

Club Spectrum

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Railroad Mobiling

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Most railroads haven't run a passenger train in years, but this may be changing. Today, many railroads are dusting off old passenger cars and hitching them to an engine—often a steam engine—and sending them out into the world to take part in interesting community events. When they do this, it offers radio clubs a great opportunity to show the railroad and the community what Amateur Radio can do—and boy, it's fun!

Omaha, Nebraska, is home base for both the Union Pacific Railroad and the AK-SAR-BEN ARC's special-event station aboard the Union Pacific train. (AK-SAR-BEN is Nebraska spelled backwards.) A couple of years ago when Union Pacific was bringing a steam locomotive and train back from New Orleans, the club asked if it could have a couple of members and their radios on the train to entertain the passengers who would have nothing better to do than look out the window. The railroad agreed, and for us it was just like Christmas and the Fourth of July. We put on quite a show. Ten and 15 meters were wide open. While one of the operators worked stations all over Europe, the Middle East and Russia, the other operator was on 2 meters keeping nearby hams abreast of the arrival time of the train at the next station. Local radio and television stations were monitoring. As a result, when the train came charging into small towns, blowing smoke, steam and cinders, there were twice as many people on hand to greet it as had been expected. This trip generated an interesting relationship between Union Pacific



Roger Sullivan, WA0ETE, operates from the AK-SAR-BEN ARC's special-event station aboard the Union Pacific train.

Railroad and AK-SAR-BEN ARC. The club has now made three trips with Union Pacific, and hopes there will be more in the future.

While working with Union Pacific, we met Roger Sullivan, WA0ETE, who is an executive with the railroad. Roger was able to join us on a trip last September. The event was a four-day celebration in Omaha commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. The train we were on crossed Nebraska and picked up World War II veterans and various VIPs along the way. There was a lot of advance publicity, and the crowds that came out to see the train were huge. It was an impressive and sentimental experience for everyone. The enthusiastic outpouring of affection by those crowds brought tears to the eyes of many veterans. After this successful event, Roger Sullivan has become the club's liaison between Union Pacific and our radio club.

A Few Tips to Consider

Understandably, you need a railroad that can and does run passenger trains occasionally. The public relations department of the local railroad should have pertinent information about this. When you find a railroad that runs passenger trains, here are a couple tips that you may use to pitch Amateur Radio operation:

1) Point out that your club would be making radio contacts all over the country and possibly overseas. There may be a great deal of media interest in this radio activity that would be originating from the train.

2) At no cost to the railroad, this radio operation will add to the attention the train will get, both locally and nationally, while in turn providing an interesting experience for the train's passengers.

Equipment Notes

For equipment, the AK-SAR-BEN ARC took four radios aboard. Two were used for the operating positions, with the other two radios available as back-ups. A 2-meter magnetic-mount antenna atop the train car worked fine. On HF, an ICOM transceiver was used with a Hustler mobile whip antenna. A 400-W linear added a little muscle to the signal.

Voltage regulation on old railroad cars may give you a fit. On the club's first trip, we had a problem. We didn't use the linear and had a hard time even with just the exciter. To prevent this on the second run, we put a generator in the passageway at the end of the car. On our third trip, the car we operated from had its own generator, and that worked well.

ARRL 100% Clubs

Administered by *Vicky Armentano*

Congratulations to the following clubs for earning 100% ARRL membership status in 1995. To be recognized in this way, every member of an affiliated club must also be a current member of the ARRL. The state in which the club is based is noted following the club's name, when necessary.

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| Acadiana DX Assn, LA | Gulf Area Young Ladies | North Augusta-Belvedere Radio Club, SC | St. Louis ARC, MO |
| Alamo DX Amigos, TX | Amateur Radio Klub, TX | Northeast Convention Association, NH | Shelby ARC, NC |
| Amateur Radio Experimenters Assn, NJ | Kibbee Radio Amateur Society, GA | North Florida DX Assn Inc | 6246 ARC, IN |
| Blackbird Airpark Radio Club, CA | Leslie County ARS, KY | North Jersey DX Assn | South Florida DX Assn, FL |
| Bozo and the Lids, IN | Long Island DX Assn, NY | Northern Arizona DX Assn | South Jersey DX Assn, NJ |
| Capitol Hill ARS, MD | Madison DX Club, WI | Northern Illinois DX Assn | South Shore ARC, NY |
| Central California DX Club | Magnolia DX Assn, MS | Northern Lights Amateur Radio Group, MT | Southwest Oklahoma Repeater Assn |
| Central Jersey VHF Society, NJ | Megahertz Manor Maniacs DX Club, IA | Order of Boiled Owls, NY | Statineline Radio Club, NJ |
| Central Kansas ARC | Metro DX Club, IL | Pennsylvania Emergency Communication | Texas Association of Contest Operators |
| Central Ohio Amateur Radio League | Montgomery Auxilliary Communications | Council ARC | Tri-County ARS, FL |
| Central Texas DX and Contest Club | Service, MD | Petal Amateur Wireless Society, MS | Tri-County Tri-Banders, PA |
| Clifton ARC, NJ | Moolah Amateur Radio Committee, MO | Pickens ARC, GA | Valley ARC, WA |
| Delta DX Association, LA | Murphy's Marauders, CT | Pocatello ARC, ID | Wabash County ARC, IN |
| Disaster and Communications Action | Mystic Valley Amateur Radio Group, MA | Port St Lucie ARA, FL | Wisconsin Amateur Contest Organization |
| Team of Texas | National Capitol DX Assn, VA | Potomac Area VHF Society, MD | W/K ARC of Greater Milwaukee, WI |
| Electronic and Radio Control Center, NY | NERDS, DE | Radio Operators Assn of New Bedford, MA | Yadkin Valley ARC, NC |
| Fidelity ARC, RI | New Mexico Big River Contesters | Robeson County ARS Inc, NC | Yakima County Radio Amateurs, WA |
| Florida Contest Club | New York Metropolitan Emergency | | The Young Amateur Radio League, CT |
| Grand Mesa Contesters, CO | Tactical Radio Organization | | Zygo ARC, CT |
| Greater Lansing DX Group, MI | Niagara Radio Club Inc, NY | | |
| | North Alabama DX Club | | |

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