



HAM HUM

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AK-SAR-BEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 291 — Downtown Station
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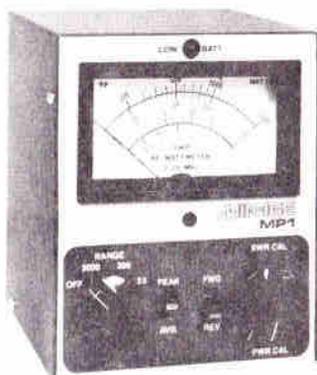
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June 1979

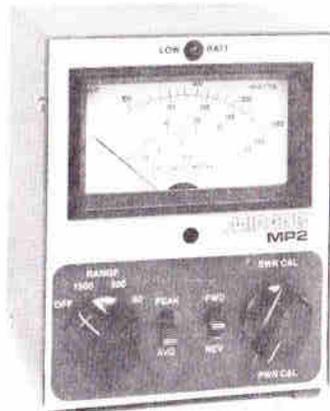
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HAM HUM is the official organ of the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club, Inc., of Omaha, Nebraska, mailed monthly to all members and to others upon request.

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Dues-Annual Basis

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Regular member \$10.00
Regular member and spouse \$12.00
Student member \$ 4.00

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

DATE: Tuesday, June 12th, 1979

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
333 South 132nd Street
Omaha, NE 68154

PROGRAM: FIELD DAY 1979.
Frank Wolczak, WAØIWF, and Dave Hamilton, WDØDLN, will guide us for a look at past Field Day activities. Their program will surely provide a few smiles, and refresh some pleasant memories.

Frank and Dave will also explain the details of this year's Field Day events, and will tell us how this year's operation will be slightly different from past years. They tell me we're out to win this year.

73's and hope to see you at the June Meeting.

Tom, KØPQR

THE PREZ SEZ

It's all water under the bridge now, but I've got to tell you that I spent one of the most enjoyable weekends ever at the Dayton Hamvention this year. I had the pleasure of sharing a hotel room with three of our Club members who have left the Omaha area. It was almost like old home week. Marty Griffin, WA0GEH, now of Colorado, Mike McAllister, WB0DXA, now of Texas, and Gary Maple, W9OAK (ex-W00XT), now of Wisconsin, forced me to listen to their rotten jokes and terrible puns for the entire weekend. Any member who knew these three is surely aware that slow torture would have been easier to take. If I suffered any pain, it was only the one in the side from laughing so hard. To say that we had a ball would be a definite understatement. We also ran into Jim Howard, K5TNP, and Eric Juhre', K0KJ, both also ex-Club members now living elsewhere.

The crowd size at Dayton was hard to judge this year. The Sunday attendance seemed to be down, but officials said they had the largest Friday ever. From having been there the last three years, I would guess about the same as last year, somewhere near 20,000. There seemed to be more exhibitors than ever, and most had some new product to tempt you. The Dayton Club was showing off their new Emergency Communications Van. It is actually a General Motors Mobile Home, and has more equipment in it than I could possibly list in this column. All in all, the Dayton Hamvention was, as usual, bigger and better than ever.

I am happy to report that there have been a few new developments

June 1979

concerning our Club repeater(s). At the last Board of Trustees meeting, it was voted to relocate the present 94 transmitter on the WOWT Tower at 36th and Farnam Streets. It is hoped this move will be finished by mid-summer. The antenna for this transmitter will be at the 250 foot level. Thanks to some very generous members, this relocation project is now expected to be accomplished for less than \$750.

In addition to the above, the Repeater Committee has been busy looking at alternate sites for the Spec-Comm repeater. As many of you heard, it was tried from an undisclosed site for a period of one week. The results were most gratifying. However, nothing at this point indicates that this site is available on a permanent basis. The original plan was to re-crystal the Spec-Comm on a new frequency. The results of the one week test indicated the Spec-Comm was outperforming the Woodmen Tower location. If it should come about that this new site can be secured, the Spec-Comm would be left on 34-94, and the Woodmen-WOWT repeater would be changed to a pair. Whatever happens, it looks like we will have a far superior repeater system to work with next fall.

June is Field Day month, and I hope to see the usual good turnout for this year. The Co-Chairmen, Frank Wolczak and Dave Hamilton, have put together an outstanding crew for their shack Chairmen, and I have been told we're out to win it this year. We have a lot of super CW men and contest operators in our Club. We need the services of all of them, if we're going to be serious about winning. Even the

new members who may not have any contest experience should make it a point to come join us. I can't think of a better way to learn the right way to operate a contest, than to watch the real pros.

I would like to close this month with an examination of Potter's First Law which states: The amount of flak received on any subject is inversely proportional to the subject's true value.

73's Tom, KØPQR

MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGE

Rev. James R. Belt, WAØJIH
11425 Fowler Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68164
Phone: 496-1001

Milton D. Forsyth, Jr., WBØLPG
PSC 2375
Scott AFB, Illinois 62225

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Omaha, Nebraska 68164

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11711 Raleigh Drive
Omaha, Nebraska 68164

Thomas L. Thiessen, KØPQR
2736 North 65th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68104

Scott E. Thompson, WBØWOT
401 North 39th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68131

QSL CORNER

By—Charlie, WØQQN

OUTGOING QSL SERVICES

Outgoing QSL cards may be sent via the various Bureau systems also. There are others besides the ARRL Membership Overseas QSL Bureau which is discussed here. To avoid the almost prohibitive cost of sending out QSL cards direct, the ARRL has established an alternate method for ARRL members. The use of this service is quite simple and very economical. Cards should be arranged in alphabetical order by prefixes, enclose one dollar cash, check or money order, an SASE for reply, and notification of when your cards went out, and the latest mailing label from QST as proof of membership and mail to **ARRL MEMBERSHIP OVERSEAS QSL SERVICE, 225 MAIN STREET, NEWINGTON, CT 06111**. Do not mail to THE ZERO QSL BUREAU which only handles your incoming QSL cards for free. A member may send as many QSL cards as he wants up to twelve times a year. If one averages even two DX contacts per day for thirty days, this amounts to sixty cards in a month. The air-mail direct rate for sixty cards at 31¢ each would figure out to be \$18.60. Most of us can ill afford this kind of expense and turn to a more palatable means of accomplishing the end results.

MEMBER NEWS

Effective March 7, 1978, operator privilege for Steven P. Hutchinson, WBØVLL, changed from general to advanced, and his XYL Dalene, WBØTTK, from novice to general. Congratulations to you both!

FIELD DAY - 1979

Preparations are already under way for this year's Field Day. The annual June contest is just around the corner. Get ready for Field Day, June 23rd & 24th, along with thousands of amateurs who are busily readying generators, planning operating schedules, allocating duties and otherwise impatiently awaiting this official radio-amateur way to start the summer. With emergency preparedness

the theme, clubs and groups will take to the field and set up and operate stations independent of normal power facilities. Whatever the outcome, you're sure to gain valuable operating experience under field conditions as well as have a grand time.

An activity of this type requires many man-hours of planning and participation. Chairmen for the various "shacks" are as follows:

75 & 10 Meters:	Dick-KØDG
40 & 15 Meters:	Marty-WDØEFZ
20 Meters:	Mike-WØMQ and Mike-NØAON
VHF:	Chuck-KØTVD
Novice:	Charlie-KAØEBD
Cooks:	Phil-WBØWYE and Ed-WDØHBY
FD Chairmen:	Frank-WAØIWF and Dave-WDØDLN

We plan to make a good showing this year, since we have been fortunate enough to have quite a few operators volunteer to help and make it an all out effort.

Come and bring your operating experience, and if you don't have any, bring your effort; we can use all the experience and effort we can find. Please come out to help us and the club. We want to make a good showing in the Midwest.

If you are interested in operating

and/or logging in a particular shack, please contact that shack chairman. They will be available to talk to those wishing to participate, after the meeting.

73's Frank, WAØIWF and
Dave, WDØDLN

(Ed. Note: Congratulations KAØ-CSO, Mitch on upgrading to general which makes you ineligible to be chairman of the novice shack.)

NEWS NOTES

From the Kansas City DX Club paper, we learn that at the P.H.D. amfest CW contest, the winner was Joe Nanos, KØKES, who "hails from Lincoln, Nebraska." When did you move, Joe?

From the same publication, the CQ

WPX SSB Results indicates that Bill, WBØBMB (Ex-member of our Club) and his crack crew zoomed to an astonishing 1.2 million using a moderate antenna system and won the special multi-operator trophy.

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KBØBU HELPS IN CRISIS ABROAD

Eric Paddock

Ron Wright, KBØBU, of Burnsville, MN, turned his Amateur Radio hobby government service as the job of handling an international emergency fell in his favor.

Wright has been an Amateur Radio enthusiast for a little more than a year — “chewing the rag” with other amateurs from all over the world and exchanging QSL cards and radio information. But in February Wright’s hobby assumed tremendous importance when he provided a key communications link between strife-torn Teheran, Iran and Pentagon officials in Washington, DC.

Wright heard a report on a local radio station that said the American embassy in Teheran was under seige. Curiosity led Wright to his basement radio room, where he warmed up his equipment and set about finding a transmission from Iran which would provide him with firsthand news.

He soon found a frequency carrying a conversation between an amateur living in Orlando, FL and another, named Mike, situated not far from the embassy in Teheran.

Government agencies in Washington were unable to communicate directly with either the embassy or other radio operators in Iran. The Pentagon initiated a plan to set up a radio network involving Mike in Teheran and two stateside amateurs — the one Florida and another in Iowa.

The network plan had to be abandoned, however, because atmospheric conditions weakened the signal between Teheran and the East Coast.

The Pentagon turned to Wright, who had given his call over the radio, and reported his reception was loud and clear.

Wright set up a telephone patch with the Pentagon and for the next two hours relayed messages and information between Mike and Washington officials.

Thus, Wright helped provide the U.S. government with information about a guerrilla attack on the embassy, the freeing of hostages taken in the attack and other vital information about affairs in Teheran — halfway around the globe.

The transmissions between Wright and Mike were terminated at the end of two hours because forces of Ayatollah Khomeini were conducting a house-to-house search for weapons and radio equipment, and were getting dangerously close to Mike’s house. Ron’s link with Iran was eventually replaced by U.S. military radio.

“There’s a real kinship among hams,” said Wright, “a sort of brotherhood. When I was talking to Mike a lot of people were listening to us and rooting for us.”

Wright referred to an amateur in Moscow who came on the frequency simply to say good morning and wish the two men good luck.

“Once we had terminated,” said Wright, “I started getting calls from all over.”

Amateurs who had been listening to the conversation between Burnsville and Teheran radioed in to congratulate Ron, to thank him — and even to make arrangements to meet him personally.

Wright is somewhat of a national hero these days, getting calls from

distant radio and television stations at all hours of the night (he appeared on the "Today" show) - but he's taking it all in stride. He allows as how any amateur would gladly do what he had done.

It's part of the thrill of Amateur Radio, Ron said.

- via David Justis, MD, NØARU
de Worldradio, Inc.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING May 2, 1979

Present were: President, Tom, PQR; Jim, QGV; Mac, BMJ; Bob, TVP; Frank, IWF; Bob, UQJ; Wayne, HEU; Jerry, PPF; Dick, KØDG.

Guests were: Richard Swig, ZQG; Scott, WOT; and Don Novotny, KOCR. Don will host guided tours on Tuesday, May 8, 1979, through Northwestern Bell Telephone Company facilities, 90th & Western Avenue.

Treasurer's report was read by Mac, BMJ. Motion made by Jim, QGV, to accept as read, seconded by Bob, TVP, and motion carried.

Motion made by Frank, IWF, to relocate the 94 transmitter to WOWTV station, 3501 Farnam Street, at a cost not to exceed \$750.00 for the purchase of the necessary materials and tower contractors' installation fees. Motion seconded by Jerry, PPF, and carried by the Board.

The Board authorized Frank, IWF, Co-Chairman of Field Day, to purchase a new tent for use as our "Cook Tent."

Relocating the 94 transmitter from the Red Cross building to WOWTV

Station tower was reviewed further, with the very generous cooperation of Wayne Goetz, HEU, Chief Engineer at WOWTV, who volunteered a plan that will save our Club in excess of \$3,500. The antenna system will be 200 ft. or higher upon WOWTV's tower. This is an outstanding gift to our Club from Bob and Wayne. My personal thanks, gentlemen! If anyone desires to donate or assist in any way, please contact Bob, UQJ or Wayne, HEU.

Motion to adjourn by Jerry, PPF, seconded by Jim, QGV, motion carried.

Robert R. Chereck, Sr., WBØTVP
Club Secretary

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RECENT CONTRIBUTORS

Ham Hum Postage

Ray T. Howerter, WBOSGB

E. A. Stenberg, KOORM

Repeater 34/94

C. William Bechtold, NOWB

Gary R. Berneske, WORHW

Vern J. Wirka, WBOGQM

Repeater 22/82

C. William Bechtold, NOWB

Repeater 40/00

Gary R. Berneske, WORHW

Ray T. Howerter, WBOSGB

Sincere thanks to all!

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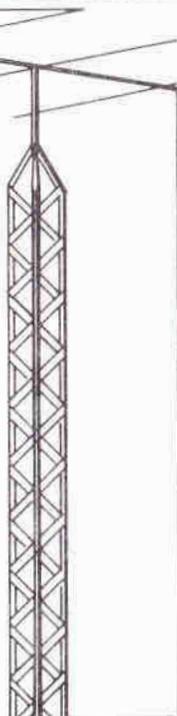
STOP! LOOK UP! AVOID POWER LINES.

Serious and even fatal accidents can occur when an antenna or any metal object contacts overhead power lines. If you are putting up a tower or antenna, observe these rules:

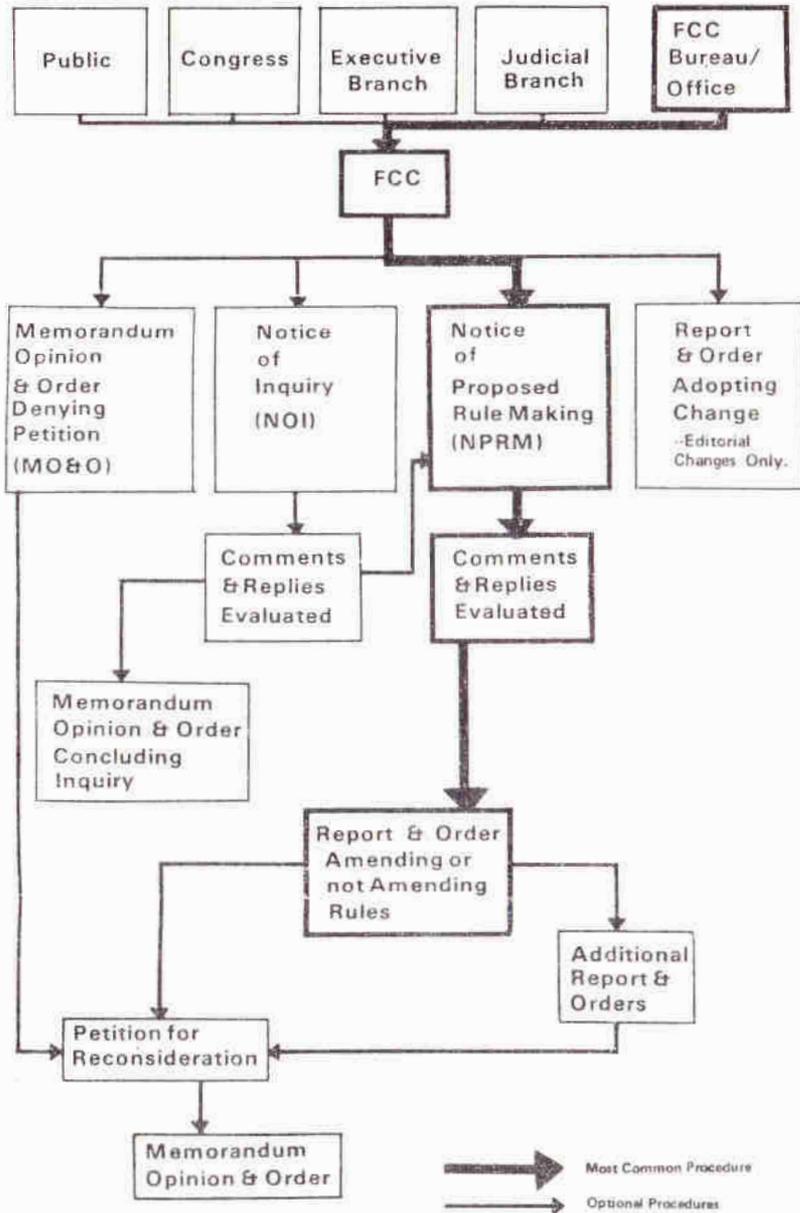
1. Check for overhead power lines. Every wire should be considered dangerous. Remember, they are not insulated.
2. Make sure there's more than enough clearance for carrying, raising or lowering the tower. It's easy to misjudge this clearance.
3. Erect the antenna or tower far enough away so that it will not hit any power line if it falls.

If power lines are a possible hazard, call OPD. We are interested in your safety.

OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT



HOW FCC RULES ARE MADE



This brief account of how Rules are made at the FCC merely highlights the major components of the process. For details, contact the Dockets Branch.

Reprinted from the FCC Communicator, September, 1975.

Steps:

1. Initiation of Action. Suggestions for changes to the FCC Rules and Regulations can come from sources outside of the Commission either by formal petition, legislation, court decision, or informal suggestion. In addition, a Bureau/Office within the FCC can initiate a Rule Making proceeding on its own.

2. Bureau/Office Evaluation. When a petition for Rule Making is received, it is sent to the appropriate Bureau(s)/Office(s) for evaluation. If a Bureau/Office decides a particular petition is meritorious, it can request that Dockets assign a Rule Making (RM) number to the petition. A similar request is made when a Bureau/Office decides to initiate a Rule Making procedure on its own. A weekly notice is issued listing all accepted petitions for Rule Making; the public has 30 days to submit comments. The Bureau/Office then has the option of generating an agenda item requesting one of four actions by the Commission. If an NOI or NPRM is issued, a Docket is instituted, and a Docket number is assigned.

3. Possible Commission Actions. Major changes to the Rules are presented to the public as either an NOI or NPRM. The Commission will issue an NOI when it is simply asking for information on a broad subject or trying to generate ideas on a given topic; an NPRM is issued when there is a specific change to the Rules being proposed. If an NOI is issued, it must be followed by either an NPRM or an MO&O concluding the inquiry.

4. Comments & Replies Evaluated. When an NOI or NPRM has been issued, the public is given the opportunity to comment initially, then respond to the comments that are made. When the Commission does not receive sufficient comments to make a decision, a further NOI or NPRM may be issued, again calling for comments & replies. It may be determined that an oral argument before the Commission is needed to provide an opportunity for the public to testify before the Commission, as well as for the Bureau(s)/Office(s) to present diverse opinions concerning the proposed Rule change.

5. Report & Order Issued. A Report & Order is issued by the Commission stating the new or amended Rule, or stating that the Rules will not be changed. The proceeding may be terminated in whole or in part.

6. Additional Report & Orders Issued. The Commission may issue additional Report & Orders in the docket.

7. Reconsideration Given. Petitions for reconsideration may be filed by the public within 30 days: they are reviewed by the appropriate Bureau(s)/Office(s) and/or by the Commission.

8. Modifications Possible. As a result of its review of a petition for reconsideration, the Commission may issue a MO&O modifying its initial decision or denying the petition for reconsideration.

HOW TO FILE COMMENTS IN AN FCC RULEMAKING

The following guidelines are provided to assist you in filing comments with the FCC:

YOUR EXPERIENCE

The FCC is interested in any experiences, judgments or insights you might have that would shed light on issues and questions raised in an inquiry or rulemaking.

FACTS

Your comments should explain who you are and what your interest is. State the facts briefly, but fully. Clearly explain your experience and any additional evidence which supports your position.

BE SPECIFIC

Your comments should be explicit. If the details of the proposed rules or if only one of several provisions of the rule are objectionable to you, make this clear. If the rule would be acceptable with certain safeguards, explain them and why they are needed.

OTHER OPINIONS

Your comments should include facts which might support a different position, discuss them and explain why the public interest requires that the matter be resolved as you propose.

FILING DATE

Arrange for your comments to reach the Commission on or before the comment or reply comment date included in the Notice of Inquiry or Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

FILING COMMENTS

Submit your written comments to: Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

If you want your comments to be received as a formal filing, you must submit an original and five copies; however, you may simply submit one copy to be filed in the Docket as an informal comment.

DOCKET NUMBER

Be sure to note the Docket Number or Rulemaking Number on your comments.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

You can obtain copies of a Notice of Inquiry or a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking by contacting the Public Information Officer, FCC, 1919 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. (202) 632-7260.

All Notices of Inquiry and Proposed Rulemaking are printed in the Federal Register soon after they are released by the Commission. The Federal Register is available in most public libraries across the country.

COAXIAL CABLE DATA

By: Bill Welsh (W6DDB)

de Lockheed ARC, Burbank, CA

(Continued from May Ham Hum)

The purpose of each column in the cable list is as follows:

The RG/U column shows just the basic transmission line numbers in sequence. As an example, RG-58C/U is listed as 58C. R, G,

and U represent Radio Frequency Transmission Line (R), Government Designation (G), and Universal Application (U).

The OHMS column lists the characteristic impedance (if applicable) shown in the associated military specification. Cable manufacturers often show a different value and this is okay as long as their stated impedance falls within the specified allowable tolerance. As an example, RG-213/U is listed as 50 ohms with a tolerance of 2 ohms; consequently, a manufacturer can list their RG-213/U as being any characteristic impedance between 48 and 52 ohms.

The TOL column lists the characteristic impedance tolerance allowed, whenever it is known.

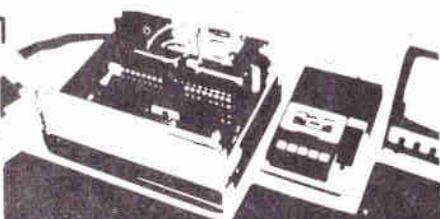
Unless otherwise stated, each tolerance can be assumed to be plus-or-minus.

The 10 MHz column lists the maximum allowable attenuation (in decibels) at 10 Megahertz, per every 100 feet of transmission line. The number to the right is the power handling capability (in watts) at 10 MHz. Cable manufacturers may rate their cables at lower loss levels.

The 400 MHz column lists the maximum allowable attenuation (in decibels) at 400 Megahertz, per every 100 feet of transmission line. The number to the right is the rated minimum power handling capability at 400 MHz. Cable manufacturers may rate their cables at lower loss levels.

(Continued on Page 14)

- Appointments Calendar
- Shopping Lists
- Daily Diet Planner
- Recipe Expansion
- Household Inventory
- Burglar & Fire Alarms
- Financial Planning & Budgeting
- Special Occasion Mailing Lists
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(Continued from Page 13)

Remember that power is approximately doubled or halved by each 3 decibel change; this means that a 100 foot length of cable with an attenuation of 6 decibels at 400 MHz cannot be expected to deliver more than 25 watts to the load (antenna) when 100 watts of 400 MHz power is supplied to its input from the transmitter.

The COMMENT column contains amplifying information.

Since the RF currents flowing thru a coaxial cable flow along the outer surface of the inner conductor (the GO line) and the inner surface of the outer conductor (the RETURN line), each coax acts like a waveguide above some critical frequency.

Regardless of which cable you select, remember to avoid sharp bends and to minimize mechanical stress on your cables. Sharp bends can displace the center conductor closer to the shield and this lowers the characteristic impedance of the cable.

RG/U	OHMS	TOL.	10 MHZ		400 MHZ		COMMENT
			DB	WATTS	DB	WATTS	
1							Waveguide
2							"
3							"
4	50	2	1.40	650			Superseded by 58B
5	52.5	2	0.83	1500	6.5	200	" " 5B
*	5A	50	2	"	"	"	" " "
*	5B	50	2	"	"	"	" " 212
*	6	75	3	"	"	"	" " 6B
*	6A	75	3	"	"	"	" " "
	6B	75	3	"	"	"	Video-Comm.
7	97	3	0.66	3500	6.0	300	
8	52	2	"	"	"	"	Superseded by 213
*	8A	52	2	"	"	"	" " "
*	9	51	2	"	2700	6.1	" " 214
*	9A	51	2	"	"	"	" " "
*	9B	50	2	"	"	"	" " "
*	10	52	2	"	3500	6.0	" " 215
*	10A	52	2	"	"	6.0	" " "
	11	75	3	"	2500	5.2	250 Good to 100 Mhz
*	11A	75	3	"	"	"	" " 1000 Mhz
*	12	75	3	"	"	"	Superseded by 12A
*	12A	75	3	"	"	"	Armored 11A
	13	74	3	"	"	5.7	Superseded by 216
*	13A	74	3	"	"	"	" " "
*	14	52	2.5	0.41	6000	3.1	480 " " 217

An asterisk (*) preceding a cable designation (RG/U) indicates a cable known to have a Class II or Class IIA jacket.

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When ordering, suffix "T" indicates complete antenna assembly with trunk lid mount. Suffix "M" indicates for 3/4" hole mounting.

BM-2700T — 27-31 MHZ 1/4 wave base-loaded. 200 watt rating. Covers 10 meters or CB. Great mobile antenna for converted CB rigs. 49" at lowest frequency and is approximately 42" when cut for ten meters. Complete with trunk lid mount assembly. **\$29.95**

BM-MATH — Extra whip (Cut one for 10 and one for CB) **\$5.00**

BM-4700T — Same assembly except for 47-54 MHZ **\$29.95**

BM-5800T — 144-174 MHZ 3/8 wave gain antenna. 200 watt rating. Complete **\$29.95**

BM-MAT 58 or **BM-MAT 22** — 3/8 matching coils (these coils with whips allow same mounting assembly to be used on different bands) **\$14.95**

BM-5822 — 220-225 MHZ 3/8 wave gain antenna **\$29.95**

Note: Deduct \$4.00 from "T" price for "M" assemblies.

Additional Information On Other Antenna Models Available

Bill, WØBM

Chuck, KØNG

Mike, WØMQ

G & C Communications

Dept. HH

730 Cottonwood
Lincoln, NE 68510

MEASURE YOUR QSL CARDS

New size standards for envelopes, cards and other pieces of mail will go into effect July 15, 1979.

The new minimum size is 3-1/2 inches high by 5 inches long. New minimum thickness is .007. This new requirement applies to all classes of mail. Items not meeting these minimums will be non-mailable. The new size standards do not apply to objects such as hotel keys, I.D. cards and tags.

The new maximum size is 6-1/8 inches high by 11-1/2 inches long. Maximum thickness is 1/4 inch. This requirement affects only first class mail weighing one ounce or less and single piece third class mail weighing two ounces or less. Bulk third class mail is not affected.

Mail in excess of 6-1/8 inches high or 11-1/2 inches long or 1/4 inch thick will be mailable but will be subject to a surcharge of 7¢ per piece. The surcharge will also be imposed on mail within these standards but whose length is less than 1.3 or more than 2.5 times its height.

These new size standards were first proposed in 1973. In June of 1976, the Postal Service approved them with the understanding that customers would be given until at least April 15, 1978 to exhaust their stock. That date has since been extended to July 15, 1979.

DON'T SELL AMATEUR RADIO SHORT

There's a tendency, what with all the whoop-and-holler about CBers stealing frequencies, to take a sad look
Page 16

at amateur radio. Don't fall into that trap!

Amateur radio is far from being a dying cause. It's growing. It's becoming better organized, with more and more aligning with the ARRL. The united front gives us more clout. It takes a bit of the opposition to arouse people into actively fighting for their cause. And it takes what the British call "Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition" to keep organized amateur radio on its toes and fighting for what the informed majority considers "right."

True, the list of Silent Keys tells us every month we're losing some of our fine Old Timers, those stalwarts who fought the battles for radio amateurs over the years and who shaped Amateur Radio into its present form.

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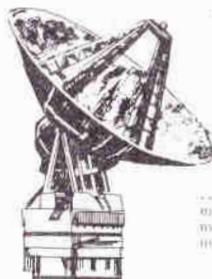
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(Continued from Page 16)

We owe them a great debt. But we also owe an equally great obligation to those new amateurs who're coming on. Our obligation is to hand over to them an Amateur Radio Service that's as promising of great fulfillment as the one we received from those who came before us.

And there're many coming on. Have you noticed the type of persons who're taking training at the various amateur radio classes? They show a cross-section of life. They're young chaps, but there're many older ones, too. All are motivated by a common drive: To demonstrate qualification for an amateur radio operator license.

A group was discussing amateur radio operators and taking note of the fact that, as a rule, they were just a cut above the average cross-section of life. Why, it was asked? The consensus was that the need for a spirit of dedication, a dedication to stick to and to master discipline, was the filter that eliminated the dilettante, the piddler, the wishy-washy type who never sticks to any cause that requires sustained effort to achieve success. (In case you're wondering about bias, not all of that group were radio amateurs!)

Be proud you're a radio amateur!

(W5JJ in C and E)
de Florida Skip

MR. FIXIT SEZ: DON'T FIXIT

By Bernie Dacus, WB6GRW

With the acquisition of a ham license, an individual is supposed to be transformed overnight into an instant electronics technician. Most neighbors, friends and family think so anyway.

When word gets out that Joe recently got his ticket, he is soon besieged with requests to analyze, repair, or overhaul assortments of calculators, toasters, TVs, electronic ignition systems. Since our mythical Joe earns his living as an accountant, he will not entertain thoughts of charging for any projects accepted, especially for those dear neighbors, friends and family members who are entrusting their valuable possessions to his skilled hands. Most notably, however, is the fact that the entrusters usually do not harbor any thoughts of paying trustees for services rendered or parts bought.

Many years ago, after I was first licensed as a ham and thinking now that I know the difference between an ohm and a farad, nothing can be too

(Continued on Page 18)

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(Continued from Page 17)

tough to fix. Armed with all my accumulated knowledge, I graciously accepted the challenge to repair an errant TV belonging to a fellow office worker. The complicated things a skilled technician looks for when trouble-shooting such as unplugged line cords, blown fuses, and tripped breakers had already been thought of by the owners and it looked more and more like I had taken on a real dog.

With no test equipment or tools, nothing but an uncanny knowledge of everything electronic, it was decided to remove the "patient" to better examining facilities (namely my workbench — and I didn't even live in the same town). I failed to grasp the significance when the lady of the house brushed away a tear while we were disconnecting and loading the TV in my vehicle. It was as if an only child was going to the hospital with a critical undiagnosed ailment.

My evenings for the next two weeks were spent not without interruption to answer and provide detailed progress reports on when they could again view the Howdy Doody Show. The phone calls were supplemented with special daily briefings upon arrival at work. Not wishing to admit my ignorance, I expanded on the complicated tests I had run, using such technical terms as raster, audio, video, flyback and AGC. The owner, being even more ignorant, and apparently overwhelmed by the complex jargon, kept his trust.

Finally, in desperation, I consulted with a fellow amateur, far more worldly than I. He introduced me to a friend for life — Sam. After a speedy trip to the local parts house and a dole out of two bucks (an astronomical sum

in those days), I procured the appropriate Sam's Photofact folder. Two hours later I was looking Ed Sullivan right in the eye. The problem turned out to be an almost invisible break in a printed circuit board. I later found out that this problem baffled other so-called TV repairmen, at least one of whom failed to reinstall the correct tubes to all sockets.

The owners were so gratified in getting their long lost TV back that they even offered me a cup of coffee. Renumeration was never mentioned by anyone, after all, what are friends for. I soon found out that my repair effort carried a lifetime guarantee. Any problem subsequently encountered with that set brought an immediate request for service. The only thing that eventually saved me was my acceptance of a job transfer to a faraway place.

Some hams will even admit they have no abilities to effect proper repairs on their own equipment and will sometimes openly solicit other hams to perform above and beyond the call of compensation. Caustic comments are sometimes overheard on the local repeater when timely deliveries of repaired components are not forthcoming.

If you have the urge to demonstrate your electronic prowess when Aunt Sadie's electric blanket craps out, just remember even though the Fire Chief missed it in his investigation of the rubble, Aunt Sadie will believe to her dying day that the repair job you did years ago was the culprit that burned her house down.

—from "The Satellite Orbit"
de W6SD Carrier

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Matthew Smith, W4LBQ, 6401 Redick Street,
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FOR SALE: Teletype equipment: TG7B page printer and keyboard; TG26B perforator/reperforator.
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