

WØEQU

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# Ham Hum

HAM HUM is the official organ of the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club of Omnha, Nebraska, Mailed monthly to all members and to others upon request. News and information of interest to amate@ radio is gladly Published by AK-SAR-BEN RADIO CLUB INC. Post Office Box 626 Omaha 1, Nebranka

accepted. All items must be received at least two weeks prior to the second Friday of each month for inclusion in the current issue. Submit all corresponders to P.O. Box 626, Omaha, Nebr.

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Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club memberships are open to all persons having an interest in amount radio and its activities. Dues are 50g per month or \$5.00 per year when paid in advance. Students per year. Initiation fee ...00.
Special rate for O86-XYL, \$6.50
payable annually. Meetings are
hold on the second Friday of
each massh.

## DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting will the annual Christmas party and election of officers. Following the same general pattern as last year, the giving of gifts and the voting is for paid up members only. The members not paid up have already been sent invoices suggesting payment. Many of them are coming in the mail. If yours isn't in by the time you read this, bring it with you to the meeting. The treasurer will be glad to fix you up with the hallots.

For the gifts this year, as usual the Board has taken the money received from the raffle all year long and added to it enough to make a bangup Christmas party. All in all about a \$130.00 will be spent on gifts which each member will have a chance to win. In addition to this, as has been the custom, we are asking each member to bring a gift of \$1.00 or more value properly wrapped for the Christmas spirit. This is for members only. Guests need not bring any presents as they cannot participate in the drawing and PLEASE PLEASE MEMBER that if it's not worth anything, don't bring it. New merchandise only and no surplus. This is for the benefit of the member who may draw

your present who would be mighty disappointed at receiving something of no value. If you have no imagination or don't have time to shop, just wrap up a dollar bill in a fancy package and bring it with you. If you just plain can't afford to come up with a present of this type, come anyway. We will have a few presents for that purpose that have been donated that will be put in your name.

By so doing there will be a present for everybody and a few extras for those lucky enough to draw two. You'll be assigned a number as you enter the door and that number will be your number for the purpose of the drawing.

WHEN? December 12, 1958
WHERE? World Insurance
Company Cafeteria - 18th and
Douglas. Entrance through the
lobby.

WHY? To help elect the officers of your Club, to enjoy giving and receiving the Christmas presents, to enjoy a good rag chew and to partake in the special refreshments for this meeting.

Remember, this is the big meeting of the year - the one all members attend along with their families, so get ready to come. The meeting starts at 8:00 P.M. sharp.

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# SINGLE SIDEBAND - Part 7

The next installments of this series will feature a filter type single sideband exciter. Some notes on the design and construction of the exciter will be presented this month, and the first stages of the exciter will appear next month.

There will be five oscillators in the completed, bandswitching exciter, one of which will be the VFO oscillator. It is strongly recommended that all the other oscillators be crystal controlled. It will be possible to substitute selfcontrolled oscillators. which will work, but in the interest of long term stability, crystal oscillators are preferable. The VFO of course has to be a selfcontrolled oscillator. There will be an arrangement to use two separate oscillators for the sideband selecting oscillators. These oscillators will each use one half of a double triode, with the B/ switched to determine which one shall operate, and thus determine which sideband is transmitted. It is recommended that this system be used, and not try to switch different crystals, as it is much easier, and better, to switch D.C. voltage rather than R.F. voltage.

The balanced modulator will be the circuit described in the July, 1956 issue of CQ magazine. This circuit uses a

CARS tube. This tube is available from Radio Equipment Co. in Omaha, or Newark Electric Co. in Chicago, Ill. The filt will be the Collins mechanical filter, although a good crystal filter could be substituted. Either the 2.1 or 3.1 kc. mechanical filter is acceptable, and either the older style, rectangular case, or the newer round upright case filter is good. If the prospective builder wishes to use a crystal filter he should consult Single Sideband for the Radio Amateur, published by the ARRL for information on how to design and align a crystal filter.

The voice control relay used should be a 3PDT, with a 10,000 ohm coil. This could be an advance model SD-3C or SD-4C, or an Automatic Electric Co. model R-45L. Also, the relay used in the Central Electronics 10-B and 20-A exciters is acceptable.

Your author would strongly recommend that the exciter be built on seperate sub-chassis. There should be one sub-chassis for the audio, VOX, QT, and generator stages, one for the VFO, one for the bandswitching stages, and one for the poysupplies. This will not only provide isolation between stages, but also make construction easier.

When considering the power supply put just as much filter capacitance as possible into the circuit. And when considering small coupling and ypass capacitors use only high quality ceramic units. All components should be of highest quality for it is a lot easier to spend a little more on good parts than it is to start looking for bugs caused by low grade components.

All tubes should be shielded. Again, this might mean a couple of dollars extra, but will provide much better shielding between stages. This is important as the R.F. stages are high gain voltage amplifiers.

All resistors should be good carbon, or in certain places wire wound and should show no signs of having been overheated. Paper and molded capacitors should be avoided. Ceramic and mica capacitors are preferable in this type unit although in certain cases molded capacitors will have to be used.

When soldering make sure that the solder is flowed into the joint and not onto the iron gun. The solder connections should be shiny. A dull looking solder connection indicates a cold solder joint. Such a concetion has high resistance and will cause trouble.

Tube sockets should have mica filled, ceramic, or steatite insulation. Bakelite insulation is all right for the voltage regulator tube socket and for rectifier sockets.

The author would recommend that anyone who plans to build the exciter to be described in this series order the VOX relay, the 5AR8 tube, and a mechanical filter as soon as possible. These parts might take three to four weeks to obtain and they will be needed in laying out the exciter chassis. If possible the newer style mechanical filter should be obtained as it mounts in a standard nine pin minature tube socket and will take up considerable less space on the chassis than the rectangular style filter. The mechanical filter requires no alignment whereas a crystal filter would have to be aligned. Filter alignment can be a difficult and tedious job. The author feels that it is definitely worth the extra cost of the mechanical filter to avoid these alignment difficulties.

NEXT MONTH: The audio, VOX, QT and exciter stages of a SSB exciter.

Harlan Bercovici, KØBHT

## Special SSB Request

As mentioned in Harlan Bercovici's article on single sideband, next month will include notes on design and construction of the exciter along with the first stages of this exciter. How many of you plan to build a single sideband

exciter? If there is enough interest in the building, Harlan will be glad to go into the construction detail. Lifewise if there is sufficient interest it could be possible that we might make a Club order for any special components needed, etc. with a possibility of perhaps even saving a little money but particularly to take care of the availability of the components. Harlan has put forth a lot of effort in writing these articles for us which is greatly appreciated by the Club and will gladly continue into the construction stages but only if there is sufficient interest. You will find enclosed with this issue a postage prepaid card. Please send us your comments on the possibility of your building so that we can inform Harlan as to how to proceed. It only takes a moment to jot down your comments on these cards and drop them in the mail - no postage required.

For your information, Harlan, KØBHT, is attending school in Chicago and is squeezing this writing in between school work. He will be home from December 21st to January 4th. So send those cards in before that time so we will be able to discuss the problem with him when he arrives.

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#### FIELD DAY

Jerry Knight was home from Iowa State over Thanksgiving and has completed filters for the transmitters to be used next Field Day to try to elimina the interference from one transmitter to another. The plan is to put a filter on each transmitter for the band on which it is transmitting and on the receivers as well.

We notice in OST that the Club was in fifth place in the four transmitter group - from the bottom that is. Jerry and some others are planning to do something about it for this next year. Anybody interested in helping? One solution would be to go to the ten transmitter group as there are not so many contesting and then we might get to second or third place. But a better solution would be to pitch in and help Jerry and his gang fix up the rigs so as to permit racking up a good score.

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Dear Sirs,

Please list my call as WQUJN.

I am still in the Air Force, now stationed in TA3 land. Expect to be in Omaha in late June or early July, 59.

A/2c Ronald F. Jac AF 17439607 Tuslog Det 3 Box 330 APO 324 New York, N.Y.

#### ALASKA

At our last meeting we enjoyed very much the slides on Alaska and the Alaskan Ham onvention as sent to us by Campbell W6ELW, Temp Oakland, California, who attended this convention, complete with Retina. The slides were good enough to make one wonder whether Temp's principal hobby is photography or ham radio. Having been on the air since 1911, we assume he has probably been taking pictures for about that same length of time. The fact they were taken with a Retina prompts your editor to admit that he is in need of considerable more practice and experience with his Retina in order to achieve such beautiful results.

The slides were accompanied by a tape recording of Temp's comments regarding his trip and the convention. The whole program was very nicely made up by Temp. In fact, so good that your would be projectionist only goofed twice in getting the right slide with the right words.

The program was particularly interesting to the six meter boys who have for the at few weeks enjoyed openings. Alaska and were thus able to talk to some of the very people that were in the slides. We could not of course identify them individually but it does add a

little interest. In fact just before the showing of the slides by a few days, your editor talked to KL7AUV who happens to be the husband of the editor. or I should say one of the editors, of the Northern Lights Carrier, KL7BLL Margie, who is also secretary of the club there in Anchorage. Temp sent along the convention issue of the Northern Lights Carrier which made most interesting reading and, in fact, we picked up a few ideas for the Club picnic next summer by way of unusual contests, etc. Our thanks to Temp for sending us this program.

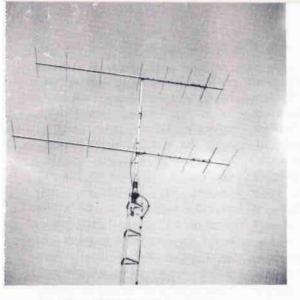
FOR SALE:

KWS-1 and 75A4-\$1725,00, Contact Joe Belac, BE 3012.

Ham Hum Radio Club:

Pve got a new sky-hook here and would like to tell you about it. It is a vertical ground plane fed with 52 ohm coax and 50 feet off the ground. The elements are cut for 10 meters but work equally well on 15 too. It makes my 50 watts get out like 500 on both 10 and 15! I've gotten 599 rpts on CW and 40db/9 on fone. Some fair "DX" too.

73-KØKGQ Frank Brodale Humboldt, lowa



SEEZ PIN

The 12th VHF Sweepstakes will take place on January 10 and 11th. See page 66 of the December '58 QST for more contest information on this. Everyone in the area who can operate on the bands 50 mc. and above is urged to participate in the VHF contests and join in the fun.

Frequent openings to KL7 land on 50 mc. this past month. Most frequently heard KL7AUV and XYL KL7BLL, also KL7AUV and some others all in Anchorage. An easy way to find out if the band is open to the Northwest: Turn the beam NW and tune down below the 50 mc. band and if band is open in that direction you will hear strong RTTY signals at about 49.8 mc. This is apparently a VHF scatter circuit in the arctic regions somewhere. Makes a good check point though, for determining band openings.

Also am informed by KØDXS and KØMSS that KH6 stations have been coming in here in Ø land but it seems that the Hawaiians are concentrating on working the zones farther east. They aren't too eager to answer the Ø stations. KØMSS, Mac advises that he did pick up a KH6 contact or two.

Have also been hearing W9's in here on backscatter. Seem to come in best with beam headings of NNW or N.

Still haven't heard anything of WØAEM on 144 mc.
About 2 years back, George was going to get on 2 but with the move to the new QTH ect. probably is some delay. We're still looking for him. Harold, WØWSE has gotten his tick renewed and hope to hear had on 6 soon.

In response to a request last month for some antenna photos for publication in Ham Hum, I am submitting a photo of WOWRT's 2 long yagi's. These are 8 element Telrex's id they are stacked one wave length apart. Mounted on Kuehne tower. 13.5 db. gain each.

The fellows on 144 have been having a 2 meter get together at 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. Usually work on the net frequency of 145.3 mc.

Keep listening on 6 this next month because in CQ's propagation section world-wide DX is again forecast for six meters throughout the day-light hours. Openings will likely be as numerous as during November.

73 - John D. Snyder WØWRT 2402 So. 43 St. Omaha 5, Nebr. RE 1538

## LICENSE PLATES - 1959

The state of Nebraska, in an effort to save you some money, will use tabs indicating the 1959 license. Said tabs to be attached to the present license plates. Sewall Smith, WOGMZ, inquired of the Department of Motor Vehicles regarding the procedure on the Ham license plates, in partilar the question as to the attra charge. He received the following reply:

"After receiving your letter, dated November 3, 1958, in regard to the fee to be charged for the year of 1959 to those individuals desiring a renewal of their 1958 amateur radio license plates, I thought it desirable to visit with a member of the Attorney General's staff and he informed that it will be necessary for the county treasurer to charge the regular \$10.50 fee the same as if new plates were to be issued.

Very truly yours, DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

s/d Dale A. Rogers, Director" inquired of Warren Fleming here in Douglas County as to any possible differences in procedure and were informed that there would be no differences. Gather your tax statement when you receive it, tote it down, pay the tax, get your receipt, and present the receipt and show your Ham license to him and he will take care of the situation. If you never had Ham license plates before you will, of course, receive new plates. Or, if you do not desire to pay the additional fee, you will be issued new number plates. We would like to encourage you all to wear the amateur license plates, particularly where you have a mobile installed as it is of considerable help in any emergency in recognition by those in authority.

We must apologize for not living up to our name. We have had plenty of "Ham" in our issues but very little on the "Hum" side. In order to promote this Hum side and to let the readers know what's going on, other than hamming, we need two things: one, a card from you when something happens to you personally or to your family, such as a birth, or maybe you got married, or maybe you went away to school, or changed jobs, or what have you; and two, an editor for a Hum column who will take the trouble to jot down some of the interesting things he might pick up by talking with people or over the air, etc.

A few items this month:

A new baby at the Vern Clipperton house, WOMGZ, born Friday, November 14th, weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces, name Diane Ruth.

On November 17th a son, David Charles, was left with Cecil and Jan DeWitt. Cecil, WORMB, rigged up a communicator for the XYL in the hospital as this XYL has become a YL, using her brand new call, KORWX.

A girl type juniorop, name unknown at this time, was born Saturday, November 29th, to Christy, KØAJF, and his XYL who is likewise YL. Her call is in fact a little lower than Christy's and she carries a general license.

Bob Schloeman is going mobile over at University of Iowa due to the difficulties in installing a fixed rig over there

al, WOJJK has a new towl up. The tubing isn't on the tower as yet but that should be finished in the next couple of weeks and will be about 40' up.

Orville, KØBWV, we understand now has a hundred watts on 220. Anybody with a converter for 220 please get in touch with Orville or with WØYZV to see if we can't receive Orville from Nebraska City.

The XYL of KØJBS is in the novice class at WRL.

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From RAMS NEWS, Radio A. Mobile Soc

## HOW ABOUT YOU? by LeVaughn Shipley - K6CFF

Yes, how about you? Have you taken a personal inventory recently? Ham-wise how are your public relations? Do you introduce yourself at club meetings? Are you courteous and pleasant on the air? How do you handle your neighbors if you have a TVI complaint? Why not take inventory to learn how you are doing?

Take a smile for example. Can you possibly imaging individual reactions at clameetings without smiles? A smile costs nothing. Smiles are contagious. Try it and see! The books say it requires 17 muscles to smile and 26 to

frown...why do it the hard way? The smile is universal: everyone understands it. More has been written about smiles than -1most any subject...except ve, perhaps. Yet, so many of us seem to be negligent and overlook the importance of a "simple smile". The next time you shave (with apologies to the YL's) take a look at yourself in the mirror. Isn't that fellow you see just about the greatest guy in the world? Doesn't he have all the answers? When you look at him, smile. If you are persistent the mirror will smile back at you, just give it time. Smile and you will feel better. Don't leave the house tomorrow morning without a smile. The next time you are on the air make it a point to have a smile in your voice.

It's nice to be important. I believe most of us realize this, but do we also realize that it is much more important to be nice? The next time instead of criticizing the other fellow, and wondering what he may do wrong...ask yourself what you can do to help your fraternity brother.

Ham-wise or in every day life, you win friends by being a friend. Certainly amateur radio 'l benefit if more of us practice the "golden rule". I'm game...how about you??

#### PROJECT FUTURE

The most recent issue of I.A.R.S. described a "Mortgage Burning Party". The Joliet club started their project 2 years ago. Numerous activities paid off the mortgage and cleared the parking lot, built the picnic tables, club room tables, paid for a furnace, paid the light bill, equipped the kitchen, built a 600 watt transmitter, ect. The club roster shows 156 paid members. The Ak-Sar-Ben Radio club has tried to put across such a project several times but unfortunately these plans have never become a reality. Sure there is some gamble in such a large undertaking and it certainly takes a lot of planning and work but we have exceptional opportunities and failed to take advantage of them. Our club could undertake a club building and with proper support finish it successfully. We hope that some day in the not too distant future a few of the "core" of the club will put some backbone in our plans that never materialized in the past. A club house could be a real morale builder for the members and put our club in the same league with the many others over the country that make the headlines in OST & CO with their many accomplishments.

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#### PHONETICS

We were very glad to hear from quite a number of our readers regarding the phonetics list and following is the result: 5 cards were received voting for the JAN-CCB list; 4 for the ICAO list; and 1 suggested variation from the JAN-CCB list. Whereas 10 cards returned in answer to this question could not by any stretch of the imagination be considered as a good return out of the 400 copies mailed, nor can it be considered a cross section of the opinion of either the readers or the members of the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club, it at least represents a moral victory for your editors in that finally we had a question in the magazine on which we received any answers at all. The ice is now broken. How about the rest of you looking at the November copy of Ham Hum, that is if you didn't already throw it in the round file, and let us know your preference as to list - the ARRL, the JAN-CCB, the ICAO, or your own variety.

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Here at WONVE I use a Dukes mixture of all the lists--

The Pioneer Radio Club presented a fine demonstration on Nov. 11, during Vet's Day along with Army and Navy Reserve Units. Approx 15 of the club's BC1335 units were active. The local Navy Reserve Unit has made a BC610 and associated equip available for club use and the rig is installed in the Chamber of Commerce offices for use of club member emerg and others. The Pioneer Club meets the last Friday of each month—everyone welcomemeetings at Chamber of Commerce—123 E. 5th. I second 'DHO's comments on your picnic and Ham Hum tool!

Vy 73, H. C. Snyder WONVE, Radio K F G T, Fremont, Nebraska

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NO. 679

Many requests for schedules of stations sending on the air code practice have been received at ARRL. All amateurs transmitting plain language practice material are requested to file information with the ARRI. Communications partment indicating frequency, days of the week, speed range, and times so this can be passed along. In setting up schedules care is suggested to avoid conflict with net frequencies and times. To indicate your schedule ask for Form CD 62 which will be sent free on request.

To the best of our knowledge there are no code practice sessions over the air in area at this time. Anyone interested in promoting this idea please drop the card in mail to Box 626.

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From DARA QMN BULLETIN,
Detroit A.R.A.

Vie CQ News
SINGLE SIDEBAND SPAWNS

NEW BREED

In ham radio, you never want to think it is the same old story. We have just discovered that SSB has created a new style of speaking, not only over the air, but in person-to-person talks at hamfests and elsewhere. Now don't think we are referring to the arrogant style of talk, in which the SSB operator looks down his nose, and says the equivalent of "You are a stupid idiot because you are not on SSB. It is better than anything else. If you weren't such a dolt, you'd read the ads like I do, and you'd know it was umpteen db superior. I'm the KING when I go on SSB. We rule the frequencies, and you are wasting your time by playing with broken wires, or using Ancient Modulation". Nor are we referring to the pain in the ankle who assumes that since SSB usually is on a voice break-in basis, he has the Godgiven right to break into each and every OSO he can find, and make himself welcome. (This type is certainly not restricted to SSB, we will hastily admit).

The character we refer to is a new sort of comic. He has voice-controlled break-in, which turns on the carrier (in the few AM rigs using vox-box) or the RF in a SSB rig. But this jergue isn't interested in spending a few seconds off the air between sentences. So he intentionally triggers the rig by exhaling a long "chhhhhhhhhhhhh-uhhhhhn" between each sentence and between phrases. This keeps the voice-controlled rig ON THE AIR, and completely destroys the possibility of instant breakin! Something like this: "Well, old man, I'm running a 20-A nere -anhhhhhhh - uriving a grounded orid pair of 813's - anninnminup to about 500 watts peak annnnnhnn - we like it real well ahmhhhm" and so on, ad nauseam. (Latin, neaning "until you're ready to vomit").

It is bad enough to run into this on the air. What is worse is to run into one of these silly lads in person, and have nim talk to you IN JUST THE SAME MANNER OF SPEECH. You'd think his tongue had been tied with rettysnitch. (Which might be a darn good idea). We naven't any idea as to how this may be cured, but any printable suggestions would be welcomed.

## FOR SALE:

Two, V-70D transmitting tubes at \$7.50 each. Less than 10 hours usage on each tube. Contact Ed Gutmann, WQCQX WE 3665

## Via CQ News FCC CITATIONS By Bernie Sasek, WØYOY

The FCC has been handing out more and more pink tickets all the time. These citations come in three forms. Form 790 is used to advise amateurs of key clicks, harmonic radiation, or other types of bad operating practices. Form 792A is used to advise of out-of-band operation. Form 793 notifies of noncompliance of rules and regulations.

Form 790 makes up the largest portion of the citations. In '53 it was 48% and in '56 it was 63%. This percentage of emateurs getting these is continually growing. The largest percentage of amateurs getting these 790 forms are those of the Novice Class.

Many of the citations could be avoided by installing key click filters right at the key of the CW TX. They are inexpensive and simple to build. Harmonics are usually due to the Novice's trying to load an antenna cut for 40M on 80M. This may cause harmonics at 7.4 MCs. Usually this harmonic is strongenough to carry several hundred miles and if picked up by the FCC, it results in a citation.

Out-of-band operation on, the Novice bands comes from, operating too close to the edge of the band to get away from QRM. When too close to the edge of the band, a crystal may drift past the edge of the ba and result in a pink QSL from FCC.

Form 793 doesn't pertain to the Novice as much as it does to the other classification of licensed amateurs. The California Kilowatts are usually among the strongest signals on the air. The FCC made spot checks a month or two in W5 land and found several stations running an excess of 1 KW input. At the present these hams are not on the air pending hearings before FCC.

The amateur license is not to be taken for granted. It is a privilege to operate and if not used wisely, this privilege may be taken from us. Operate within the laws and you will have as much fun as if you continually break them.

From CKRC INK, Central Kansas-R. C. Inc.

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### Via CQ News

WHY WORK VHF? In the first place it offers a real challenge - the new frontier of amateur radio. Much to do and much to gain in experience. In addition, this band of quencies offers the nearperfect place to help satisfy the requirements of "PICON". On two meters, for instance, emergency nets can be set up

that are extremely reliable over a distance of 50 to 100 miles and are virtually unaffected by weather conditions. Storm nets can operate here without intererence of storm static.

And lastly, VHF permits the Ham to gather scientific data which helps our present IGY program and lets the ham feel he is a real part of American Science.

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## Vie CQ News NOVICE HARMONICS CAUSE FCC TWO-THIRDS OF ALL ITS TROUBLE

Through Irv Weston, W3BP, Monitoring Chief of FCC, comes word that of 162 recent violations of FCC Amateur regulations, 66% were identified as Novice harmonics.

Lest some Old Timer suddenly feel a nalo around his brow, the SECOND most frequent violation reported by FCC is failure to identify, particularly on s.s.b. roundtables; FCC further pointed out that there are many cases of mis-identificution or carelessness specifying calls. It requests more precision in signing. Matter of fact, only one out of five stations reported as "bootagging" a call are actually \_oing so. The other four are cases of misidentity.

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From SHORT SKIP RADIO CLUB GULLETIN, Short Skip R.C.

Via CQ News

#### FOREIGN STAMP SERVICE

Those of you who work DX. now that working a new country is one thing; trying to get a SL confirming the contact may prove even normer. The practice of sending IRC's may work in some cases, but in many foreign lands, the foreign ham has had trouble redeeming them, due to the ignorance of local postal clerks. Enclosing stamps of the proper postal rate and legal issue of that country, makes it easy for the foreign amateur to QSL, although not a guarantee that he will do so. - remember that, economically, many foreign hams just cannot afford to OSL every contact, especially the hardes of W/K requests. If you have QSO'd a new country whose QSL you badly want, send a request for a price list of foreign stamps available. to DX Stamp Service, 466 Weaver Road, Webster, N.Y. In comparison to the number of RCs needed it is truly a bargain.



AK-SAR EN RADIO CLUB INC.

OMAHA, MEBRASKA

NEXT MEETING
NORLD INSURANCE CO. CAFETERIA
19th and DOUGLAS
8,000 P.M. SHARP

BULK R.
U.S. POSTAGE
Paid
Omaha, Nebr.
Permit No. 221