably ensconced in the Oval Office!...and all because you took the time and the effort to make a small contribution to your hobby bulletin.

***Do it for yourself!***

***Contribute to your***

***God bless***



***Do it for your country!***

***bulletin today!***

***America!***