



HAM HUM

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



Vol. XXVII
No. 6

June 1977

NEXT MEETING

WHEN: FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1977

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

WHERE: C.W.A. LOCAL 7400
1920 South 44th Street
Omaha, Nebraska

PROGRAM: Larry Martin of Custom Crystal Inc. will address the question, "Why The Expense of Crystals?" He will relate the crystal to the phased locked loop world by presenting the aspects and performance of quartz in an oscillating circuit.

Larry has a degree in physics and has been a visiting instructor for industry at Colorado State University. His main efforts, however, have been in engineering. He will also discuss the process of manufacture.

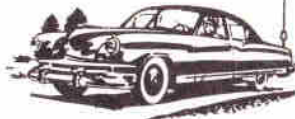
de WBØQGV

* * *

VISITORS WELCOME — REFRESHMENTS — EYEBALL QSOs

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

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Quarterly for balance of year:
 Regular member \$2.00
 Regular member and XYL 2.45
 Student member 1.00

**SATURDAY MORNING
 BREAKFAST
 de WBØMNK**

For those of you who do not already know about it, there is an informal breakfast being held every Saturday morning from 10:00 to 12:00 at the Hinky Dinky Restaurant, 72nd and Dodge, inside of the Hinky Dinky Grocery store. This is strictly an informal event, so if you want to come and have just a cup of coffee, or if you want to be fancy and have a three course meal, it is entirely up to you. Come in any time, 10:30, 11:30, or 11:45 and feel free to leave at any time you wish. There is no cover charge, and everything is dutch treat. The food is cheap, and anything between an English Muffin to Pancakes covered with strawberries and whipped cream is available. See you there!!

NEWS NOTES

Congratulations to:

Robert Davis, age 12, new novice with the call WDØBYK. Robert is the son of Pauline, WBØYHX and Day, WBØTTL of LaVista.

Charley Wolfmeyer, WØKH - DXCC endorsement for 220 countries, all SSB.

Joe Nanos, KØKES - CW DXCC #247.

(Ed. Note: Not only do these last two fellows work DX, they are also on the QSL Bureau crew.)

Anyone having U.S. or foreign stamps, Bill Mashek, WØCPM, collect them and would very much appreciate receiving any. His address is: 1729 South 86 Ave., Omaha, NE 68124.

THE PREZ SEZ

Well, what can I say? Another fine program for our members by Marty, WAØGEH, on the portable repeater. I am sure that many of the new members were not aware of this little jewel. Of course we all hope that it will never have to be used for the intended purpose, but then it is nice to know that it is ready at a minute's notice. Thanks, Marty, for the program and all of your efforts in getting the machine built. Eric, WBØARZ, is now in the forming stage of an interesting article along with some fine pictures for QST on this machine and that should inform the world of how the hams out here in the corn patch do things!

We have been assured of the use of the Jewish Community Center for a meeting place if we so desire and we will have more on that in a few weeks. Also, the Center will be used for the August Code and Theory classes. We are looking forward to a good attendance for this fall session. We are in hopes of holding both the general and novice classes as it looks now that most of our novice class from this past January have indicated a desire to attend this fall class.

We have also had some practical experience in severe weather spotting on two occasions at this time. Mr. Jim Zoller is well pleased with the way things are going and a pat on the back for all who have been involved is in order. Keep up the good work fellows (and gals)!

The new core group for AREC is moving forward. Looks like WBØCMC, John, EC, and the group will have the AREC shaped into a fine group before June 1977

long. Not that it was a poor one by any means before!

And last but not least, thanks to Vern Wirka, WBØGQM, for the use of his 5ØKW transmitter on Armed Forces Day.

73,
CU at the meeting
Bob, WBØLYU

GRAND ISLAND TOUR CANCELLED

Not enough people had interest in a guided bus tour of the F.C.C. Monitoring Station facilities in Grand Island. Therefore, the checks of those who previously had paid will be returned.

We are sorry for any inconvenience to those of you who tied up time and money in this venture. Thanks again to Irene Mulick, WBØMPC, and Sandy Quijas for their efforts.

There will be no organized effort at a substitute car pool tour, and the engineer in charge at the Monitoring Station has been notified we will not be there on the scheduled date.

de WBØQGV

SILENT KEY

Joe H. Roberts, KØKEO
2911 Ellison Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68111
May 8, 1977

Our deepest sympathy to his XYL
Dorothy and family.

1977 WINTER CODE AND THEORY CLASSES

The 1977 Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club, Inc. winter Code and Theory Classes have come to an end with smashing success. Ten instructors were involved for a total of four separate classes - 2 novice, 1 general, and 1 advanced. Classes met each Monday and Thursday evening for about 15 weeks.

The instructors included: KØDKM, Lloyd; WBØQGV, Jim; WBØLYU, Bob; WØHXL, Dick; WØQQN, Charlie; WBØMNK, Jon; WBØPGS, Don; WBØHGC, Don; WBØRVU, Bill; and WAØDHU, Bob. Our hats go off to these fellas for the outstanding job they did and the devotion they displayed. Good job guys!

An outstanding record was set in the novice classes. Thirty students enrolled and about 25 took the exam. It looks like we will have plenty of novice operators at this year's Field Day.

We do not have an accurate count of those who passed the general or advanced test, but we do know the FCC examiner had his hands full when he came to Omaha.

Every year the classes get a little bit better, and every year we learn a lot, but we still have a long way to go. However, we do know the Code and Theory Classes are a major part of the strength of our Club.

We must, as individual members, strive to get involved in teaching the classes or get involved in the Big Brother/Sister program. If we reach out to help others, we also learn. The harvest is good!

The people who deserve the most credit are those who attended the classes. They studied hard, braved the cold and snow, and put up with us, the instructors. These people came to get their novice, their general or advanced. A swell bunch of students - winter class of 1977.

Most sincerely submitted by
Bob Lockwood, WAØDHU
Chairman, Education Committee

P. S. Our deepest appreciation to Creighton Prep for the use of classroom facilities.

ADDITIONS TO ROSTER

- | | |
|---|--------|
| Bailey, Larry N.
1323 Englewood Drive
Bellevue, Nebraska 68005
Phone: 292-6486 | WØPYA |
| Kiger, William E.
6862 Minne Lusa Blvd.
Omaha, Nebraska 68112
Phone: 453-2879 | WBØYRK |
| Lee, Carl David
1506 - 2nd Avenue
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501
Phone: 328-3749 | WBØYVH |
| Maller, Albert H.
6147 Evans Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68104
Phone: 553-1724 | WØDCQ |
| Ouren, Louis H.
2877 Titus Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68112
Phone: 455-1121 | KØLS |



John, WBØCMC, tells about the Omaha Repeater

**ADDITIONAL PHOTOS
APRIL MEETING
FROM KØQVL**



Window ledge sitters
at April 15th meeting



Bob, WBØLYU, addresses the meeting at Omaha Police Headquarters

"LADIES ONLY"

At our last club meeting, which was fantastic, and while waiting for the boys to rig up their antenna for Marty's fine presentation on the Porta-Peater, Dick and Marlene Jugel and Terry Lindsley were thoughtful enough to bring Barbara Simon over to meet me. Barbara wants to get started in Amateur Radio and all of us had a most enjoyable conversation. We will get Barbara started and this shows the kind of results that we are all striving for. Let's get those starters started!

A good many of you gals have asked me what constitutes the Novice program, so here goes: The NOVICE CLASS license is the easiest United States Amateur license to earn and for my money offers a great deal of privileges. The Novice Class was introduced in 1951 and since then Novices by the thousands have obtained their licenses. You, too, can join their ranks.

The Novice gets to use three types of bands (driving highways). She can operate on 3700-3750 Khz - which is the 80 meter amateur band, and a great one for working gals around our state and local area. The 40 meter band is a very good one for making friends and QSO's (talks) about 1000 miles away and sometimes even farther. On this band you work on 7100-7150 Khz. Then for making friends and contacts outside of the United States (DX-Distance) you Novice gals may operate on 15 meters between 21.1 and 21.2 Mhz, and on the 10 meter band from 28.1 to 28.2 Mhz. So - there you have it gals - your opportunity to meet all of your fine countrymen whom you someday

personally want to meet (eyeball), as well as amateur gals in other parts of our big world.

One unique thing - the NOVICE CLASS is the only license you will ever get by passing the test sent through the mail. This will be given you by a volunteer examiner who holds the General or higher class license. Another wonderful attribute is that a Novice operates only Morse Code - or CW as we know it. For some unknown reason most gals take readily to code and it comes relatively easy. You are only required to take 5 words per minute to pass your code test and some gals obtain this ability after 15 or 20 hours of practice - sometimes it takes longer - but OH! WHAT FUN!! Puts one in some mysterious world - tapping out messages from your home base!

You might ask why a Novice is allowed to use only CW. The Novice Class license is the first step in U.S. AMATEUR RADIO. It's there to introduce Amateur Radio to the beginner, for you to learn more about the hobby and to help you develop your Morse Code skill and radio theory knowledge. It is a fine way to become more skillful in Morse Code and at the same time to learn more about radio theory and regulations so that as you progress, you are in a much better position to upgrade your class of license.

For the Novice Class, the written test is 20 questions on basic Amateur regulations and certain simple radio theory and operating practices. The questions are all multiple choice and the below study guide will clue you in to the subject matter the Novice exam will cover: the passing grade is 74%

which allows you to miss 5 questions and still obtain your Novice ticket. Now GALS – order your Study Guide – ARRL's Beginners Package today! It's called "TUNE IN THE WORLD WITH HAM RADIO" – \$7.00

paid from ARRL. The address is ARRL – 225 Main Street, Newington, Conn. 06111. This package consists of a 136 page book, a 60 minute tape cassette, a U.S. Call District wall map and a Worked All States (WAS) award check list. The book explains the radio theory and regulations you need to know to pass the written examination for a Novice Class License. Also, some good information and tips on assembling your first station and how to operate correctly. The tape cassette covers both the Morse Code and also

gives examples of how "on the air" contacts really sound. ALL THIS FOR ONLY \$7.00!

Also keep in mind our BUDDY SYSTEM and be sure and take advantage of it if you need it.

As always – call me if I can be of any help. Keep in mind we hope to have Beginners Class sometime this summer and also in January.

It is nice to see all of you gals at the meetings. Aren't they tremendous? Pres. Bob, WBØLYU and Program Chairman Jim, WBØQGV, are to be commended for lining up the very interesting and informative meetings.

See you all there –

88's

Irene, WBØMPC

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MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH DAYTON

For the benefit of anyone who has ever been to the Dayton Hamvention before, you can skip this article, because you already know what kind of madness it is. For those who have never been there, let me try to explain just what this incurable disease is all about. Warning! Once you've been there, I'm not sure you can ever lose the fever.

This year's trip started for me very early on Thursday morning prior to the big weekend. Along with three other local hams, two of whom were seasoned veterans, we left home in a 24-foot camper, with a few bucks and great anticipation. 14 hours later we arrived at our campground in Dayton. Incidentally, for those who may plan to go next year, I warn you now, unless you have a self-contained camper, make reservations at least two months in advance for either a hotel or motel room, or for a campsite with facilities. There wasn't a room to be had anywhere in Dayton.

My first hint of what was to come happened by listening to the Dayton 2 meter repeaters. Within 30 minutes after arrival, we heard all 10 call districts and a KL7! With that, we called it a night. Up at 7 A.M. Friday, we flipped the 2 meter rig on again and couldn't believe what we heard. I've got to hand it to the Dayton boys, they were running an organized net to give directions. We heard a W1 break in and he was told that he was 67th in line and to please stand by. Turning the dial to the other repeaters gave the same results. Very organized and very smooth. Then we hit 52 simplex!

Sounded just like channel 19! Only with call letters. We listened for about 5 minutes and finally heard a KH6 to complete the call districts. If you wanted to do it, WAS could be had in a few hours. Too bad the award wouldn't count.

The actual Hamvention doesn't start until noon on Friday, so having a few hours to kill, we took the advice of a friend and visited the Air Force museum at Wright-Patterson Field. If you're ever in Dayton, at any time, and if you have any interest in aircraft at all, go! This may be the finest collection in the world. Everything from an exact reproduction of the Wright brothers plane (which was made from parts donated by the Wright heirs estate) to the actual Apollo 15 spacecraft. There are so many one-of-a-kinds that if you stop to read about each, it would take one full day to cover the museum. Most of the planes are housed inside! For me, this little side trip was worth going to Dayton all by itself.

After a burger and shake, we managed to get back to the Hamvention arena by 1 P.M. At this point the parking lot wasn't full yet. There were only 5 or 6 thousand who had been able to finish lunch by then. Once registered and inside, we spent the rest of the afternoon viewing the commercial manufacturers' and dealers' exhibits. I never did get an actual count, but I suppose there were 80 or 90. Every piece of amateur gear currently on the market was on display. And a few that aren't yet! One manufacturer had a prototype of a new rig that will be available sometime next fall. As the saying goes, "you ain't gonna believe it!" How

does 144, 220 and 432 MHz, full band coverage, all modes, and synthesized grab you? And it will come in two versions. Either all in one cabinet, or a mobile model with the guts in the trunk and a beautiful remote control pad for under the dash. With new equipment like this, we haven't seen nothin' yet!

While we were walking around, we ran into some familiar faces from Nebraska so we stopped to chat. We noticed they were carrying 2 meter HT's so we asked what frequency they were on. They said they had pulled a sharpie and obtained crystals for 147.415 thinking it would be a nice clear frequency. Much to their surprise they were sharing it with 6 other groups! Let me say right here that if you ever go to Dayton with a HT along, you can forget using any of the standard simplex frequencies. I had 46, 49, 52, 55, and 58 in my rig and they were all unusable. We saw a spectrum analyzer while we were in Dayton, and the scope screen looked like a big mushroom cloud between 146 and 148 MHz.

Friday night we attended the 8th annual FM Bash which is an unofficial function of the Hamvention itself. Basically what happens is that the FMers take over one hotel, the MARS guys another, the RTTY group at another, the SSTV bunch at another, etc. Each of these groups hosts a hospitality room where you can get something to eat and drink. I can't speak for the other groups because we didn't get there, but the FM Bash had somewhere between 3 to 4 thousand in attendance. There was professional entertainment in the ballroom of the hotel which was as good as you could

get anywhere. There was no admission charge for any of this, although you could purchase a raffle ticket for a tableful of prizes if you wished. First prize was a 9Com 9C-245, the rest went downhill from there. We gave up at midnight and went back to our campground and one of the best night's sleep I've had in a long time.

We overslept Saturday morning and didn't get back to the Hamvention until 7 A.M. I say overslept because the flea market opens at 6 A.M. Incidentally, the sellers for the flea market had started to line up down the streets around the arena on Friday afternoon waiting to get in the lot where it is held. The intended area is an asphalt lot which is fenced in. It covers about 10 acres! By the time we arrived, the asphalt lot was full and the sellers were spilling over onto an adjoining grass field. By noon the total flea market area covered somewhere near 20 acres! The Dayton flea market has to be the reason so many return year after year. It is not like any other Ham flea market I've ever been to. You don't see the usual "boat anchor" junk. Oh sure, there is some, but it is by far in the minority. The stuff at Dayton is "good junk." In some cases the gear is new. Smaller dealers who chose not to set up inside the arena, bring what appears to be their whole inventories with them and set up in the flea market. We saw one dealer who was from Las Vegas, and two others from Florida. You say you want used gear? How much can you carry home? There is a saying at Dayton, "If you can't find it in the flea market, it hasn't been made." It's true. I've been a ham for 19 years and I can't name a brand or piece of gear

that I've seen over the years that I didn't see at Dayton. How about parts? New or used, common or the rarest, you can find what you're looking for at the flea market.

You've heard the story about the little kid in the candy store with a nickel burning a hole in his pocket? Well folks, that's what the Dayton flea market is all about. You look at this mountain of goodies, and naturally you want most of it. Your first instinct is to buy every good deal you see. But, after the first hour, you realize that you should begin to pass them up, because just a little farther down the aisle is an even better deal on the same item. And believe me you will find huge price differences, on the same thing, at Dayton. That goes for new equipment as well, both inside the arena and outside in the flea market. As an example, we saw a 2 meter rig, inside, for sale at the regular advertised price of \$795. Later, we saw the same rig in the flea market at \$695. Later still, we saw the same rig again, back inside at a dealer booth, for \$600. This was all for the same rig, brand new and still in the factory sealed carton.

Now let me throw in the last factor which will contradict what I've said so far. You don't dare pass up too many deals while looking for a cheaper price. Because if you wait too long, when you go back to buy, what you wanted is gone! By late Saturday afternoon the crowd size was being estimated by the local media at somewhere near 20 thousand! And fellas, every one of them are there for the same reason you are!

We were so exhausted Saturday evening that we elected to pass on the

Hamvention banquet. Instead we enjoyed a quiet steak and headed to the campground to try and turn in early. We talked ourselves to sleep by patting ourselves on the back for all the good deals we each had found. Each of us made statements like "Boy, I sure hope that guy's got that thing left tomorrow. I bet I can get him to come down some more."

Sunday morning we were back at it at 8 A.M. It was all more of the same thing, only by now we had to look for slightly less expensive good deals. The greenbacks were getting fewer all the time. The driving time for the trip back home forced us to leave at 1:30, right before the grand prize drawings. We each wanted to wait so we could take the complete Drake station home with us. Or the TS-820. Or the... etc. But, the Dayton fellas told us they would be more than happy to ship our prizes, so reluctantly we hit the road with a lot of goodies and no dollars. All the way home, it sounded like a broken record, "ya know, I really should have bought".....

Something must have gone wrong or gotten lost because I'm still waiting for my prize. Oh well, I guess I'll have to go back next year to get it. See you there!

Tom Thiessen, KØPQR

Ever wonder who invented the lowly but useful wheelbarrow? 'Tis so that Leonardo Da Vinci did. (He also painted the Mona Lisa, among other things.)

—Service

TRANSMITTER HUNT

The transmitter hunt that was set for May 21 has been moved to June 11 so more people could participate. It will start at about 1:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon and will last until the fox is caught. There will be a pot consisting of 50¢ collected from each participant that will be given to the first car that finds the fox. A few of the rules have been changed this time.

- 1) The fox must remain within the general Omaha area, i.e., he cannot travel to Ralston, Valley, or other Omaha suburbs.
- 2) The fox must remain stationary, but can use many tricks, such as switching power, using beam antennas, reflecting signals off a wall, etc.
- 3) All participants will start from the same point. At about 12:45 everyone will start at a centrally located point in the city to be announced on the AREC net.
- 4) Anyone who starts late must check-in with the fox immediately or they are not eligible for the pot.
- 5) The fox must stay on the air for at least 10 seconds out of every minute.
- 6) Base stations cannot be used.
- 7) It is advised that at least two people travel in every car. The purpose of this is so one person can be looking while the other is driving and talking on the two meter rig. This is a great way to get a novice or

beginner interested in getting his general.

- 8) The hunt will take place on 52/52 simplex.

For more information contact Jon, WBØMKN, at 556-6695 or Scott, WBØSJE, at 333-3353.

de WBØMKN

Letter submitted by Joe Nanos, KØKES

from P A Ø A A E
Jacques Meys
P O Box 7055
Pannigen Nederland

Amigo

Thanks a lot for that nice qso. It is always very pleasant and gratifying to meet another radiofriend, the more so when there is time for a little chat. Years ago, like any other amateur, I loved to try out some new wiring or diagram, to see if and how it worked: that was interest in the technical side of radio, but now, at my age, and with electronics more and more complicated every day with all those new applications of semiconductors, I am more interested in the social side of it: MAN is a social being, and as such he needs social and friendly relations, the same as a fish needs water to swim in: so I am looking at an antenna as at an outstretched hand offering to and asking from the whole wide world friendship and friendly relations. and "amateur radio for international friendship"

Enclosed a few stamps as nearly always, at the elbow of every amateur there is to be found some boy that collects stamps from all those qsl

cards. I dont collect them any more as, years ago , I had a nice collection but that I lost it , the same as everything else , at the hand of some soldiers-on-the-run during civil war in China and later never had time nor the guts to start up again collecting , But I have here a good friend that is quite crazy about stamps , so that stamps from over there will be very welcome here

I am rather an old hand at radio. I was born here in March 1898 , we were six boys and four girls at home , and Mother gave us all french names and the then for middleclasspeople best available education , so comes I did all my highschool and university studies in french, and as Mother told us : I learned everything that came along beginning with idoms. (I learned some 9 of them in my life as the need for it came along). Being a " nosy " boy , poking my nose in everything that came my way, I could not keep hands off that marvelous new plaything I could make all by meself: radio , and was tinkering with that during first world war days, though we had to make every component part by our own hands , and that wonderful triode tube was still far away in a remote future like something out of Alice's Wonderland . But it worked out fine. ... In 1924 I went to China as Missionary . When in 1928 I was put in charge of a big parish bordering on the Great Wall , I made me a small transceiver to keep in touch with the outside world , and was happily hamming away with the call letters : XU2JM...making me friends from over the whole wide world. But when the Japanese army invaded that part of China in 1936 I had to give it all up ,

as there an amateur was considered a spy, Then came civil war , World War II , four years of concentrationcamp then postwar troubles and in 1948 communist occupation, No time for hamming. In 1951 I had to come out in a hurry and was sent to middle America , Nicaragua , in charge of a big parish there . More work still and no time for radio. But when in the fall of 1973 I asked for retirement , good people over there gave me this fine rig , and up again I went on the air with call letters Y N 9 J M P making me numerous friends and enjoying it In March last year I was called back back here , for full retirement , as our Organization cares well for its old men , and when I came back here after having been away for nearly 52 years , I found everything and even people changed beyond recognition , feeling as a tourist in my own old country . Here I had no troubles to get a ticket : no tests no exams only on the face of my past experiences and a ticket for all bands and all frequencies with the call letters I am using now : P A Ø A A E again looking to the four corners of the world for new friends....

If in my past experiences there are things you could be interested in , pleaselet me know : I will be glad to oblige

Good luck good health and happiness and as the saying goes in South America : " VAYA CON DIOS "

best 73 from Jacques

There is nothing noble in being superior to some other person. The true nobility is in being superior to your previous self. — Service

PUBLICITY

de WBØNVL

I'll bet you've often said to yourself, "Those @#%#! CB'ers get all the publicity." It sometimes seems like

they get more than their fair share, perhaps because of the bizzare and illegal things some of them have done, but more probably because there are about fifty times more CB'ers than there are amateurs. Not all CB activity is bad, however. There are many fine operators and several dedicated public service groups such as REACT, and certain elements of CB activity have become folklore, not the least of which was the hit song "Convoy" by C. W. McCall who makes his home right here in Omaha.

We hams have gotten some news of our hobby activities into the media but I can just hear some of you saying, "They oughta DO something about getting more publicity for amateur radio." The question is, who do you mean by "they?" The newspapers and TV stations? National organizations for amateurs? The club? Let's take these questions one at a time. The newspapers and TV stations only report news, they don't manufacture it. National amateur organizations often do not do a good job of communicating with anyone but hams (more about that later). The club is composed of its members. We are the members so that leaves you and me to do the job of publicizing ham radio.

There are several ways we can all go about the task of making our hobby more visible to the general public. One of these is by the purchase of call letter license plates. They are not expensive (\$5.00 in Iowa and only

\$1.00 in Nebraska) and are distinctive enough to make people ask questions about them. You can help publicize amateur radio the next time someone spots your antennas and asks, "Watcha runnin' fer a CB rig?" Instead of muttering darkly that it's not a CB, smile at the questioner and explain that ham radio is similar to CB but has a lot more capability and is a lot more fun. Whet the questioner's curiosity by saying that hams can talk to each other all over the world but be careful not to throw in a lot of stuff about plate voltage, current flow, propagation forecasts, etc. Remember, the questioner probably doesn't have your technical background and most of those things would go right over his head and might confuse him to the point of losing all interest in ham radio. AND FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, DON'T SCARE HIM BY SAYING HE'LL HAVE TO LEARN TO COPY CODE AT 13 WPM! Just casually mention code as another way of communicating with a foreign ham who speaks no English. I never mention code speed. I simply say that it's easy to learn and with a little practice, anyone can communicate by CW.

Do you remember receiving a complimentary copy of a new magazine called "Ham Radio Horizons?" The publishers blew it. They sent their excellent publication to the wrong people...licensed hams...not the people who need it most. I suggest you give your copy to one of these interested questioners. Offer to help him (or her) get started in ham radio,

or at least mention the code and theory classes offered by the club several times a year. Remember, every time you tell a curious stranger or an interested neighbor about ham radio, there is a chance you'll be putting his name and call in your logbook sometime in the future.

AT THE BOARD MEETING

As we are getting ready to print a new roster, it became necessary to make a decision to drop those members whose dues were not paid. If any of your friends do not receive Ham Hum this month, suggest they might see the Treasurer. Reinstatement is still possible.

Butch Burks, WBØNGD, was designated as "Club Quartermaster" to update and examine the Club property list. If you have Club property, suggest you call him and save him the trouble of calling you. Butch will also develop a property tag system for Club equipment.

A motion was made to file a formal complaint with the F.C.C. regarding the 34/94 intermod problem. Marty Griffin, WAØGEH, will handle this complaint after one more attempt to get the situation cleared up.

Field Day is coming and an advance of \$125.00 for Field Day expenses went to Lloyd, KØDKM, and the same amount to Mike, WBØBMV, for food costs, accounting to be made after field Day.

Jim Peterson, WBØQGV, reported that the Holiday Inn has been secured for next year's auction at a rate of \$150.00.

Approval was given for payment to John, WBØCMC, for the new 94
Page 14

ComProd antenna and to pay for mailing AREC packets and material.

It was reported the 12 volt Power Supply at the National Weather Service is in need of repair. Problem was assigned to Marty Griffin, WAØGEH.

Jim Wilson, WBØJPN, was authorized to secure a new 90-cup coffee pot for Club meetings if cost did not exceed \$50.00.

The Board addressed the subject of long term planning for the Club including the identification of long term expenses. Discussed was the need for the Club to become more familiar with the Ham Hum publication so we may some day lend support. LeRoy Hilt offered to head a committee. He will be looking for members who wish to learn about this publication and take active part in layout. It was also mentioned that advertising in Ham Hum needs to be promoted. Are there any members interested in selling Ham Hum advertising? Please contact our editor, Dick Eilers, WØYZV.

de WAØGEH

QSL BUREAU

Dear OM:

I just wanted to drop a line to thank you for your FB job with the QSL Bureau. I know it takes a lot of time and I appreciate it very much. Postage rates are out of reason for QSLing in any quantity at all so your service is very nice to have. I hope to be able to look forward to the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio handling my QSLing for a long time.

73,

Andy Bost, WBØTDZ

RECENT CONTRIBUTORS

Repeater 22/82

Harold M. Abrahamson, WAØORC
LeRoy Hilt, WBØMSN
Michael C. McPherson, WBØSMC
Charles A. Michel, KØQVL
Steven Robertson, WBØTKY

Repeater 34/94

Harold M. Abrahamson, WAØORC
LeRoy Hilt, WBØMSN
Ray T. Howerter, WBØSGB
Michael C. McPherson, WBØSMC
Charles A. Michel, KØQVL
Steven Robertson, WBØTKY
Charles B. Wolfmeyer, WØKH

Repeater 40/00

Harold M. Abrahamson, WAØORC
LeRoy Hilt, WBØMSN
Ray T. Howerter, WBØSGB
Michael C. McPherson, WBØSMC
Steven Robertson, WBØTKY
Charles B. Wolfmeyer, WØKH

Memorial to

Joe H. Roberts, KØKEO
Royal M. Enders, KØLYO (34/94)

Sincere thanks to all!

Thanks also to William J. Mashek, WØCPM, who donated items sold at the auction with proceeds earmarked for the Club's HF Fund.

And a great big thanks to Dennis J. Kain, WAØVJM, for his most generous nation, to be used wherever the need is greatest.

An Old Timer is someone who remembers when pickets were just part of a wooden fence. — Service

June 1977

HAM HUM

MARCH OF DIMES WALK-A-THON

On April 30, 1977, 21 volunteers from the AREC, Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club and Omaha Amateurs gave their time to support the March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon. The walk was a 20 mile hike thru the City of Omaha for pledges for each mile walked to the March of Dimes. The turnout of walkers was not as great as anticipated, but there were still 4,000 people marching thru city streets.

The amateurs provided communications between the control point in Elmwood Park and 8 check points along the route. This consisted of the status of check point supplies, check

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C. Porter Rinn, WBØOGA

Page 15

point personnel, and any emergency or problem situations. The check points also kept net control informed of the walkers' progress along the route. Several mobile units were along the route to check on trouble spots and general communications. The communications provided was a success and greatly appreciated by the March of Dimes officials. Mark Wright, Walk Co-Chairman, reported communications as excellent and thanked everyone involved. He also closed his comments with "See you next year!"

I think the overall communications was great! The problems that did come up were quickly and professionally handled. Although a little tired, we all had a good time. I would like to thank my assistant Gerry, WBØPPF, for all the help in the planning and coordinating. I would further like to thank everyone who participated. They were Marcy Trainer, Emmett Hohensee, WØPYA, WD5AFB, WAØBMJ, ZUR, WYG, WBØWOT, TWE, LYU, TTL, UQI, WYB, QPP, LPG, MNK, WYE, DDZ, SJE, and anyone else whom I may have forgotten to mention.

The mentionable story this time was WAØZUR. Bill was a mobile unit along the route working the trouble spots. He informed net control that he was going to work his way along the route and try and find his son, one of the walkers, to provide him with a different pair of shoes. It seems Bill's son would find the radio operator at each check point and have them inform ZUR of his location (usually 2 check points ahead). Well, Bill finally found his son for the shoe exchange at Elmwood Park, the finish point of the route!

Thanks again to everyone and we'll see you next year when Scott, WBØWOT will walk the entire route with a portable radio!

73,
Carl, WBØTUE

MEMBER NEWS

16 May 77

Hi, gang,

Greetings from your long lost member in the Land of the Rising Sun, Yaesu, Kenwood, and lots of other good stuff like that. Even after almost two years I still look forward to getting the Ham Hum and finding out what fine things you all are doing with amateur radio back in mid-America. Seems that you are in fact doing more every month, no matter what the specific area. On several occasions I've used the news from the Ak-Sar-Ben Club to show people on the ship just what amateur radio can mean...it's a most impressive example.

I have not been active in any meaningful way since I've been over here. Finally got the station on the air, but the ship spends better than sixty-five percent of the time away from home, so I've not had the time or inclination to spend a lot of time on the air when I am home. I have the same call, KA2DW, that I had the last time I was in Japan. My tour on the ship is about over, though, and I plan to spend more time on the air. (next tour will be for two years at Kamiseya, Japan, just up the road from where I am now. So, maybe I'll be able to find some of you on the air.

The big band here is twenty meters. Forty is clobbered with shortwave BC stations most of the time, and we're somewhat limited in frequencies and power to do any long haul work on eighty. Fifteen and ten should be good when they open up, but I don't really know how they are since I've not been on enough.

I also have not taken the opportunity to buy any more gear over here, since it all seems to get spent on other things like camera gear, traveling about the country, and exotic goodies from all the places we've sailed to, like Korea, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Singapore. I hope to remedy that shortly, with at least the two and six meter transverters for my Kenwood gear, since I can't get back to your auctions to spend my money.

Well, believe I'll QRT for now. My very best to all the club members, and I'll look for you all on the air any chance I get. Keep up the fine work.

Vy 73,

Dave Wells,

K5QJG/KA2DW

These high voltage surges enter the service entrance and seek the easiest path to ground. Far too often, this path is through the power line to that treasured rig and then out to our nice grounded antenna. The same goes for that expensive color TV set. I have seen several TV sets in homes on REA power lines that literally exploded from this effect. The electric stove, hot water heater, furnace, and house wiring also fall prey to service entrance lightning and many bad fires have been caused by it. In most cases, the lightning struck the power line a good distance from the house.

Fortunately, there is a very inexpensive solution to this problem. Both General Electric and Westinghouse make a small valve type arrester that is constructed like the large units protecting electrical substations. The GE model 9L15CCB007 home lightning protector costs around \$12.00 and can be attached at the service entrance or inside the main breaker panel. It is about half the size of a small paper cup and is a three wire device to go across both hot wires and the neutral. These arrestors are UL listed and are guaranteed for a minimum life of 10 years service.

With an arrester of this type and properly grounded antennas, the only worry would be a direct hit on the house and lightning rods would help in this case. We know of several people using these arrestors on REA lines who now have no problem with this source of lightning. Another good point is that many insurance companies will give a rate reduction with a properly installed service entrance arrester.

- From PEARLS NEWS

via Mike & Key

Alimony has been defined as the high cost of leaving.

- Service

PREVENT LIGHTNING FROM ENTERING POWER LINES

By Gerald Drake, AF9RVD

Most of us go to great trouble to ground our antennas and equipment for lightning protection but forget that lightning enters the service entrance to our homes, causing great damage, and in many instances, loss by fire. The very fact that our equipment is grounded causes the lightning entering the power line to do the most damage.

BEST BATTERIES FOR THE JOB

By Peter Weaver (L.A. Times)
via W6SD Carrier

There are four basic types of batteries you can buy in ascending price scale. All are clearly labeled but nothing is said about what kind of gadgets can better use what kind of battery.

The least expensive, "standard" battery is the carbon-zinc cell. This is the common flashlight battery. A D-cell size (used in most flashlights and many gadgets) costs 30 to 40 cents, less at seasonal sales.

This inexpensive, standard battery is ideal for flashlights that get periodic or infrequent use. No sense putting in a more expensive, heavy duty battery if the flashlight just sits there.

The standard, carbon-zinc battery is also good for transistor radios that get fairly infrequent use or any other device that gets light use and doesn't cause a heavy battery drain. When in doubt, use this inexpensive battery and step up to a heavier duty cell if you have to make a change every two or three months.

The next step up is the so-called "heavy duty" carbon-zinc battery that costs from 40 to 50 cents for the D-cell size. This gives from two to three times more service than the standard carbon-zinc battery and is, perhaps, one of the best buys available.

The heavy-duty batteries are good for flashlights that are used a lot and for such things as tape recorders, radios and toys. If you find you have to change batteries much before six months have elapsed, you're better off with heavy-duty cells that only cost about 10¢ more.

Next up on the price list are the alkaline batteries. They sell for around 90¢ to \$1.00 for the D-cell size and give you two to three times more service than heavy-duty batteries.

Alkaline batteries are a must for such things as movie cameras, t recorders, walkie-talkie radios, radios that get heavy use and photoflash strobe equipment. Alkaline batteries are also a must for gadgets that have to be used in cold weather. They hold up better in the cold.

Some alkaline batteries are specially designed to be recharged. This fact is clearly labeled on the battery. WARNING: Don't try to recharge any alkaline battery (or any other battery not designed to be recharged. Batteries have water in them, even though they're called "dry" cells, and this combines with the chemicals inside when you attempt to recharge. Hydrogen gas is formed and it can explode.)

Some consumers who have used the rechargeable alkaline batteries (which cost around \$2 each for the D-cell) say they last longer but tend to leak and may not be worth the higher price.

Nickel-Cadmium batteries are, by far, the best batteries for recharging. The D-cell costs from \$3 to \$4 and recharging devices sell for around \$15. But you can recharge these batteries up to 1,000 times. It is almost impossible to make nickel-cadmium explode by using the recharger the wrong way. But you can ruin the battery by improper charging.

Thassall, chillun.

73 de Art Ross, W5KR, Editor,
P. O. Box 3561, Brownsville, TX
78520

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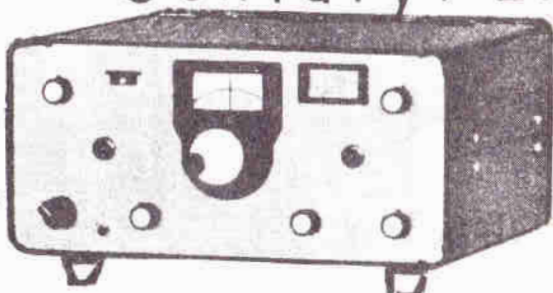
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