



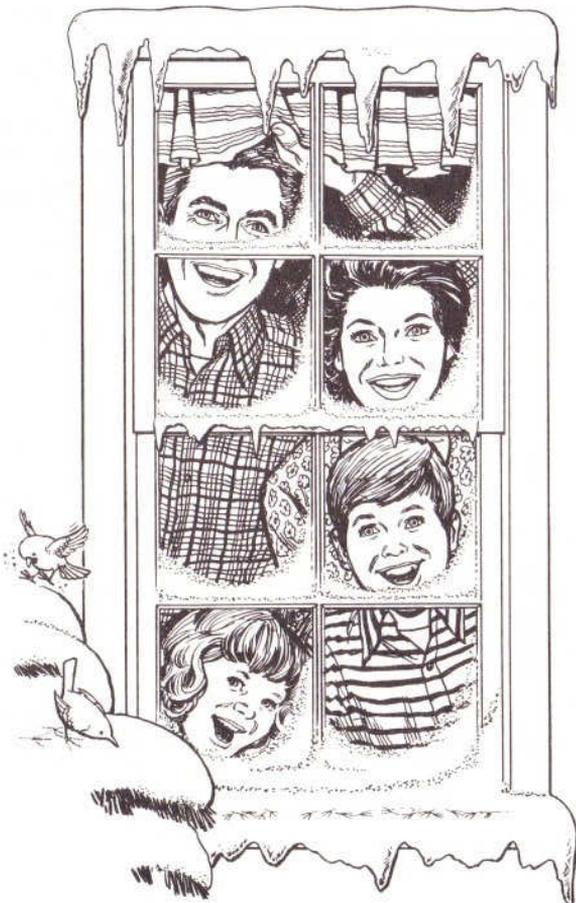
HAM HUM

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



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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

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WØWRT

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Copy deadline for Feb. is Jan. 20

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

WHEN: Friday, January 13, 1984

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

WHERE: Heartland Chapter
American Red Cross
38th and Dewey Avenue
Omaha, NE 68105

PROGRAM: Joe Eisenberg, WØWRI on the topic of VHF Propagation.

AK-SAR-BEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
December 9, 1983

President William Martin, N0ANQ, called the meeting to order at 1930 hours and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved and seconded that the reading of the minutes of the official Annual Meeting held last December 1982 be waived. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Dick Fehrman, KA0AAB. Dick reported that total income for 1983 was \$11,497.21 and total expenses were \$10,089.96. Moved and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

John Gebuhr, WB0CMC, gave a Repeater Committee Report.

It was moved and seconded to accept the following new members: KD0EV Michael S. Lennen, W0BPY Frank H. Ladd, KA0PVP Lois J. Eisenberg. Motion carried.

As head of the Nominating Committee, Jim Peterson, WB0GQT placed into nomination for President, Dave Hamilton, N0CLW. There being no further nominations for President, a motion was moved and seconded that the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot and a vote of confidence for the Club President Dave Hamilton. Motion carried.

As head of the Nominating Committee, Jim Peterson, WB0GQT, placed into nomination for Vice-President Jim Sanford, N0AIH. John Gebuhr, WB0CMC nominated Rich Swig, WA0ZQG, seconded by Charles Michel, K0QVL. It was moved and seconded that nominations for Vice-President be closed. Motion carried. Ballots were passed out and voting for Vice-President took place.

While voting was taking place, President Bill Martin handed out Appreciation Certificates to the retiring Board and Committee Members.

Voting was completed and it was announced that Jim Sanford was elected Vice-President for 1984.

As head of the Nominating Committee, Jim Peterson placed into nomination the following for Board of Trustees: Samuel S. Kaplan, WB0BVH; Charles T. Rush, M.D., N0AZ; Virgil P. Wamsat, KB0BW; Gregory C. Zimmerman, N0BTN. There being no further nominations from the floor, it was moved and seconded that the Secretary cast an unanimous ballot and a vote of confidence for the Board of Trustees. Motion carried.

At this time, President Bill Martin presented Dave Hamilton, newly elected President, with the gavel.

Newly elected President Dave Hamilton presented outgoing President Bill Martin with a plaque from the Club in appreciation for the year of service given the Club.

It was moved and seconded that the 1983 Annual Meeting be adjourned at 2020 hours. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Fink, WD0GIL
Secretary

1984 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------|
| President | David B. Hamilton, NØCLW | 493-1390 |
| Vice President | James E. Sanford, NØAIH | 571-2704 |
| Past President | William H. Martin, NØANQ | 451-4988 |

Executive Council

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Samuel S. Kaplan, WDØBVH | 551-5658 |
| Charles T. Rush, M.D., NØAZ | 331-1148 |
| Virgil P. Wamsat, KBØBW | 332-4307 |
| Gregory C. Zimmerman, NØBTN | 895-5219 |
| Wm. A. (Duke) Humphrey, WDØEWH | 455-5402 |
| Marlene A. Jugel (XYL) | 572-9491 |
| Verne J. Wirka, WBØGQM | 556-3638 |
| Brian Zdan, KMØY | 553-2610 |

CONGRATULATIONS!

DONATIONS

34/94

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Byron Anderson | W9MEI |
| F. Hilton Norton | WBØHPP |
| Dr. Charles Rush | NØAZ |
| Virgil Wamsat | KBØBW |
| Duke Humphrey | WDØEWH |
| Merlin Nichols | KB8TR |
| Vern Labenz | KAØEAD |
| Ron Sundsboe | WAØMQM |

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Omaha, NE 68104

40/00

| | |
|------------------|--------|
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| Ellen Morrissey | WBØHWF |
| F. Hilton Norton | WBØHPP |
| Dr. Charles Rush | NØAZ |
| Virgil Wamsat | KBØBW |
| Brian Zdan | KMØY |
| Duke Humphrey | WDØEWH |
| Merlin Nichols | KB8TR |
| Vern Labenz | KAØEAD |
| Ron Sundsboe | WAØMQM |

NEW MEMBERS

Lois J. Eisenberg, KAØPVP
XYL of Joe Eisenberg, WAØWRI
6627 Colby
Lincoln, NE 68505

Frank H. Ladd, WØBPY
509 N. 38
Omaha, NE 68131
Home phone: 556-3024
Bus. phone: 556-3023

Ham Hum

Bob Snodgrass KØAFD

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE CLUB

- 1945 Nels Peter Nelson, W7RCF (Ex-WØYDC)
1946 John F. Leeder, WØUFD
*1947 Arthur R. Gaeth, WØFQB
1948 Herbert D. Curry, WØQXR
*1949 Elmer N. Stein, Ex-WØAVM
1950 Dr. Leon Becker, W6AID (Ex-WØBBX)
1951 Earle E. Olson, WØJKE
1952 John W. Orr, WØPHW
*1953 Rev. R. J. Strange, WØQHG
1954 Frank W. Cooper, W3NV (Ex-WØIOS)
1955 Arthur E. Sadler, W9KHD (Ex-WØQMD)
1956 Dick L. Eilers, WØYZV
1957 Curtis D. Hicks, KØAMM
*1958 Edward Gutmann, WØCQX
1959 David A. Hollander, W6COJ (Ex-WØCJW)
*1960 Max N. McKinney, WØYVV
1961 John A. Droescher, KØKWB
*1962 Royal M. Enders, KØLYQ
1963 Joseph F. Berounsky, KØQDB
1964 Louis A. Cutler, WØVLI
*1965 Edmond E. Donze, WØYEV
1966 Byron J. Smith, Sr., WAØICK
1967 Ervan D. Heinz, WAØEEM
1968 Robert C. Lockwood, WAØDHU
1969 Royce E. Johnson, WAØKIL
1970 Harold E. McClenahan, Jr., WAØDGA
1971 James C. Droege, WØYCP
1972 Edward F. Askew, WAØRDZ
1973 Russell A. Minks, WAØVEE
1974 Vernard Riportella, WA2LQQ (Ex-WBØGAJ)
1974-75 Marion Wilczynski, WBØBMV
1976 Edward C. Eichler, WBØBCB
1977 Robert A. Conley, WBØLYU
1978 James R. Peterson, WBØQGV
1979 Thomas L. Theissen, KØPQR
1980 Richard D. Jugel, KØDG
1981 James B. Wilson, WBØJPN
1982 Walter J. Brown, Jr., KAØDMB
1983 William H. Martin, NØANQ

*Deceased



CLUB FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 11, 1983
(See Page 18 for more photos)



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

It all started in late 1975 or early 1976. At least this phase of it. Then, the Omaha Tornado of May, 1975 was still fresh in everyone's mind. Emergency preparedness was a hot topic. Civil Defense, Red cross, and State and Federal Emergency Services were still evaluating their respective performances during that single, most devastating disaster ever recorded in the history of Omaha as a major metropolitan center.

In retrospect, I think the role played by amateur radio during those darkest hours was indeed a surprise to everyone, even to the "hams" themselves. They handled over 10,000 messages into and out of the Omaha area during the emergency operation, as well as serving as local radio communications operators for all branches of civil, state, and federal emergency crews throughout the city to coordinate rescue and clean-up operations in the hours, days, and weeks that followed.

However, even though the emergency services, including the amateur operators, publicly boasted of their preparedness and readiness in meeting the May Disaster, they privately reviewed their accounts and found them lacking in many respects, and set out to do something about it! They all vowed that they would REALLY be ready the next time.

So they started in — the fire department, the police department, ambulance services, the Red Cross, Civil Defense, and many others. Public sentiment was a great help, at the time, to increase budgets and volunteer much-needed individual support. Remember how often those Storm Warning Sirens went off in the months that followed?

Money to increase emergency facilities was readily available then. The Emergency Operations Center was created and built; additional Red Cross Volunteers were recruited and trained; Civil Defense radio communications facilities were improved and expanded; and the amateur radio operators went to work on their procedures and capabilities through such organizations as the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and the Civil Defense Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) organizations. Everyone, it seemed, was "Hot to Trot."

So it was in that time that the amateur station in the Emergency Operations Center was conceived, space was obtained, and coaxial cable was eventually strung to connect mythical radios in the EOC to non-existent antennas on the roof. But the radios and antennas were sure to come, because the citizens of Omaha had witnessed the great contributions of amateur radio in time of dire need, and surely, those who had been helped would stand in line to be the first to contribute to build such a facility to aid others in future times of need. Surely, the small amount of money necessary to equip the station with radios and antennas should be easy to find!

The idea was that all emergency services could be housed under a single "safe" roof at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), where they could coordinate and execute in harmony during any civil, national, or other emergency that may arise. The hams, because of their record in the '75 tornado, were part of the emergency fraternity.

Now, before I go much further, it's probably a good idea to explain a little about amateur radio. In fact, I wish it were called something like "non-commercial," or "not-for-pay" radio instead of "amateur" radio. The word "amateur" conveys a meaning of ineptness, less-than-professional-quality, inexperience, and non-dedication. And nothing could be farther from the truth when speaking about "amateur" radio! In fact, many "hams" are employed as professionals in the world of communications, as well as other technical, professional, and management pursuits. There is indeed nothing "amateur" about their ability to respond to emergency situations, whenever and wherever they may arise, in any part of the world. Ham radio, you see, is not just a U.S. of A. thing, but it is universal, worldwide, and sanctioned and protected by international agreement and law. The Red Cross has long recognized the enormous capabilities of amateur radio, and most chapters have a ham station on site. The military services, through the Military Affiliate Radio Services (MARS), also contribute to the maintenance of a sound liaison between ham radio and the military communications commands. (Have you ever received "MARSGRAMS" or "PHONE-PATCHES" from your sons, husbands, relatives, daughters and friends overseas via MARS radio?)

Many of you have read about the last contacts that were made into Iran after the shameful takeover of the American Embassy by Iranian nitwits — via ham radio! And the ONLY contact in and out of Grenada during the recent U.S. invasion, except for military radio — "hams" again. And, did you read about the Wisconsin boy who telegraphed the real reason for the U.S.A. boycott of the Moscow Olympics to thousands of Russians who were never told the real story by their government — again via "ham" radio?

And on the technical side, hams pioneered, developed and perfected the Single Sideband mode of High Frequency transmission, which is the standard in military and all long distance radio communications today. Hams explored and demonstrated the utility of the entire High Frequency (HF) and Very High Frequency (VHF) bands when the rest of the world thought that operation in such areas was fruitless! And, more recently, they have launched their own satellites, conducted space experiments that rival those of NASA and agencies from other countries, and even bounced the first radio signals off the moon and back to earth again (under RCA sponsorship)! Now, if all this sounds "amateurish" to you, I guess I just don't know what a "Pro" is!

The hams who do all this live right next door. They are the ones with the funny-looking little walkie-talkies hanging on their belts, with their own private two-way portable telephone system that covers the whole town (not just a few hundred feet like the port-a-phones do), and the HF radio gear and antennas that enable them to converse with similarly-equipped stations virtually anywhere on the globe! And they don't make any money doing it.

Now when I was a boy in Wayne, Nebraska, back in the 1940's and early 1950's, I was fascinated by old man Wright's set-up just a block or so away from our place. I used to watch his beam antenna swing around when he

(Continued on Page 12)

1983 Financial Statement
Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Income:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| ARRL | \$ 222.00 |
| Auction | 3,869.80 |
| Auction Concession | 425.01 |
| Auction Door Prize | 60.00 |
| Dues | 2,133.00 |
| Equipment Fund | 20.00 |
| Field Day Return | 246.20 |
| Ham Hum | 187.00 |
| Interest (Checking thru 12/15) | 148.09 |
| Jackets and Hats | 104.00 |
| Name Tags | 23.00 |
| Repeaters: 34/94 | 257.00 |
| 40/00 | 226.06 |
| 22/82 | 35.00 |
| Special 34/94 Fund | 347.00 |
| Shirts | 360.00 |
| Social Hour | 125.68 |
| Transfer Savings and Checking | <u>3,378.85</u> |
| | \$12,167.69 |
| | |
| Savings as of 12/22/83 | \$10,419.71 |
| Face Value CD at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, matures Feb. '85 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| | |
| Balance Forward January 1, 1983 | \$ 1,191.51 |
| Receipts | <u>12,167.69</u> |
| | \$13,359.20 |
| Expenditures | <u>10,771.35</u> |
| | |
| Balance December 31, 1983 | \$ 2,587.85 |

Expenditures:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| ARRL | \$ 204.00 |
| Appreciation Gifts | 97.80 |
| Auction | 3,520.28 |
| Auction Concession Stand | 275.00 |
| Auction Door Prize | 40.00 |
| Field Day | 600.00 |
| Florist | 54.75 |
| Ham Hum | 660.00 |
| Ham of Year Award | 75.00 |
| Insurance | 684.35 |
| Name Tags | 29.20 |
| New Equipment | 158.64 |
| Northwestern Bell | 190.73 |
| Office Supplies | 18.75 |
| Postage | 170.68 |
| President Plaques | 98.16 |
| Repair 34/94 | 669.25 |
| Repair AR22/Ham M Rotor | 87.00 |
| Repeaters: 40/00 | 226.06 |
| 22/82 | 35.00 |
| Social: Christmas | 504.09 |
| Meetings | 92.29 |
| Safety Deposit Box | 15.00 |
| Secretary of State Incorporation Papers | 20.00 |
| Shirts | 339.52 |
| Third-class mailing fee | 40.00 |
| Transfer to Commercial Federal checking | 1,775.16 |
| Trailer License | 10.64 |
| VHF Tower NWS Repair | <u>80.00</u> |
| | \$10,771.35 |

(Continued from Page 9)

was running his rig, and I would imagine that he was talking to people who were worlds, and maybe even planets, away! Even though he probably could have, it turned out that he really rarely ever ran the old rig except on Sunday mornings to talk to his son, who was somewhere out in New Jersey. Oh well, that was close enough to classify as "near outer space" to a wide-eyed 7-year-old Nebraska kid who had never journeyed any farther away than Winside or maybe Norfolk at the time. So I eventually got into ham radio for the adventure, as did many others, never realizing that the skills I was picking up along the way would someday be of paramount importance in designing and building an emergency communications system. Like many other hams, I guess I blundered into an emergency public service roll quite by accident!

And I guess I really don't think that's a big deal — I fulfilled my dream — I studied hard to learn the basics of radio theory and struggled on my way through the morse code — and I got the ham "ticket," and I talked to other hams the world over. But in the process I lost the innocence of inexperience — I became somewhat "insulated" from the wonder of it all, and it became pretty much a ho-hum affair. I would go down to the basement to the "shack" for an hour or so before dinner and knock off an Argentinian or two, a Japanese station, one or two South Africans, The Jim Jones mission in Guyana, and maybe even a Russian or two if the bands were bad and there was no one else to talk to. Big deal.

But then there were the weather watches, where local hams actually stand watch at pre-determined checkpoints during foul weather warnings under the auspices of the National Weather Service (NWS). This includes training by the Red Cross and NWS so volunteers can spot and report dangerous cloud formations and accurately report current weather conditions. And sometimes, when the weather really got bad, like the Omaha and Grand Island tornadoes, follow-up communications became the most important contribution a ham could make to helping out in bad times. It's really not so much different than anyone else when something disasterous hits — you use whatever skills and talent you have to benefit the group as a whole. Nothing more, nothing less. Maybe there was a practical, everyday use for these communications skills that hams had acquired by the sweat of their brow that even they had not imagined?

Hams do have a serious shortcoming, however, and that's a total lack of public relations sense and marketing capability. After all, if they worked so hard for their tickets and had shown, time and time again, how valuable they were in time of need, why bother to blow their own horn? And besides, bragging is not consistent with the low-key, "not-for-pay" amateur image. And after all, the underdog always comes out ahead, doesn't he? Right is always right, and if amateur radio is wronged, certainly a knight of honor will magically show up and right it all in the public image. Right?

Wrong! We read every day about neighborhoods that are trying to ban ham antennas, cut off ham transmitters completely, and, in general, wipe out the service that has served (and is serving) them so well. That, to me, is like cutting off your nose to spite your face. Hams are constantly being mistaken for "CBer's," with the connotation of recklessness, disregard

for radio law, abusive language, and whatever else. In fact, such charges are often not even accurate when levelled at legitimate citizens band operators, who also team up with other emergency agencies, including the "hams," when the need arises.

So the impetus to continue on the EOC project waned, with no effective Public Relations, and the memory of the tornado fading; but then came the Valley Floods in the Spring of 1978. Again, ham radio was a front-page item, assisting again by providing communications to anyone and everyone who needed it, including the Governor of Nebraska himself!

And we got going again! We needed radios and stuff for the EOC, and we went after it with great VIGAH! (JFK-circa 1962). Several different Hams, with varying backgrounds and occupational pursuits were assigned as EOC liaisons to pursue the project, but with no avail. And soon, the memory again faded.

But, after a few more rounds, like the Grand Island Tornado, the Platte River near-floods, and the Emerson, Ia. Amtrak wreck, a new (old) face came on the scene — that of Walter C. Brown, KAØDMB, who was appointed EOC liaison by the Douglas County Amateur Radio Emergency Coordinator, Mitch Gagne, NØAZF, in late 1982.

Now Walter is not your normal sit-around, do-nothing guy. He decided that if he had the job, he was going to do something about it. So he immediately began to write cards and letters to anyone he thought could help, including God and President Reagan, to get some bucks to put radios and antennas in the EOC.

Soon he found out about politics. It seems that nobody don't trust nobody, including themselves, in that business! And if anybody (or group) that is halfway honest gets mixed up in it, nobody will believe them anyway, because the law of the jungle is that "everybody has to have an angle." It's kind of funny that people who profess to want something to make life easier when a disaster strikes, are looked upon almost like thieves or charlatans when there is no disaster, but as Saints when the disaster strikes and they do, indeed, produce a service. Weird —and perhaps a statement of life in the 1980's!

Undaunted, however, our hero next went after the Omaha City Council, the Mayor and anyone else who would listen. In early '83, he contacted the State Civil Defense people, and let me tell you, liaison really began! It was not long before the word came down that the EOC was to have amateur radio gear, and that all able-bodied citizens between the ages of 13 and 72 were to assist in this noble effort!

A meeting was held between the Omaha Civil Defense Director, Walter C. (KAØDMB), and Mitch (NØAZF), and they all agreed that something should be done. About April, 1983, Jim Sanford (NØAIH) jumped on board and the three hams started looking high and low for funds that might be available to outfit the fledgling EOC amateur radio room.

Then, a miracle happened. Someone, who can't be mentioned here (mostly because I don't know who it was), suggested that the hams request the money from the 1984 city budget via the City Council. So, the three of them prepared the documentation necessary to request the funds from the budget, and submitted it to the Council.

(Continued on Page 14)

(Continued from Page 13)

Well, then the _____ hit the fan! The request made the local paper, and many comments were fielded, probably from some of the same people who had received Marsgrams and Phone Calls via amateur emergency systems from their kids in Vietnam (and elsewhere), or who had forgotten how ham radio got word out in May, 1975 to their relatives that they were all right, or who just plain knew that their tax dollars were being frittered away on stupid C.B. radios that would never be used for anything but gathering dust in some hole in the corner of a government building somewhere!

So the Mayor recommended that the request be denied, and, of course, the Council went along with it, but somehow it became known that the request should be re-submitted around November 1st. It was, and I'll be darned, this time it was accepted! Great Glory in the Morning! Walter's patience had been rewarded, Mitch and Jim had prepared reams of documentation, finally, to some avail, and the ship came in!

On December 13, 1983, the Omaha City Council approved the resolution to contract with the AK-SAR-BEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC., to provide \$11,000 for radio and antennas to equip the EOC for operation on the amateur radio bands, which would be staffed by volunteer AK-SAR-BEN RADIO CLUB, INC. licensed amateur operators, and to serve the community by providing communications capability whenever it is so requested by the appropriate civil authorities.

And that, my friends, is the best deal the City of Omaha will ever get anywhere. And thanks to Walt, Jim, and Mitch, whose tireless efforts have made it possible, along, of course, with the Mayor and the City Council, we can all rest a little easier in assurance that we are better prepared for the next one that comes along. And as sure as Satan, more will come!

From all of us in Omaha — Thanks, folks.

Dick Jugel, KØDG

ATTENTION!

There will be a special meeting for all ARES members and other interested radio amateurs on February 11, 1984 at the Heartland Chapter, American Red cross, 38th and Dewey, at 1:00 p.m. The topic of discussion is the upcoming possibility of flooding in our area. Roy Osugi, a hydrologist from the National Weather Service in Omaha will address this very important subject. Please make it a point to attend.

Mitch Gagne, NØAZF

Douglas County Emergency coordinator

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Greetings Dick —

Will be operating from Monserrat from Jan. 20 to March 10, '84 and, always, will be looking for "AK" A.R.C. friends. Seasons Greetings to all.

Enjoyed watching "Big Red" on TV in Bermuda last Saturday — what a team!

73, Dave — VP2MDB

P.S. '84 dues enclosed.

DOES THE FCC REALLY TAKE PAYOLA?

Westlink Copy

THE 220 MHZ BAND MAY HAVE ANOTHER FIGHT FOR ITS SURVIVAL

" The land mobile radio industry newsletter Industrial Communications reported in its November 18th issue that 1 of the items to be contemplated in the FCC's Information Request into land mobile spectrum policy will be consideration to reallocate the spectrum from 220-225 MHz.

This decision appears to come directly from the FCC's Office of Science and Technology. Just before press time, *Westlink* learned that if approved, the so-called reallocation will call for the removal of all amateur radio activity from that band in deference to land Mobile users of amplitude companded SSB.

It should be noted that this possible future regulatory change is being generated entirely within the FCC itself, and does not have the support of Land Mobile Service users who fear an ongoing confrontation with some members of the Amateur Radio Service if they should happen to be put in the position of having the 220 MHz-1 1/4 meter band turned over to them.

In the past, several of the more radical users of 220 have said that they would go to prison rather than vacate the band to any other service. They say that if OST forces the issue, it could have severe consequences for both services involved. TNX W9JUV and others."

Gentlemen, start your word processors, pens, pencils and anything else that may write. It appears the FCC is about to stick it to us again. First, the NO CODE (as yet in limbo), and now they are considering eliminating the 220-225MHZ band entirely to turn it over to the Land Mobile Service.

Whether you have equipment for this band or not, I remind you (or make you aware) that ARES depends heavily on the band for its operation. It allows passing delicate information between entities which, if aired on 2M would alarm the general public. There is still no scanner built that will receive 220MHZ (220 transceivers excepted).

You may say, "What about 440MHZ?" We already share 420-450 on a secondary basis with other services, primarily radio location. Most scanners can receive 420-450 simply by programming.

What about the millions of dollars currently invested in 220 equipment that will become useless should this take place?

Whether or not you have 220 capabilities, please write to Washington,
c/o Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Voice your strong objection to what is being considered. Those of us who do use it, especially in the public interest, need a great deal of support on this.

John Gebuhr, WBØCMC

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2

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LARSON

TRUNK Lid Mount

NMO-Q

3

Bill Batchelor

WSUZQ

HAM

HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM

BMJ Bellevue G+C Lincoln



LEGAL PROBLEMS

The Ground Wave

Do you have an antenna ordinance problem? Don't despair. The ARRL is trying to be a clearing house of legal information to deal with local zoning cases. Two excellent reference books are available if you need 'em.

There is a blue-covered book, *Answers to Your Questions About Local Antenna Regulations*. This book tells how, in a legal case, to present Amateur Radio in a good light. Also, for your attorney, there is a light blue-covered book, *Attorney's Portion — Legal Kit Revision, January 1982, Prepared by the Office of the General Counsel — ARRL*. This book gives him (or her) a summary of pertinent cases over the past 10 or 15 years. It gives a brief summary of each case. Most importantly, it will save a lot of time in researching your case.

The League may help you litigate, but it depends on the case. If winning your case would set a precedent that would establish "good law" to help many amateurs in the future, they'll be in there to help. If the issues in your case will benefit only you, you can't expect them to get excited.

The League has a new program called the Volunteer Counsel Program. A radio amateur attorney would agree to give you an initial consultation free of charge. He will help you decide what to do — how to fight your case. The volunteer attorney will have all of the legal information from ARRL headquarters and will be able to effectively match those cases to your local situation.

There are two kinds of antenna problems. First, deed restrictions. When you sign a deed to property, you make a private contract that you agree with the conditions of the deed. Many new subdivisions have all utilities underground and may have some restrictions on antennas. You can't very well fight those restrictions when you have already agreed to them.

The other situation is where local governing bodies (cities, counties, etc.) pass zoning ordinances limiting the height of antennas. In these cases, *your* rights are being limited, and you can sue. One amateur not only beat such an ordinance as being a violation of his civil rights, but also won \$8,000 in attorneys' fees.

Public Law 97-259

Dale said that the most important provision in the Goldwater RFI Bill is that it clearly states that radio frequency interference (RFI) is a condition regulated by federal authorities, not cities, counties or states. It clarifies exclusive federal jurisdiction. Unfortunately, this is not a cure-all because local authorities looking for a loophole are now passing tower ordinances based on *safety*. Massachusetts is going even further, stating that radio frequency energy is a health hazard! ARRL has filed a 20-page response in the Massachusetts case.
