

HAM HUM

AK-SAR-BEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. Post Office Box 291 — Downtown Station Omaha, Nebraska 68101

September 1982



Vol. XXXII No. 9



Tom Wong VE1BC/BY1PK (See story on page 6)

NO REGULAR MEETING IN SEPTEMBER.

SEE NOTICE INSIDE ON PAGE 5 ABOUT FIRST ANNUAL DANCE/SOCIAL - SEPTEMBER 17, 1982.

HAM HUM is the official organ of the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club, Inc., of Omaha, Nebraska, mailed monthly to all members and to others upon request.

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Dues-Annual Basis

(Due and Payable each January 1.) New member initiation fee ... \$ 1.00 Regular member \$10.00 Regular member and spouse .\$12.00 Student member \$ 4.00 Published by: AK-SAR-BEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. Post Office Box 291 Omaha, Nebraska 68101 President ... Walt Brown, KAØDMB

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Copy deadline for Oct. is Sept. 17th

Dues-Quarterly Basis (For each quarter or part thereof for balance of calendar year.) New member initiation fee\$1.00 Regular member\$3.00 Regular member and spouse ...\$3.60 Student member\$1.05

NEXT MEETING

No September Meeting Club Dance at Millard Legion September 17, 1982

WHEN: FRIDAY, October 8, 1982

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

- WHERE: HEARTLAND CHAPTER AMERICAN RED CROSS 38th and DEWEY AVENUE OMAHA, NE 68105
- PROGRAM: Electronics Aids to Aviation by Kay Ramsey, WØSBZ

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THE PREZ SEZ

President Walt asked me to guest-write the column this month since he had to make a quick trip to the hospital. All of us hope that Walt's trip will be a uick one and that he will be back with us shortly.

Last month's Club meeting was well attended, especially considering it was a vacation month. The program was good and the presentor was worth the trip all by herself. I still think Jim (WBØJPN) has all the luck in winning the big prize at the drawing. It was interesting that the vote to retain a code requirement won by a ratio of about 70 to 4. Reaffirms my beliefs on that subject.

The picnic is scheduled for today so can't say much about that except the sky outside is clear blue and the sun is bright. Hopefully it will stay like that for the next few hours and everyone will have a good time.

Next month is the first annual club dance to be held at the American Legion Club in Millard. There promises to be a good cross section of music for all age ranges (probably even, God forbid, some country western). So there should be something for Kevin's (NØEAK) age group all the way to Dick's (KØDG). Be sure to be there if for no other reason than a few good snickers at some of the dancers. It promises to be fun.

Walt will be back here in his usual column next month with more news. See you at the dance.

de Bill NØANQ

NOTES FROM THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Held August 13, 1982, at the American Red Cross Building 38 & Dewey Streets, Omaha, Nebraska

President Walter Brown, KAØDMB, opened the meeting at 19:30 hours, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by the attendees.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in HAM-HUM.

Moved and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be approved as read. Moved and seconded that we accept as a new member Stephen Budzinski, KØHRF, Advance Class.

Committee Reports: Membership, Bill Martin, NØANQ; Education Committee, Bob Lockwood, WAØDHU; Field Day 83, Frank Bruner, KØSST; Program, Jim Wilson, WBØJPN.

Bill Martin, NØANQ, conducted a poll of the members present as to their opinion of the proposed no-code license. The results were overwhelmingly against a no-code license.

Kevin Beam announced an up-grade to General Class, with a change in call sign from KAØMWY to NØEAK.

Door prizes were won by Bill Abbott, Chuck Peaker, George Whitney, Bill Fiske, Mike Wilczynski, Christy Boone, Ken Walker, Vern Wirka, Dallas Sawyer, Ward Justus, Kay Wilson, Jim Wilson.

The meeting was formally adjourned, followed by a program about Great Inventions, presented by a representative of Western Electric. Coffee, doughnuts and rolls were served.

> Respectfully submitted, Lysle Renne, NØCKH Secretary

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING Held on August 3, 1982, at the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Building at 19:30 hours.

Board Members present: Walt Brown, KAØDMB President; Dick Fehrman, KAØAAB, Treasurer, Lysle Renne, NØCKH, Secretary; Frank Bruner, KØSST; Chuck Hoffman, WBØNVL; Jim Sanford, NØAIH; Jim Wilson, WBØJPN; Bill Martin, NØANQ, Vice-President; Fred Genovesi, KAØKDJ.

Minutes were approved for the meetings of June 19, 1982, July 6, 1982 and July 9, 1982.

Moved and seconded that the Treasurer's report be approved.

Moved and seconded that the Treasurer be authorized to obtain an 89 day repurchase certificate in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Moved and seconded that Frank, KØSST, present the Field Day 83 report that was tabled at the July 6th meeting.

Moved and seconded that a request be brought up on the floor of the August general membership meeting for volunteers from which the Club President can appoint a special committee for Field Day 83.

Moved and seconded that club members be asked at the August general membership meeting for volunteers to ram rod the Club picnic. In the absence of such volunteers, the picnic is to be conducted on a pot luck basis. Passage of this motion was not unanimous.

Moved and seconded that the Board go into executive session.

Moved and seconded that the Board be declared out of executive session.

Moved and seconded that the Executive Council of the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club go on record with the membership and with FCC as opposed to a no-code license. It was also moved and seconded that this action of the Board be recorded as unanimous.

Moved and seconded that the Equipment Committee Chairman be released from responsibility for the TU unit not now under his control. Meeting was adjourned.

> Respectfully submitted, Lysle Renne, NØCKH Secretary

Ak-Sar-Ben Ametuer Radio Club

Presents

The First Annual

September

Dance/Social

Sept. 17, 1982

Millard Legion Hall

8 p.m. — 12:30 p.m.

- Recorded Music
- Cash Bar (Legion Club)
- Door Prizes

Please bring a munchie or a dip

Donation — \$1.50 (\$3.00 couple) at the door (to defray cost of hall)

> Come one and all and enjoy the evening with your fellow club members

> Please note: No regular club meeting this month

Questions?? — Call WBØJPN Jim Wilson

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As expected, the 1982 National ARRL Convention in Ced Rapids, Iowa, July 23-25, was just A-OK! The convention host, the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club, has indeed outdone itself again. There were many familiar faces there, and I believe the number of XYL's in attendance was up (maybe even a record, if anyone has been keeping track).

My XYL, Marlene, and I made the trip from Omaha to Cedar Rapids and back with Dave (NOCLW) and Sandy (NOCLQ) Hamilton in their full-size (?) Mercury Continental. Dave and Sandy took turns at the wheel, while Marlene and I kept an eye out for rustic old barns that we could photograph for the Mutual of Omaha Employee's Photography Contest. We saw plenty of old barns, alright, but none that were quite rustic enough. So instead of stopping to photograph barns on the way out, Dave kept us all entertained by reciting the lyrics of some of the new popular rock songs (isn't that right, Kay?).

We stopped for a little lunch and a pecan roll on our way down the road, and who should we run into but Ray (WDOGIL) and Ilene (XYL) Fink and Dave (ADOD) and Myrna Daniel, also chowing down and already beginning to enjoy the fun of convention tripping. They were finishing up as we were just starting, which put them about 45 minutes up the asphalt ahead of us (little play on words, there?).

After about a six hour ride, we arrived in Cedar Rapids around 5:00 p.m. on Friday. We checked into our rooms, freshened up a bit (ie - hit the heads), and wandered down to survey the Exhibition Hall, which opened up at 6:00. From the outset, we realized that the AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club was again well represented, as is generally the case nowadays at conventions that are within spittin' distance of the Omaha/Council Bluffs area. Manning the ARRL Zero-Land QSL Bureau Booth, as usual, were Charie (WOQQN) Rodgers and his lovely bride Alma. Bob Grinnell (WDOFDE) and Eddie Hofmann (WDOHBY) had already set up the Nebraska Surplus Center Booth, and Marty (WAOGEH) and Sharon Griffin, in cahoots with Tom Theissen (KOPQR), had their usual stock of TV sets and TV carrying handles ready for sale in the Electronics' Brokers Booth (Marty was selling carrying handles for TV sets for \$45.00 each, and throwing in a free TV set with each purchase - look for picture # 1.)

Even though all the exhibits were not fully set up and operational yet, we kept ourselves entertained by milling around the booths that were up and visiting with other club members as they arrived. T'was here that we first saw photogenic Sammy Kaplan (WDOBVH) (- see picture # 2) and met his better half Charlotte.

Then we adjourned to dinner in the excellent restaurant on

the 16th floor of the hotel. There we partook of a fantastic seafood buffet, thoroughly enjoying every tender morsel, while being served by a truly delightful young lady who brought us up to date on the local legend and lore (gossip). Then, it was off to e sack early (about 10:30 p.m.) to rest up for a full day's stivities on Saturday.

UP-AN-AT-EM Early Saturday, We were back at our own private table in the 16th floor restaurant for breakfast (the same table we had been given the night before), when Frank "Shadow" Wolczak (WAOIWF) suddenly appeared. Out of nowhere, it was, and there he stood! We all chatted for a time over breakfast, then Shadow headed out (or simply disappeared, I should say) after promising to meet Dave and I at the 11:00 a.m. program on satellite receiving systems. Of course, we never saw him again until later on that night at the Banquet, as you might have already guessed. I did actually think I got a picture of Frank standing beside a water fountain in the hotel lobby, but when I got the film developed, the water fountain was there alright, but no sign of Frank! I guess I'll just have to start shooting with faster film.

After breakfast, it was off to the Flea Market and Exhibition Hall for a few hours before our 11:00 appointment with Shadow. We saw the Blue Cross Gang, Bill Martin (NOANQ) and Dave Winchell (KAOHLY), scouring the Flea Market for antenna and tower repair kit bargains, but about all they could come up with were Mitch Gagne, (NOAZF), Walt Brown (KAODMB), and Charlie Peaker (KCODB). Some bargains, eh? I did notice, by the way, that Mitch and Jim Sanford (NOAIH) were MUCH quieter than usual at this convention. But, it's probably just a coincidence that their better three-quarters, June and Arlene, were along with them, don't you think? (heh heh).

We chatted briefly with Charlie Wolfmeyer (WOKH), and it sounded like he was certainly enjoying the activity in the Exhibition Hall. I also spotted Ron Sundsboe (WAOMQM) pounding away on an Apple Computer at one of the booths, so maybe we'll soon see another "Computer Nut" up on the RTTY bands? And, of course, Doug Halbert (KOBOY) was lurking about, looking for repeater parts, junk 450 gear, and wild women. And speaking of wild women, David (NOCLW), - you little rascal!

In the way of new toys, I heard that Jim Wilson (WB0JPN) got a new Palomar Wattmeter and some capacitors and other parts that he'll probably never use, and Dick Fehrman (KA0AAB) got a new frequency counter. Dave (NOCLW) ordered a new touch-tone microphone (and lord knows what else) from Peggy (WB9RWV) at the Amateur Electronics Supply of Milwaukee, Wisconsin Booth, and Mitch Gagne (NOAZF) almost won a Radio Shack Color Computer at the drawings on Sunday. Sorry about that, Mitch.

Chuck Rush (NOAZ) stopped to talk with us when we were parked t the Collins Booth admiring the KWM-380. He told us a horror story he had heard about a guy who sent his KWM-380 to Collins for fixin' and ended up with an \$1800.00 repair bill! Now I don't remember the price on my old Kenwood TS-520. but I'll bet you I

could get about four of them for that, and even have some change left over! However, who is to say but that the guy in the story didn't toss the KWM-380 in question down an elevator shaft to begin with, which, as we all know, is an increasing probabability with these new transceivers (this is known as Hamilton' Frustration Syndrome - it comes about slowly, usually over a two or three month time frame, when you still haven't been able to figure out, let alone remember, how to operate all the gadgets, whistles, tinkles, and VFO's on your new, computer-controlled, automatic compensating, priority interrupt, whing-dang super-duper transceiver). Then, maybe, the 1800 big ones would have been cheap at half the price. Who's to say, anyway? At any rate, we didn't hang around the Collins Booth much longer.

And, speaking of elevator shafts, sealing wax, and such - be sure to ask the Fehrmans, Dick (KAOAAB) and Viv (XYL), about their tremendous, out-of-this-world SUPER elevator ride! I hear they made it from the 16th floor to the 2nd floor in just under a second! Now if you ask me, that's wanting to get to the lounge for a snort pretty darned bad! Hey, you don't suppose that Stouffers might have rigged that elevator especially for the AK-SAR-BEN Club crowd after the hospitality elevator trick in that same hotel a few years ago?

Lysle "Smiley" Renne (NOCKH) was having a fun time and Bob Lockwood (WAODHU) was busy trying to sign Dick Eilers (WOYZV) and Tom Theissen (KOPQR) up for the fall session of the General Code Class. John Click (WBOBVO) was at the Flea Market trying to sell the UT-4 UART that I sold to him that Jim Wilson (WBOJPN) sold to me that Shadow (WAOIWF) built for him that never quite worked right.

Then I had a very pleasant surprise. Somebody tapped me on the back in the Exhibition Hall, and I turned around quickly (I thought it might be Peggy (WB9RWV)) to see the smiling face of Joe Burnham, KAOLDY! Now, if you keep your old HAM-HUM Magazines, dig out the June, 1980 issue and look at the cover picture of a public service award that was presented to the Nebraska Section of the ARRL by the Professional Insurance Agents (PIA) of Nebraska. Joe is the very fellow that recommended us for that award, and I worked very closely with him at the time to set up the award ceremony at a PIA convention in Omaha in May, 1980. Joe was not a Ham then, but, inspired by the knowledge that he gained while arranging for the award, Joe became interested in Amateur Radio and went on to get his own Ham Ticket! Congratulations, Joe, and welcome to the Amateur Radio Community.

David and I then struck out alone for our 11:00 a.m. meeting with Shadow at the Satellite Receiving Program site. Shadow, of course, never made it (as a matter of fact, Frank was pretty scarce all day), but we did run across Norval (WAONPF) and Connie (WAOMYF) Bowen and Dick (WOYZV) and Julie (XYL) Eilers and Bob Lockwood (WAODHU) - see picture # 3 - not as artistic, maybe, as a rustic old barn, but much better than an IWF.

After the Satellite Program, we hustled over to another very

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interesting and informative program about Computer Control of the Ham Shack, and then we went out a'looking for our XYL's. About that time, we started hearing from all the Hams we ran into that our XYL's were really ticked off at us. Sandy (NOCLQ) had been calling us and calling us on triple-nickle, they told us, but alas; no response!

Well, listen! If you ever want to be the object of the dirty (and I mean absolutely raunchy!) stares of about a hundred or so Hams, most of whom are bigger than you anyway, plus verbal threats of intense physical pain and massive bodily harm, just try leaving your Handy-Talky running and squelching away during an interesting convention program (which is very rare and hard to find these days, you see). So, of course, not being unduly stupid (which is sometimes subject to discussion, but that's another topic all together), and not really caring much to encounter any pain or other physical discomfort that we could possibly avoid, David and I quietly just squelched our two meter rigs clean off! However, we did finally manage to hook up with the XYL's again, even though they had already eaten lunch without us. We smoothed the altercation over, and quite nicely I thought, by explaining our previous predicament. Then, we had a make-up scotch in the bar, and we all happily headed out together for the next program on our agenda, the Cocos Island DX-pedition. We then lived happily ever after through the whole program (sic).

Somewhere along the line, I thought I saw Rich Swig (WAOZQG) and Carmen Swaim (KAOILM). While running around the Flea Market, I talked briefly with Doc John Amdor (KOZQ), and literally "bumped into" his XYL, Joyce (WBOZQC) - they had flown up to Cedar Rapids for the day from Massena, Iowa with a friend, and they were heading back later that afternoon.

Finally, - time to start getting dressed for the Banquet!

as a certified convention goer, I know that the first Now. thing you have to do to get prepared for a Convention Banquet is to get yourself well oiled up so you can stand the food and make it through the speeches, and not necessarily one in particular over and instead of or even in lieu of the other. So with this indisputable fact well in mind, David (NOCLW) ordered \$5.00 worth of Horse's Dover's (peanuts, chips, and dips) from Room Service for about \$50.00, and we opened up an informal hospital-tally sheet in his room (see picture # 4). Then we just sort of Then we just sort of whispered "QRZ?" on triple nickle, and the room magically filled up with AK-SAR-BEN-ites of all sizes, shapes, ages, colors, religious affiliations, educational backgrounds, arrest records, license classes, sexual preferences, and levels of intoxication. For the next hour or so, we simply chatted away, imbibed in good chips and drink, and listened to Lysle's jokes as folks sauntered (a much better word than "stumbled") in, out, around, and about. In addition, NOAIH finally disconnected the autopatch on the triple-nickle repeater for the remainder of the convention about this time, due to popular request.

Then, after performing the four S's (three of which are

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Shower, Shave, and Suit-up), we headed for the Banquet. When we were seated, we were pleased to find that Tom Wong (VE1BC/BY1PK) was also at our table (see cover picture). Tom is one of the Hams who helped get China back on the air recently, and we had a very pleasant and interesting chat with him. As a gift, Tom presented each of the ladies at our table with a couple of real Chinese coins as a souvenir of BY1PK. Thanks, Tom, and to you CW buffs, watch for BY1PK running CW on 15 and 20 meters.

The food was excellent. This was probably the best Banquet meal I have ever had. It was piping hot when served, and even tasted good. As for the ARRL speeches and the featured speaker, KL7AM, my Momma always told me that if you can't honestly say anything good about something, don't say anything at all. However, I think it is pretty well summed up in the picture of Jim Wilson (WB0JPN), (- picture # 5) actually taken during the introductions!

Marlene and I finally decided not to stay for the last three or four hours of the KL7AM's speech, which seemed to be chronicling his Ham career from the early 1900's to the present day. So we rudely got up and left early, somewhere about 1917, I think. However, I don't think we gave a bad impression of the club because I doubt if anyone could have picked us out amongst the crowd that was already jamming the exits.

We stopped off on the tenth floor on the way back to fifteen, and who should we run into but the Griffins, Marty (WAOGEH) and Sharon (XYL), who invited us in for a Night Cap (Actually, we had been stopping off at every floor on the way up to our room on fifteen looking for a party). In their room, we met several new faces, including Al (K9WVM) and Karen Malleck from Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and Carol Mahre, XYL of Marvin (WOMGI) of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Tom (KOPQR) was there also, and we promptly dug into the Point beer (for those of you who aren't aware of it, "Point" is the beer that made Stevens Point famous).

Now I don't know Marty (WAOGEH) very well, since he was busy leaving the Omaha area for a new job with Mountain Bell in Denver, Colorado just about the same time that I was getting active in the club. I soon found out, though, that everything I had heard about him over the last few years was essentially true, and maybe even somewhat understated! Not only is he completely and incurably mad, but he also knew the punchlines to ALL my old jokes (maybe, though, they came from the same source?)! However, he did take pity (compassion lives!) on me after about 15 of my real golden-oldie El-Floppos, and let me tell one all the way through from beginning to end. Too bad it couldn't have been a funny one.

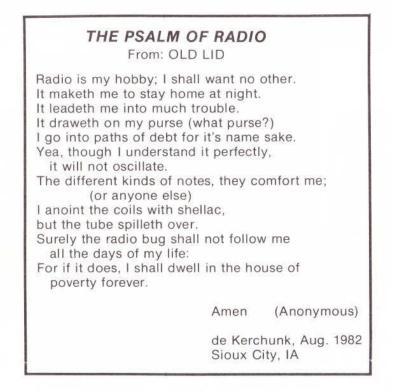
Oh, by the way, the next time you see Marty or Sanford (NOAIH), ask them about the Sheik'a visit to Cedar Rapids (King Hussein, maybe?).

The next morning, we toured the Flea Market and Exhibition area one more time, and then set out for home. We had the two meter rig going most of the way, chatting with NOAZ, NOAIH, and KAOAAB as we tooled along I-80. We got back to Omaha about 6:00, and immediately started to rest up for the next convention.

All-in-all, it was another fine convention and a whale of a od time. It was great to see so many club members there, and I hope the club's participation in convention activities, including program presentation, continues to grow. I do wish, though, that there was a little more time - things seem to go by so fast, especially when there are a host of excellent programs to see, that I wonder if maybe someday someone would try a "long week-end" convention, perhaps starting on Thursday night instead of Friday night? By the way, when was the last one our club hosted (Marty?)?

So, until the next one, may the good winds fill your sails and ignore your towers and antennae

73 and CUL, de Dick (KODG)





Picture #1 (See story, page 6)



Picture #2 (See story, page 6)

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Picture #3 (See story, page 8)



Picture #4 (See story, page 9)

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Picture #5 (See story, page 10)



Chuck Sudds, KØTVD and Grandma Louise R. Pickert, WØCCD.

ODE TO EXAM TIME

By Barb Rulolph, KA8HIF

As I sit here and study For, I hope, the last time, Memories of past tests Start coming to mind.

To prepare for the Novice I struggle with code. But A-1 was my credit rating Not my radio mode.

Resistors, capacitors Coulombs, and ohms. Hey, I thought a plate Was for eating on at home.

But pass it I did, And a ham I became. K8HIF Was my radio name.

Three years of practice, Study, and fun. Now a five hour trip. Detroit, here I come.

Spent the night at my uncle's After breakfast, the exam. The frisking was through Even my peanut butter and jam.

But pass it I did, And a General I became. Now my voice could be heard From the moon to Maine. We moved out to Salt Lake To spend the school year. Guess I'll try the Advanced. The exam point is near.

With calculator and candy I'm prepared for the strain. But the questions are tricky, And my hopes start to wane.

But pass it I did, An Advanced I became. But oh how I hated To say my whole name.

KA8HIF Portable seven Interim S.F.

Now my old man, the non-ham, Said go for it all. He wanted to brag About my four-letter call.

So I'll try for the Extra, For my old man, Sid. I hope I can say, "And pass it I did."

> de Grid Leak, Aug. 1982 Pueblo, Colorado

September 1982

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Larsen Külrod Antennas

offer amateurs all the advantages enjoyed by the commercial two-way radio field.

The Larsen Külrod® Antenna was initially designed to be a superior antenna for the highly competitive commercial 2-way radio market. Today, Larsen antennas are in the forefront for both the commercial and amateur fields because they combine top performance with long range dependability.

The Külrod® Difference.

The Larsen Külrod[®] whip is made of 17-7 PH precision tapered stainless steel for durable flexibility, while minimizing radiation pattern distortion at higher vehicle speeds. It is quadruple-plated with a combination of nickel, copper and chrome for maximum power radiation efficiency. Two set screws keep Larsen antennas double-locked firmly in the base.

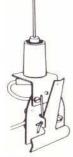
Magnetic Mount

Super-Efficient Air Wound Coils.

Larsen's loading coils are air wound for the most efficient transfer of communication energy. No power absorbing coil form is used. The base loading coil, when used, is made of extra heavy wire to stay in position and will not detune with years of use. Cutting the antenna rod, by following the instructions and cutting chart accompanying the antenna, assures lowest V.S.W.R.







Gutter Clamp

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| R. H. BRENNEMAN R. H. BRENNEMAN W Ø U Q J W Ø U Q J US3 OAR PARR ROAD (712) 323-1390 COUNCIL BLUFAS, IOWA SINGL | |
|--|--|
| | TELEPHONE GENERAL MANAGER |
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| CARPENTRY 25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE All Types Carpentry By Hour or Contract Free Estimates Mike Wilczynski, WBØBMV 496-0920 | Your card could be in this spot for \$2.50 per month. |

NEED AN ELMER? WILL YOU BE AN ELMER?

The Club is looking for members who would be interested and willing to share their knowledge in electronics with other Club members.

We have members looking for instruction and guidance in

several areas. See insert to this issue of HAM HUM for details. Mail your response to Educatio Chairman Bob Lockwood, WAØDHU, 3711 North 56th Street, Omaha, NE 68104. The Board

New Members Addition to Roster

Robert A. Davis, KAØLQB 2222 So. 148 Ave. Omaha, NE 68144

Lenny Stoner, WB8LCU 6328 No. 45 Omaha, NE 68104

John K. Nihart, KAØOKI 902 Jackson Farragut, IA 51639

Stephen H. Budzinski, KØHRF 3518 So. 105 Ave. Omaha, NE 68124

DONATIONS

<u>34/94 REPEATER</u> Sam Kaplan, WDØBVH

40/00 REPEATER Sam Kaplan, WDØBVH

22/82 REPEATER Sam Kaplan, WDØBVH

Best wishes to WBØWOT, Scot Thompson, in his recent assignment to service in the U.S. Army. My contribution to the repeater is tendered in his honor.

Sam, WDØBVH

Change of Call Kevin Beam, from KAØMWY to NØEAK

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STATIC ELECTRICITY

(From Ham Tides, Texas City, TX) (Via ARNS)

Static electricity can be a nuisance or a hazard in the home, on the job, in travel, with radio equipment, or in nature. It can cause fires and explosions, interrupt radio communications, and disrupt life in many other ways.

Static electricity is generated by the contact and separation of materials. Drops of gasoline falling through the air as one fills an automobile or tractor gas tank can generate enough static electricity to cause an explosion and fire. Several thousands of volts can be generated by running a comb through dry hair, dust particles, through the air, or even rain drops through the air (lightning). Up to 100 bolts of lightning strike the earth every second. The temperature in a lightning bolt can reach 50,000 degrees F, more than four times as hot as the surface of the sun; and a single jolt can deliver as much as 100,000 amps.

Ten volts of static electricity per inch is sufficient to excite a fluorescent tube. The combination formula consists of heat, fuel and oxygen, as in a triangle. Static electricity is frequently the "heat" leg of this fire triangle. Heat is the energy supplied to the fire angle and static electricity can supply the energy.

When a charged cloud passes over the ground a reverse charge will be built up in the ground. If this difference in potential is great enough, lightning discharge will result. If the ground charge can "bleed off" without a sudden discharge, no lightning will result. Lightning rods, or tall metal objects can frequently provide this safe "bleed off" path.

Antennas can develop considerable charge if not properly by-passed to ground.

If your antenna is not at "DC ground" and a charged cloud passes overhead, a potential difference will develop between the cloud and your antenna, and between the antenna and ground. This charge may be carried from the antenna through the coax and through your radio equipment before it is neutralized. If you remove the coax from the equipment, the center conductor can form an open circuit to ground, and when the potential builds sufficiently, a spark will result.

Prevention can be accomplished by bonding. When two objects are bonded together (conductive bond) they are at common potential and static sparks cannot develop.

de Ham Tides

September 1982



1601 AVE. "D" P.O.BOX 864 COUNCIL BLUFFS,IOWA 51502-0864 PHONE: (712) 323-0142

AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT

STORE HOURS

Wed/Thur/Fri-12/5 ; Sat-9/5 (Closed Sun/Mon/Tues)



ELMER EXCELLENCE

| Name: | Call: |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Address: | |
| elephone: (Home) | (Work) |
| NEEDS AN ELMER. | |
| IS WILLING TO BE AN ELME | R |
| | ing subject areas: |
| low to use an: | |
| | Frequency Counter |
| | Spectrum Analyser |
| U VOM | Signal Generator |
| Field Strength Meter | Watt Meter |
| Balanced Bridge | |
| How to Design/Build: | |
| Audio Circuits | Digital Circuits |
| RF Circuits | |
| low to Operate: | |
| | Home Computer |
| | |
| ATV | |
| How to: | |
| Convert 11-Meter CB | Guy Towers |
| to 10-Meter Amateur | Install Grounding Systems |
| Build/Tune Antennas | Eliminate TVI |
| Design Tower Bases | |
| Erect Towers | |
| How to Increase Skills in: | |
| CW Operation | Repeater Operation |
| Contesting | EME |
| Traffic Handling | FCC Regulations |
| DXing | |
| is int | erested in: |
| | al Classes Advanced Classes |
| | |
| Remarks: | |

Mail your response to:

Education Chairman Bob Lockwood WAØDHU 3711 North 56 Street Omaha, Nebraska 68104