

EYEBALL QSO TIME

Yep it's that time again. This years festivities begin Saturday, April 4th at Mooreland OK. VE Testing will kick the events off Saturday and the annual Hamburger Fry will take place that evening. Sunday is reserved for a day of trading and in general relaxing among friends both new and old. Don't forget the covered dish planned for Noon that day. For a few, such as WG5Z that has to be the highlight of the two days, or maybe, for that matter, for the entire year. At any rate, the food is certainly something. Several dealers will be in attendance again this year along with a host of individual swap gear finding it's way out to the Northwest. We hope that this years Eyeball QSO will be the biggest and best yet. Won't you help us to achieve that goal???

DIRECTORS MEETING

Our Quarterly Club Director's meeting was held Sunday, March 8th at the home of Lewis and Freida Patterson. I tagged along as a tattletale as I am no longer on the Board. Really the reason I went was to consume a fair share, and probably more, of Freida's peanut butter bars. I sure am glad the weather turned cool, the last time a bunch of her goodies melted in my purse! Several interesting topics were discussed and will be presented at future meetings. Among them were the possibility of having a program at club meetings, the need for some type of club emergency vehicle and possible ways to increase interest in net participation.

MILES PER WINDUP?

Remember the story about the shoe cobbler's kids with holes in their shoes and the grocers wife with nothing in the pan-

try? Well, what about the local mechanic who drives a windup car? Sounds like the old gal's lost her mind you say. It honestly happened, I swear. After the board meeting WG5Z went out to start his pickup and it wouldn't cooperate. "Fear not" he exclaimed to those of us standing in the Patterson driveway as he rummaged in the bed of the truck. What to our wondering eyes should appear but an engine crank. With trusty implement in hand, he walked around to the front and proceeded to crank the little pickup. It immediately started and Gerald said, "Works everytime", got into the vehicle and drove off in a cloud of dust. Eat your heart out Mr. Goodwrench-crank and all-it gets pretty good mileage.

WEATHER SEMINARS

The storm season is again almost upon us. For many amateurs this is the busiest time of the year. The National Weather Service has programs scheduled throughout many parts of the state. Monitor local nets for exact information.

THANKS

To all those who expressed concern during the lengthy illness and passing of my Mother I would like to express my appreciation. Everyone's willingness to help will not be soon forgotten. Especially to Windel, WA5PLW, who spent several hours trying to contact me on two meters one evening while I was mobile from Oklahoma City a very big thank you.

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DUES

Speaking of being that time again, according to our By-Laws, dues are almost overdue. Our rules state that dues must be paid by the first club meeting in April. If payment is not received, expulsion is automatic, and the person must be reinstated as a new member which means we gotta vote, etc. So, as you can see, it's a whole lot easier to get the dues in to Frieda, N5EOX, before the deadline.



ANNOUNCING THE GREAT PLAINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB'S 6th ANNUAL EYEBALL QSO AND SWAPFEST

Bring Your Swapping Gear
Lots of Free Tables

Sunday, April 5th, Mooreland, Okla. 9:00 a.m. till ???

VE Testing Saturday, April 4th, starting at 2 p.m.

Directions: North on Main or Elm Street. Across the tracks and West just 3 blocks to city park. Shuttle service from Mooreland Airport.

Bring your family, covered dish, your own place settings & GOODIES TO SWAP!

Hamburger Fry Saturday Night at 6:30 p.m.

\$2.00 Admission Fee
Kids Free

No charge for tables
No prizes
motels
20+ tables already
reserved

NC5C
Gerry N. Ford
256-5342

Dinner 1:00 P.M.
Talk In
146.52
146.13/73 147.72/12

NZ5T Bart
Bart Lawson
994-5940

Dealers Present
Self contained Camper Parking
6 local churches

WG5Z
Gerald Bowman
994-5453

Does the Autopatch Club still exist? It has been so long since I have seen anything in the Collector and Emitter about the club that I don't know if it is still around or not.

Now, I am a good one to be talking, for I haven't made a club meeting now in over a year. In fact, all during the term of our grand and glorious Don Rooker, I failed to make even one meeting. This wasn't because I had anything against this fine gentleman, and I use that term loosely, it was that I just didn't take the time to go.

Everyone has an excuse and I suppose I can come up with one about as good as the next person. Several out there who remembers who I am, can remember that several years ago, most people thought that I was either retired or didn't have a job. Or, they were concerned as to whether I would keep my job because of the lack of work that I seemed to do. Back in the days when we had a radio store at 50th and MacArthur, I seemed to be there almost continuously. Now the excuse, and some will find this hard to believe. But actually, I still work for the same company as I always did and they finally decided that I should actually work for my check. I had about forgotten what that word meant, but I found out all too quickly. I really did go back to work and there has been no end to it. So, rather than make club meetings, I found myself working day and night. Good enough excuse?

I did plan on making the February meeting. I rushed home from the International Fitness Center after doing my walking and even missed out on working at the school where my wife teaches selling hotdogs and cokes so I could go. I finally managed to find my talkie and turned it on and to my surprise, the batteries were still charged enough that it worked. After turning it on, I immediately heard someone asking directions to where the weather meeting was going to be held. This was all taking place about 7:00 o'clock and I thought I had plenty of time to make the meeting. But, after listening a little, I found out the meeting started at 7:00 and was being held south of the border, so I talked myself out of going. I had a bologna sandwich instead. I didn't

recall seeing anything in the last C & E about this weather meeting, but perhaps it was there. The only good excuse I could find for not knowing about the weather meeting was that I hadn't turned the radio on for a month or so.

I used to be very faithful in making all the CORA meetings. In fact, a lot of our members were very faithful in making those meetings. For several years, OCAPA always had more than their share of voting members at the meetings. Well, after missing several CORA meetings for the same excuse as used above, I finally decided to attend the January meeting. Someone had told me that there was an uprising to move Ham Holiday from its present location and that it was important for me to be in attendance. So, I take time out of my busy schedule and hotfooted it down to Holiday Inn West or South or whatever direction it was to attend this hotly contested meeting. Much to my surprise, there were a host of folks there from clubs that had seldom had voting delegates in attendance, but, OCAPA had no official delegates at all. Sure, Great King Kong and I were there, but, neither of us had any official vote. I don't recall expressing my opinion very much, but as most of you know, GKK was not at a loss of words on a few subjects. I couldn't believe that we didn't have at least one poor soul there. I just received my March issue of the Collector and Emitter. After thumbing through it, once again I found nothing about the happenings of OCAPA. I did notice on the back page that we still meet on the third Tuesday of the month. Last night I happened to tune into the tail end of the hootowl, er Night Owl Net, and I think I heard someone mention that OCAPA now has a new meeting place. Where, I don't know, because I didn't hear that. I suppose it would be a good idea for me to turn my radio on now and then to see where in case I decide to make the March meeting.

Hey, I'm not pointing the finger at anyone. I'm as guilty as the next person. If you can imagine that finger pointing at you, if it were, I got three of them pointing back at me. I can remember back many moons ago when there used to be a pretty good monthly article entitled "I Heard", which no longer exists. I'll take the blame for that, for I happen to know the old coot who used to write it.

Back several years ago when I had a lot more time on my hands than I have now, I wrote a hot article for

the C & E about apathy. In case you don't know what that word means, look it up. Well, I got a lot of that stuff now. It sticks out all over me and I think it does a lot of folks. It's easy to come by. I have so much apathy that I recently had to renew my license and I got one of those new ten year jobbies. Well, I'm gonna let someone else use the frequencies instead of me. I've had it now for a couple of months and haven't even turned my radio on except to set my watch. My poor old beam would probably shake, rattle and roll if I hit it with a little rf, and no telling what the rotor would do if I tried to rotate it.

Actually, I'm a pretty poor excuse for an amateur these days. The last time I wanted to use the autopatch, I had to have someone else bring it up cuz I don't know the combination. My Bencher hasn't had any exercise in so long it probably doesn't know which side sends dits and which side sends dahs. I have all the fixins to use my computer on cw, but I would have to get my instruction book out to see what to do. It's a good thing I have a solid state rig or I would have to get out the instruction book to see how to load the thing up.

I think I might just try and make the next club meeting. How about you?

K5NK

GPARC CONTINUED

PERSONALITY PROFILE

Wrong! Fooled you. Because of too many things happening we haven't been able to finish our interview with W5KFK, Lewis Patterson. But on the positive side, we did take our tape recorder along for the meeting held at Lewis and Freidas. There were just too many other interesting things to talk about. Judging from comments, there is much interest in the second portion of his story. We may stretch it out a bit just to keep folks reading this article. Sorta reminds one of the old Saturday morning movie serials doesn't it?

IN CLOSING

As a reminder, don't forget the Mooreland Eyeball QSO. We think our Northwest Oklahoma hospitality is hard to beat and would like a chance to convince you. See you there.

73, Lois N5JGQ

1 AERONAUTICAL CENTER ARC MEETS: FIRST THURSDAY, FLIGHT STANDARDS BUILDING, FAA, SOUTH MACARTHUR 7:30 PM PR BOB PACE, WASCJG 376-3569 VP S/T JACK IHAN, WBSVH 677-8537 EDITOR: BOB PACE, WASCJG 376-3569
2 CENTRAL OKLAHOMA VHF MEETS: 10:00AM THIRD SATURDAY, RED CROSS 10TH & HUDSON (BACK DOOR) OKLA CITY PR JERRY WETMORE, KDSIS 524-5080 VP HUGH BENSON, KASOGY 946-0023 SE JOE BUSWELL, KSJB 732-0676 TR ELLARD FOSTER, WSKF 789-6702 EDITOR: JOE BUSWELL, KSJB 732-0676
3 MID-OKLA REPEATER MEETS: 8:00PM FIRST TUESDAY, OKLA CIVIL DEFENSE, WILL ROGERS BLDG., STATE CAPITOL PR BOB ALLEN, NSEPV UNLISTED VP TIM RAUSCHER, KASHUG 848-9910 SE RICHARD WOOD, KSDNH 677-0363 TR JIM JONES, KSPER 634-5235 EDITOR: TIM RAUSCHER, KASHUG 848-9910
4 OK CITY AUTOPATCH MEETS: 7:30PM 3RD TUESDAY (7:00PM MEAL OPTION) GOLDEN CORRAL RESTAURANT 7000 NW 23 (ROCKWELL) PR CHARLES HOFFERBER, NSFNU 340-4468 VP DAVE HOLDER, NSGOY 524-4711 SE DAVID CARM, KFSEB 751-5672 TR ART HERNANDEZ, KFSOK 354-9724 EDITOR: DAVE HOLDER, NSGOY 524-4711
5 OKLA UNIVERSITY ARC MEETS: 7:30PM SECOND TUESDAY (SEP-MAY) 119 WILSON CENTER, 1334 S JENKINS PR FRANK DONALDSON, NSIOJ 329-4172 VP JOHN MUSTENBERG, KESN 325-2382 SE PETER RICHESON, KASCOI 329-3217 TR GREG SMITH, KASLZN 366-1641 EDITOR: GREG SMITH, KASLZN 366-1641
6 ALTUS ASSOCIATION MEETS: 7:30PM SECOND THURSDAY NORTH MAIN FIRE STATION (CD) ALTUS PR JAMES HOLLEDAHL, KBLS 482-7938 S/T MIKE SULLIVAN, W7DMU 477-2938 EDITOR: MIKE SCHENKLE, KBSXN 482-1797
7 BICENTENNIAL (76er) ARC MEETS: 7:30PM SECOND TUESDAY KIPS RESTAURANT, RENO & MERIDIAN PR DONALD DUCK, AESN 691-4199 VP TED VANLANINGHAM, WDSJNT 262-1675 SE JERRY SPROUL, NSAUH 354-2061 TR EDITOR: JIM SEALS, KBSXN 381-2005
9 WHEATSTRAW ARC MEETS: 2:30PM SECOND SUNDAY, LOCATION VARIES. SEE CLUB SECTION FOR DETAILS. PR RALPH WILDER, WSPFK (NATONGA) 623-5421 VP TOM JOHNSON, NSIKN (EL RENO) 262-5631 S/T JOE GARLAND, WAFSLT (CALUMET) 893-2660 EDITOR: JAN KUEHN, NSJUT (OKARCHIE) 263-4480

10 CENTRAL OKLA COMPUTERS MEETS: 9:00AM SECOND SATURDAY, RED CROSS BLDG NW 10 & HUDSON, BACK DOOR. PR PAUL PAPE 755-1058 VP RONN FOLK 737-5580 S/T MARTIN SCHIEL 670-6891 EDITOR: MARTIN SCHIEL 670-6891
11 EDMOND AR SOCIETY MEETS: 800 MONTHS, 3RD SUNDAY, 2:00PM EDMOND EOC. DINNER, EVEN MONTHS, 3RD FRIDAY. PR BOB MCCOY, NSBUJ 348-2032 VP LEE VAUGHN, KASWIS 348-2961 S/T AMBER THOMASON, KASVEK 478-4615 EDITOR: AMBER OR BOB THOMASON 478-4615
12 QUARTER CENTURY W A MEETS: QUARTERLY AT VARIOUS PLACES. NET: 3855 KHZ SUNDAY AT 8:00AM. CHN ROBERT RUNYON, AAOD 373-1818 VCH GENE HAILON, KSOLE 341-8289 S/T HOWARD BAKER, WSAS 721-5453 EDITOR: ROBERT RUNYON, AAOD 373-1818
13 KAY COUNTY ARC MEETS: 7:00AM THIRD THURSDAY PIONEER DRIVE-IN BANK, PONCA CITY OK PR DAVE LAND, KDSFX 762-8616 VP STEVE SCOTT, KASSGK 762-0117 S/T HARRY BEATTIE, WDSOPR 765-3862 EDITOR: CHARLES NORTH, NSEYO 762-8136
14 CIMMARON ARS MEETS: 7:30PM THIRD THURSDAY, NSFUD SHACK 827 S 13, FAIRVIEW PR BILL SIMPSON, NSHQR 274-3334 VP RAY BARNES, A8SZ 764-3599 SE DENNIS PAINTON, WKSV 227-3672 TR TERRY MCCOLL, KASTVF 227-3462 EDITOR: JACK DAY, NNSZ 227-3462
15 SOUTH CANADIAN ARS MEETS: 9:30AM SECOND SATURDAY, RED CROSS BLDG NORTH DU CAMPUS, NORMAN PR MARK KLEINE, NSHJR 329-4285 VP ANDREA WOLFE, KA6PKJ 799-5150 SE LINDA BRANDT, NSDMN 321-5081 TR MONTE BATEMAN, WBSRZY 329-7485 EDITOR: DAVIS EGLE, KDSIT 321-7570
16 EDMOND AR CLUB MEETS: 7:00PM SECOND MONDAY. SEE CLUB SECTION FOR LOCATION AND TYPE PR MARK NORTHCUTT, WDSOYI 755-4672 VP BOB MOORE, KASETA 799-1765 S/T KAY NORTHCUTT, WSDYJ 755-4672 EDITOR: MARK NORTHCUTT, WDSOYI 755-4672
17 OK CPM USER GROUP MEETS: 7:30PM SECOND THURSDAY OSU, ROOM 307 PR WILLIAM COOTER 360-2141 VP JIM WHITE 364-5289 S/T JOY HELTON 789-0280 EDITOR: WILLIAM COOTER 360-2141

18 GREAT PLAINS ARC MEETS: 7:30PM FIRST TUESDAY WOODWARD PUBLIC WORKS BLDG. PR WINDLE HATCHETT, WBSPLN (FT SUPPLY) 766-3561 VP RON TICE, W8OPG (MOORELAND) 994-2138 SE BOB FORD, WBSOVI (GAGE) 923-7683 TR FREIDA PATTERSON, NSEOX (WOOD) 256-2111 EDITOR: LOIS FORD, NSJGQ (GAGE) 923-7683
19 OKLA INDEPENDENT ARC MEETS: 7:00PM SECOND TUESDAY SOUTHWESTERN BELL OFFICES, PONCA CITY PR DAVE WHITE, WNSLUI 765-5707 VP VERNON TREIBER, NSANV 767-1571 SE GLEN BISHOP, JR, KASPUK 767-1031 TR BIZ NICHY, WDHCO 762-3297 EDITOR: DOUG EVERITT, NSDUB 359-0069
20 ARDMORE ARC MEETS: 7:30AM 2ND SATURDAY, CORRAL RESTAURANT INFORMAL: EVERY WEDNESDAY, 221 9TH NW PR GLENN HAMILTON, KESKS 226-4379 VP KEN FRANKS, WDSMPC 226-1950 SE ROBERT GRIFFIN, WBSVIA 223-8741 TR JOHN MERLYN, WDSFID 223-9543 EDITOR: JACK GANT, WSGH 223-2619
21 TRI-CITY ARC MEETS: 1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH. PLACE: PR ROBERT DOLTON, KASRNU 379-2365 VP RON PHILLIPS, WBSUPU 382-1856 S/T J. B. BILLS, KESNU 379-3992 P.O. BOX 655, HOLDOENVILLE OK 74848 EDITOR:
CENTRAL OKLA RADIO AMATEURS MEETS: 7:30PM FOURTH TUESDAY, RED CROSS BLDG. 10 & HUDSON OKLA CITY (BACK DOOR) PR JIM BOSWELL, NSBEQ 236-0368 VP FRANK TASSONE, KASNGS 341-4945 SE LEE WARD, NSHTR 789-0681 TR SUSAN ST LAURENT, KFSLG 324-8180 COM/COM: CHARLES HOFFERBER, NSFNU 340-4468
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CIMARRON

It always amazes me how news seems to come in bunches. Months of tacking this column through light breezes and dead calms and WHAMMO---enough wind to keep me going for pages.

GLORYOSKY!!!!!!

CARA members are getting serious about upgrading. Leo, KE5TP, zipped through 20 wpm in OC, and Ed Arnote, KF5FX, did the same at CARA's last exam. This is no small accomplishment, and being transitory, guarantees that both will be hitting the books until they finally plant the flag.

Denny, WK5V, has Novice class going with Jack Kelly, Dee Ann Adair and Norman Dow on the Novice trail. CARA should keep on growing!

Packet radio is also growing in this vicinity. Larry Conner WA7UIB, of Enid, and Steve Loomis of Cleo has installed a ligipeater out here on the Cedar Springs elevation on 145.01. My friend Larry K5VVD, of Choctaw is an avid PackRat, and if he has his way, we will all be PackRats soon! At last a good out for everyone who bought a computer and could never figure out what to do with it!

For everyone who has been wondering what became of KI5P, Major Bailey and XYL Dede, N5FUN. I must tell you, regretfully, that they have flown the CARA coop, and now are official residents of Canyon TX.

Major was kicked upstairs by his Cable TV bosses, and now roams the state of Texas.

Major was Elmer to a lot of people and a good friend to everyone. He was one of the founding fathers of CARA and certainly our mentor. Major and Dede may not warm up the HF rig often these days but I'll bet the repeaters will know him well. Major...to you and your family...May the road rise clear before you, may the sun be warm on your cheek and the wind always to your back!

Cimarron's upgrade exam the 28th of Feb. was quite a success. The facilities of pW5YI was used and we had 14 candidates, with 9 elements passed and six upgrades.

That may not seem temarkable but there was some remarkable things happened that day. One was that Larry England, a Seiling boy now teaching in Medicine Lodge, passed the Extra Class theory with a perfect score.

The second, and to me, the greatest accomplishment of the day was when my friend Ruth made Extra Class.

I would like to tell you about Ruth...and to do that I also have to tell you about her husband Fred for the last sixty two years of their lives have been lived as extensions of one person.

Fred was born in the early spring of 1907 along with another notable infant ... Oklahoma statehood. The very next year on September 24th, Ruth was born on a farm near Hitchcock. All three hit the ground moving fast and now, eighty years later, it is hard to see that they have slowed down a whole lot!

Their marital fate was sealed when a friend bet Fred that he couldn't date that cute little girl that worked in her fathers general store in Isabella. A year later they eloped in Fred's Model T...and in spite of four flat tires, and a lot of dust and sweat, drove to Alva for the license, and back to Preacher Tynen's house, near Ringwood, where the knot was tied! They lived on the farm near Ringwood for a while but Fred wanted to know more about the burgeoning world of RADIO that was becoming the talk of the town...and when his Mother sacrificed a cow to help him out he spent the money for a correspondence course with NRI. That was all he neded and in 1930 Fred became W5CFO and a qualified radio technician. A few years later Ruth also became a Ham...W5HLL. Fred, who had been so occupied as chief radio technician for a music store in Overton TX that he had allowed his license to elapse, became W5HLM.

The following years were happy, struggling, productive years...raising Bill (born two years after their marriage), pursuing life in its every aspect...music, art, amateur radio...and eventually the war years drew them to California. Both immersed themselves in the war effort, and both became certified welders.

Fred worked on Liberty ships, and Ruth, certified by both the Army and Navy to work on aluminum, built P-38s. Those years were in the fast lane for all of us, and inevitably, while Fred was doing work-shops teaching art, in 1964 he had his heart attack.

Heart attacks and by-passes usually change peoples lives radically but Fred and Ruth barely slowed down. During the next few yaers Fred did portraits of Doris Day and her family, holding work-shops, hobnobbing with notable artists as Bill Alexander and Leslie DeMille. Ruth kept pace with her work as a beautician in the California salons.

It was the oil business, however, that brought them back to Oklahoma in 1978. Fred had been working as Production Superintendent for the Bolsa-Chica Oil Co., and that year they transfered him back to Del City.

In 1980 they retired and moved back to Fairview.

Does that sound like the end of the story? Not by a long shot! I'm just coming to the great part! In 1982 they got back into amateur radio and together with Major, KI5P, Denny, WK5V and myself NN5Z organized CARA. Fred, with his weekly music sessions, his art classes and his electronics bench was content with a new General class license. Ruth, being single minded, decided that she was going to "plant the flag"...and on the 28th of February 1987, at the age of 78 she became an Extra Class amateur.

CARA believes that she is the oldest XYL ever to achieve that honor. Do we have any challenges?

Ruth, we are so proud of you...and it is a triumph also for you, Fred, for you have been a team for sixty two years. I know that son Bill, N5HQK and wife Helen, N5HQL, has also been an integral part of the team. So.....

Congratulations to the team and I'll bet a quarter you are thinking..."Great...but now WHAT NEXT!"

(EDITORS NOTE: There was a nice picture of Ruth but I couldn't get it in this month. Joe, W4SZNF)



Minutes of March Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Secretary, Joe, K5JB, since the Vice President couldn't make it. There were 10 members and guests present. Minutes were approved as published in the C&E. Ellard, W5KE, was missing so there was no treasurer's report.

Bob, W5HXL gave the CORA report. CORA is looking for volunteers to take responsibility for Ham holiday's technical and non-technical programs.

At the last meeting, Hugh, WD5DGY, was elected president providing he would accept the job. He advised that he would not be able to serve so elections were held again. Jerry Wetmore, KD5IS, was re-elected by acclamation. Congratulations Jerry. We appreciate the efforts you expend for the club.

Jerry, KD5IS, and Joe, K5JB, briefed the members present on plans to move the club station when the Red Cross moves to its new quarters.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

Joe, K5JB, Sec'y

Hurray! Novices on Phone!

Steve wanted me to write up his idea about creating a "watering hole" on 10 meters where license holders of ALL classes could meet on SSB Phone. He suggested that a net be formed on 28,490 MHz on Sunday evenings, starting about 8:30. He also suggested a name, "Oklahoma Metro Area Net", or OMAN.

Anyway, I thought it sounded like a good idea. The main thought is to provide a meeting place where operators having various classes of licenses would know where to meet each other. He told how it used to be in the good old days on six Meters when the net control operator would point the beam in various directions and ask for check-ins. This might be a bit different, with the strong possibility of long distance propagation and others having the same idea to have nets on the same frequency!

Let's give it a try! Joe, K5JB

The Red Cross Move

As most everyone knows by now, the American Red Cross is preparing to

move into a new facility on N.E. 6th and Lindsay. The radio equipment relocation will happen about the end of May or first of June. With this move is an opportunity to take a serious look at, and perhaps improve, the way we amateur radio operators have been providing service to the Red Cross and our community in time of need.

The members of the VHF club are only a small percentage of the local amateur radio operator population who actually provide service through our liaison with the Red Cross. In addition to the operators who are called on to open up the station, W5LOW, there are numerous operators who come down to Red Cross headquarters in an emergency to help by operating or performing other chores; who go out into the field with the Red Cross teams, and, who act as points of contact between the Red Cross and other agencies and observers that exchange information during an emergency.

It is because of the wide base of amateur radio operators, who are not members of the VHF Club and who would not get into the planning process, that I would like to discuss some things that this opportunity might bring about and perhaps get some ideas that would make our operation more effective in terms of using the available talent.

I am the trustee of the club station, W5LOW, and as such am only required to be concerned that the station be operated within requirements of the FCC regulations. This is not too challenging a task but additionally I am interested that the station perform in the most effective manner possible because I care what people think of it and I want to be proud of its performance in time of need.

Jerry, KD5IS, and I have discussed the station operation with Tim, KA5NNT, the Red Cross Chapter Manager, and Dick Grizzle, Director of Emergency and Health Services, to explore ways to make it operate better in light of the changes that must come about with the move.

Some of the immediate changes that the move will require involves the mode of operation in the radio room. It will be smaller than the room that we have now. Additionally, it will have to accommodate the Red Cross' low band radio console and an operator so there won't be as many operating positions for the amateur radio operators. We expect that there will only be two amateur radio positions. The first question is which bands ought to be covered. Obviously, the 2M FM repeater sub-

band needs to be there. It seems like HF ought to be covered because, 1. there are still a lot of Oklahoma that can't be reached by 2 Meters, and, 2. we might want to be able to assist in case of distant disasters like we have in the past, the Managua earthquake, Gulf coast hurricanes, etc.

This leaves some bands and modes uncovered. The UHF repeaters and 2 Meter Packet radio are the first that come to mind. We can compensate for the restricted operating modes by prior planning.

The next question that needs to be worked on is that of coordination. To get the most effective use of the available amateur talent we need to coordinate the Red Cross radio operation with other agencies and groups of amateur operators covering different aspects of disaster communications. I have just begun on this. There needs to be discussion with ARES and RACES coordinators and members of clubs supporting various civil defense and specific interests, for example, weather, and health and welfare traffic. When I was last active in emergency communications I understood pretty much who was going to do what but whole new groups of operators have formed since and I am pretty ignorant of their desires and the most logical way to effectively utilize our resources. I will be discussing some of the plans with key players I am aware of but welcome any suggestions from anyone who is interested.

My philosophy about radio operation in any communication center is that the radio operator should not have to divide his/her attention between the radio and allied administrative duties. I am thinking that the Red Cross radio room should have a liaison operator, or coordinator, who is familiar with the Red Cross procedures and correct radio operating procedures and is skilled in managing a communication operation. With the right kind of skilled liaison operator present, any available licensed operator would, after a short situation briefing, be able to take over a radio operating position and maintain an uninterrupted radio watch while the liaison operator deals with administrative details, such as accepting outgoing traffic (sometimes distilling a situation into a message), making it suitable for transmission, delivering incoming traffic, etc.

I am in the process of developing the rules of the road in the form of a procedure guide for the Red Cross radio operation. It will include a call up procedure, a response procedure, procedures for briefing

available operators and minimum procedures to assure the radio station is operated within the FCC requirements for third party traffic logging, permissible traffic, etc. I would welcome any help any of you could lend to that project. I wrote such a procedure guide about 15 years ago but, alas, it is lost and I can find no copy of it around.

I am not so enamored with procedures that I would write them just for the fun of doing it. I think S.O.P.s will help explain to some of our less experienced traffic handlers some of the tried and proven methods the older hands use. I think also it will create more uniformity and professionalism in the Red Cross radio operation

I have discussed with Frank, N5FM, and O.J., WB5SRX, the possibility of conducting some traffic handling seminars. O.J. shares my concerns about how to get more people involved in the joys of traffic handling. We will be doing some more plotting as this thing develops to see how we can make it more attractive to some of our younger (and more energetic) operators.

There seem to be some interested youth in our midst who have not had an opportunity to perform formal traffic handling and have expressed an interest in it. I think that without a lot of effort we can give them a chance to jump in and give it a shot so the next time we have a communications emergency they can show us how it is done.

Like I already mentioned, there is only a small cadre of operators who have been on call to open up the Red Cross station. This group needs to be a bit larger. It needs to consist of people who are willing to make a commitment to learn the Red Cross ways and to get out of bed on a dark, stormy night to go down town and kick things off when they get a phone call.

I don't know of any magic way to get more people interested in routine traffic handling in between disasters. Smarter people than I have been trying to figure how to increase participation in traffic nets, ARRL appointments, etc. I think my energy will be more effectively spent in trying to put the tools in place so the relatively unskilled can pick them up and use them when the need arises.

I have a very limited amount of time to devote to projects like this but like my other interests, I will take the time if I want to. I would sure like to find a few of you who want to also!
Joe, K5JB

New PK-232 Firmware Release

On the Compuserve's Hamnet is a file that contains the literal screen display of the command set contained in AEA's forthcoming April 1st PK-232 release. The whole list is a bit long to print here but it is on the K5JB PBBS and it is on HamNet as PK232.CMD in DL9. The following is a list of new commands. Norm, W2JUP, the author of the PK-232 operator's manual is the source for this information and he should be considered pretty reliable. The only way you can tell if he is not telling the truth if you can see whether his jaw is moving or not.

According to Norm, the new PK-232 commands for AX.25 packet are:

DCDCONN ON/OFF RS-232 Pin 8 follows DCD (Data Carrier Detect for PBBS)
RELINK ON/OFF Reconnect after retrying out

New commands associated with FAX are:

LOCK Start printing received FAX regardless of detecting sync pulses
FAXNEG Reverse black and white received sense
FSPEED Scan rate in lines per second (60, 90, 120, 180, 240)
GRAPHICS Dot density (480, 576, 640, 720, 960, 1920 dots across)
IOC Index of Cooperation (288, 576)
LEFTRITE Scan from left to right or right to left
PRCON Parallel printer connected or not connected
PRFAX FAX bit graphics sent to or terminal
PROUT All text characters sent to parallel printer or terminal
JUSTIFY Move image closer to paper edge by 'n' half-inches

The new commands associated with KISS TNC protocol are:

KISS ON/OFF Use KISS protocol or standard AX.25
PERSIST 127 p-persistent CSMA random threshold
PPERSIST ON/OFF Use p-persistent CSMA or l-persistent (DWAIT) CSMA
SLOTTIME 10 p-persistent slot time in milliseconds

The new commands associated with SIAM (Signal Identification & Acquisition Mode) are:

SIGNAL Start signal analysis and identification mode

OK Switch modes & speeds, display received signals
BITINV (n) Number from \$00 to \$1F for bit pattern exclusive-ORed with every received Baudot character

The PK-232 now handles Japanese Katakana Morse Code and Cyrillic (Russian) Morse and Baudot codes. The alphabet is selected by the command CODE.

CODE (0-5) Select received/sent code structure.

In MORSE, "1" means International or Continental Morse.

In AMTOR, CODE "1" has no effect - AMTOR still ITA#2

- 0 = International - ITA#2
- 1 = U.S. teleprinter (Western Union)
- 2 = Cyrillic in MORSE, Baudot, AMTOR receive
- 3 = Transliterated Cyrillic in MORSE, Baudot, AMTOR
- 4 = Katakana in MORSE transmit/receive
- 5 = Transliterated Katakana in MORSE receive

There you have it. Looks like a real nice enhancement to the old PK-232 doesn't it? Start looking for it after April 1st! Joe, K5JB

SKY Takes To The Sky!

On March 22, Jim, KB5XN; Bill, KB5BS; and Doug, W0DXA, took a Cessna 172 equipped with a two meter packet station aloft for a couple of hours and here is what I found in the buffer:

KB5XN|BEACON:
73 from aeromobile dp sky over western okla.

KB5XN|KD5FX:
hello

KB5XN|KD5FX:
at 7500 feet over elreno ok, climbing to 12,000 feet for station

KB5XN|BEACON:
73 from aeromobile dp sky over western okla.

KB5XN|KD5FX:
ok, dave, we just got a connect request from k5lgw, need to keep the contacts short I guess.

KB5XN|BEACON:
73 from aeromobile dp sky over western okla.

KB5XN|KD5FX:
good on sig
WD4LPU|CLIFF,SKY:
HUNNNNNNNNN

WD4LPU|CLIFF,SKY*:
HUMMMMMMMMMH

Editor's note:
The printer used for this doesn't know how to do a 'greater than' sign, so just substitute one wherever you see the 'pipe' (|)

WD4LPU|K5LGW,SKY*:
Cliff:Yukon,Oklahoma.

WD4LPU|K5LGW,SKY*:
Hi Jim

WD4LPU|K5LGW,SKY*:
Hi Jim

K5LGW|WD4LPU,SKY*:
WHERE'S HE AT?

WD4LPU|K5LGW,SKY*:
DUNNO

WD4LPU|K5LGW,SKY*:
DUNNO

K5LGW|WD4LPU,SKY*:
SAID HE WAS OVER WESTERN OK... BUT
DONT SEE HIM, HI...

KB5XN|ID:
KB5XN/R

*** CONNECTED to KD5FX VIA SKY
[03/22/87 14:00:41]
HI JOE, JUST CHECKING OUT THE SKY-
DIGI...I'LL BE SENDING U THE C&E
ARTICLE SOON. GOTTA WRITE IT FIRST!
LATER, DAVE
*** DISCONNECTED [03/22/87
14:04:26]
WD4LPU|WB5FWE,SKY*:
Its a bird, its a plane, No , its a
digipeater.....

K5VVD|CQ,SKY*:
ATTENTION!!! USE SKYPEATER!!
145.01..ALIAS "SKY"

and so it went. Bill and Jim later
told me that the computer they were
using got a case of the bends and
the keys locked up when they got to
altitude.

Stay tuned for the gory details next
month! Joe, K5JB

Great Circle Program

Here is a little tidbit from off the
K5JB Packet Bulletin Board. It is a
minimum frills Microsoft BASIC pro-
gram that calculates antenna head-
ings and distances to operators or
towns for which you know the longi-
tude and latitude. You put your
call, latitude, longitude and a
comment, in that order, in a DATA
statement and it will calculate a
table of headings and distances for
all the stations on the list with
respect to the station typed in at
the first prompt.

It is streamlined so it won't take
forever to receive from the BBS.
One thing that cut its size was some

simplifying assumptions that are OK
for short distances (say, less than
1000 miles). If you want to get
beam headings to Peking, call me for
the rest of the program, heh!

```

5 DEFDBL A,B,L,P,D,R
6 'H=1: 'Remove REM if hard copy
  wanted
10 PI=3.141591389973958#: 'not
  really Pi but machine thinks it is
20 CLS: INPUT"Call of reference
  station (Upper Case): ",A$
30 READ M$,A,L1,C$
40 IF M$="END" THEN STOP
50 IF M$<|A$ THEN 30
60 RESTORE
90 CLS: A1=A*PI/180
100 GOSUB 500:
110 FOR I=1 TO 16
120 READ M$,B,L2,C$: IF M$="END"
  THEN PRINT "End":END
130 GOSUB 1000
140 GOSUB 600
150 NEXT :PRINT: PRINT" Any key for
  more"
160 D$=INKEY$: IF D$="" THEN 160
170 IF D$=CHR$(27) THEN END
180 GOTO 110
500 PRINT "Distances and bearings
  from "A$
510 PRINT: PRINT" "DATE$
  " "TIME$: PRINT
520 IF H=1 THEN LPRINT
  " Distances and bearings from "
  A$
530 IF H=1 THEN LPRINT:
  LPRINT" " DATE$" "TIME$:
  LPRINT
540 PRINT "Location Mi Deg
  Comments"
550 IF H=1 THEN LPRINT " Loca-
  tion Mi Deg Comments"
560 RETURN
600 PRINT USING" "M$;: PRINT
  USING "#####.##";D1,R2;
610 PRINT" "":PRINT C$
620 IF H=1 THEN LPRINT USING
  " "M$;: LPRINT USING
  "#####.##";D1,R2;
630 IF H=1 THEN LPRINT
  " "":LPRINT C$
640 RETURN
1000 L=L1-L2: X=0: Y=0
1006 IF L=0 THEN L=.0001
1010 IF L<-180 THEN L=L+360: GOTO
  1100
1020 IF L|180 THEN L=L-360
1040 IF L|0 THEN X=1
1100 '
1110 B1=B*PI/180: IF B1|A1 THEN Y=1
1115 L=L*PI/180
1120 P=COS(L)*COS(A1)*COS(B1)+SIN
  (A1)*SIN(B1)
1125 P1=ATN(SQR(1-P*P)/P)
1126 IF P1=0 THEN P1=.00001
1130 P2=P1*180/PI: IF P2<0 THEN
  P2=P2+180
1140 IF P2=0 THEN P2=.00001
1150 D1=P2*60*1.15152
1151 D2=D1*1.60934: 'Gives dist in
  KM if you want it
1152 IF D1<.02 THEN D1=0: R2=0:
  RETURN
1155 R=COS(B1)*SIN(L)/SIN(P1)
1156 IF ABS(R)|1 THEN R=.99999

```

```

1160 R1=ATN(R/SQR(1-(R*R)))
1165 R2=R1*180/PI
1170 IF ABS(R)|.999998 THEN 1500
1175 IF ABS(R)<.00004 THEN 1600
1203 IF X=Y THEN 1270
1204 IF X=1 THEN R2=180-R2: RETURN
1205 IF Y=1 THEN R2=360-R2: RETURN
1270 IF X*Y=1 THEN RETURN
1280 R2=180-R2: RETURN
1500 IF X=1 THEN R2=90: RETURN
1510 R2=270: RETURN
1600 IF Y=1 THEN R2=0: RETURN
1605 R2=180: RETURN
3000 DATA WB5AOH,35.8,95.25,Port
  Gibson
3010 DATA KA5BMS,34.501,96.97,Sul-
  phur
3020 DATA WA5BQX,35.654,97.48,Edmond
3030 DATA KB5BS,35.52,97.6,Moved
  since
3040 DATA WD5DYI,35.568,97.539,Vil-
  lage
3050 DATA WA5BAI,35.419,97.558,
3060 DATA WA5FLT,35.6,98.125,Calumet
3065 DATA WD5G,35.458,97.417 ,Mid-
  west City
3070 DATA WD5GLD,35.87,97.93,King-
  fisher
3080 DATA WB5HAK,34.5,97.97,Duncan
3090 DATA W5HLZ,35.458,97.417,Mid-
  west City
3100 DATA K5JB,35.470,97.409,That's
  me!
3105 DATA N5JFQ,35.480,97.590,West
  OKC
3110 DATA K5LDI,35.43,97.52,Okla.
  City
3120 DATA K5LDL,35.55,97.95,El Reno
3130 DATA WB5MPU,36.17,96.25,Lake
  Keystone
3140 DATA N5HS,35.210,97.441,Norman
  - Moved since
3160 DATA KBOQJ,35.527,97.656,Moved?
3165 DATA W5RFX,34.17,97.16,Ardmore
3170 DATA WB5RRR,36.383,97.903,Enid
3190 DATA KD5SZ,35.17,98.25,Anadarko
3200 DATA WB5TTU,34.01,95.5,Hugo
3220 DATA KB5XN,35.276,97.707,Tuttle
3230 DATA WA5YTI,35.466,97.514,Down-
  town OKC
4000 DATA WA5BQX-1,35.7,96.87,Chand-
  ler-Est.
4010 DATA CEDAR,36.2,98.62,Cedar
  Springs-Est.
4020 DATA WFORD,35.55,98.7,Weather-
  ford-Est.
4030 DATA NORMAN,35.22,97.43,Center
  of Town-Est.
4035 DATA POND,36.666,97.80,Pond
  Creek
4040 DATA ROFF,34.63,96.82,N5GMS-
  Est.
4050 DATA ADA,34.8,96.67,Est
4060 DATA RUSH,34.8,97.93,Rush
  Springs-Est.
4070 DATA MCL,34.98,95.77,McAlester-
  Est.
4080 DATA MKO,35.8,95.25,Port Gibson
  (AOH)
5000 DATA END,0,0,end

```

If you don't want to type this in,
the program is free on the K5JB
PBBS. All you have to do is get a
TNC and get on packet radio, Grin!
Joe, K5JB

kay

March Meeting

The March meeting at the Vo-Tech had a good turnout. We saw an emergency communications tape made by the ARRL. The club voted to hold the June, July, and August meetings 'on the air' and not actually get together. Marsh still has several ball caps with the club logo on them for sale. The club bought these several years ago and some of the newer members may like one. Marsh will bring them to the next meeting so bring your money then. N5PC and others will share DX info with fellow club members on the .97 repeater around 5 P.M. each day or whenever DX is good. Anytime you're listening and hear a rare one just make a QST announcement on .97. We also talked quite a bit about the storm spotting net and decided to hold a practice weather net on .97 sometime soon. That is, if Mother Nature doesn't beat us to it.

Public Service Events

If all goes well we'll use the communications trailer at the next public service event. It will be a Biathlon on March 28th. The next one after that will be on April 15th. This will be a 10K run starting at the Pioneer woman. All of this run will be inside the city limits, so we'll need lots of help again.

This month's article was sent via Packet Radio to save the 22 cents. 73 and see you at the next meeting!
Dave KD5FX.

Oklahoma Packet Radio Assn News

J, KBOQJ, keeps most of us up to date with OPRA happenings. The following are from messages he left K5JB in the last couple of weeks.

***** Message From: N5HZR
Left at: 13:31:27
on: 03-15-1987

Do you have a list of 24 hour 145.09 stations that are "dedicated" to the OPRA cause? Will be necessary for Phase II work, and might not be a bad idea to publish such a critter. I got a checkin from Tecumseh, and now with Shawnee, and Purcell on line, we might try some more beacons. I'll keep you informed. Thanks again for all of your efforts. cul

--* End of Message .-.-.

J's response:

RUSH/WB5YTO-1 temp down cuz of antenna, but will replace soon.
PUR/NF7T; HWC/W5HLZ; KBOQJ; WA5RDG-1 in Shawnee/Tecumseh, nr airfield in Shawnee with station in EOC; TRO/-WA5LVT Tulsa Repeater Org. at 1,000 ft on Ch 6 TV (worked it w/UNPROTO today & NF7T is using beams in CON-NECT); MKO/WB5AOH in Ft. Gibson; and, WB5HLR-1 on Mt. Cavanal nr Ft. Smith, AR. Suspect WA5RDG/Brian will get up DB-264 soon for link into TRO. WB5TTU/Ron, who is OPRA secretary is writing a letter for requesting space on Ch 10 near Tishomingo, but not sure abt how high we kin go cuz of feedline shortage. Prob cud get to 1,000 ft if money comes in. that's about it until I hear abt something else. WFEC has not yet come thru with their contract (or whatever) for access to their towers. 73, J///

Here is a letter that was sent via packet radio to J from Don, KB5VP, the Northeast OPRA coordinator, after a meeting of the eastern bunch at Muskogee...

March 15, 1987
To J. Fields, KBOQJ
From: D. Price, KB5VP
Subject: NE Section meeting Mar. 14

A meeting of the OPRA NE section was held at the Becon College on March 14th from 9:00 to 1:00. Approximately 25 attended a discussion on a variety of topics now concerning packets operators in the area.

Our next meeting has been scheduled for May 16th at the Green Country Hamfest. One of the purposes of the May 16th meeting will be to discuss and vote on items to be presented to the statewide meeting planned for July at Ham Holiday. One item that was discussed, and I know will receive more attention at the May 16th meeting was call for an OPRA coordinator committee to be established. The function of this committee would be to 1) coordinate packet radio operations in the state and with others in surrounding states. 2) coordinate BBS and DP operations in the state. It would not at all surprise me to also see a call at this meeting for the formation of a standards committee. Their responsibility would be to establish operating practices, DP hardware standards, and Level 3/4 operations for the state. These were two of the most important issue covering OPRA that you should be made aware of.

I am interested in if the NWS did get their computer last week? I hope that my comments on the design was helpful. A couple suggestions brought to my attention at the Mus-

kogee meeting were the following: 1) when condensing data on the various lists, there is a county abbreviation standard followed by the law enforcement agencies in the state. This is a two character coding scheme to identify counties in the state. I do not have a list of these abbreviations, but it was suggested that this scheme be used when identifying counties on the NWS computer. 2) The idea of forwarding of NWS data to bbs across the state was well accepted. I do not know if you are aware that WB5AOH system is now dual ported on .01 and .09. It is these type of bbs that well provide access to the NWS data for the general amateur and backup for the county areas.

It was suggested that on the area bbs a WELCOME file be created to assist the new operator just getting into packet. Here we could suggest the standard operating practices for packet, and the OPRA organization and how to join.

The Fayetteville packet operators will be participating in a emergency test exercise this April 16th. A complete tornado exercise including two cites, Fayetteville, and Springdale, will participate in the exercise. You might look for some kind of report on this after the 16th. They are planning quite an elaborate test, and good planning information pertaining to everyone.

A version of the RLI BBS is now available in C. Where you aware of this? I do not have a lead yet on where to locate RLI software, but assuming it would be compatible with the Unix C on the AT&T machine, this might save use sometime in getting the NWS system on the air.

There was not any interest at all for OPRA to join a newsletter and get into the business these associated costs. There was much interest in getting some kind of newsletter published via packet though. I think before we spend any OPRA money to join a newsletter, a vote on this should be made. If we can put items in the Collector and Emitter without incurring expenses to OPRA, there would obviously not a problem with this.

I typed this letter just after returning from the meeting in Muskogee. I don't know just how much you have learned from you meeting there. I am trying to confirm the information regarding TRO going to .01. I really don't think if it would move to .01 that it would stay there very long. Most of the members I believe would like to see TRO involved with this project.

73, Don

ARES

ARES congratulates all Novice and Technician class license holders for their newly-gained operating privileges in the digital and voice sub-bands. We anticipate a wealth of new operators eager to help us provide efficient and reliable communications whenever emergencies arise.

We've been listening to the new HF voice sub-band, and we're happy to report that we've heard nothing but enthusiasm and professionalism. We anticipate that the new privileges will provide you a greater satisfaction with the hobby of amateur radio, and will encourage you in its growth.

ARES is the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, a nation-wide organization sponsored by the American Radio Relay League to train and prepare amateur radio operators to handle emergency traffic during times of crisis and disaster. Membership is open to all amateur radio operators, and affiliation with the ARRL is not a prerequisite.

The bulk of our on-site disaster relief activity is over voice frequencies (although the packet digital mode is gaining popularity). Now that Novices have privileges in both of these modes, we encourage your participation in our state and local ARES programs.

We still need to work out some of the details, but we expect to have training nets established in the HF and VHF sub-bands before the onset of Oklahoma's severe storm season. We know from experience that most local emergency communications are over repeater-relayed VHF frequencies, so we are asking that those clubs or individuals who are planning 220-MHz repeater operations to contact us about using their repeaters for conducting ARES training and emergency nets.

We are also attempting to establish a 10-meter net to run in conjunction with our Thursday night 2-meter training net, and we need your suggestions on how it should work. Should we operate the same net on both bands simultaneously, or should we have separate nets? If you prefer a separate 10-meter net, what day/time/frequency is best? If you have a 220-MHz rig, would you prefer a net in that band?

The choice is yours. We want our ARES program to be practical, educational and rewarding for all of us.

But first things first. Elsewhere in this issue you will find an ARES membership application. You need to complete and return the form as soon as possible--your responses will indicate where we need to direct the local ARES effort.

We would also like to hear your comments about emergency operations in general: How do you plan to operate on emergency power? What kind of emergency gain antenna system for 10- or 1.25-meters could you build from scratch? How could you operate from a remote QTH a hundred miles away?

Finally, we'd like to meet you. We have a very informal get together on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the new Salvation Army headquarters, 5001 North Pennsylvania, OKC, starting at 7:30 pm. We hope to see you there.

When you complete your membership application; or if you have any comments or questions about ARES, send them to:

O. J. Watkins, WB5SRX
816 North Juniper Ave.
Midwest City, OK 73130

We'll be looking for you on 10-meters, and hope to see you at one of our monthly meetings.

At a fishing tackle display a customer picked up one of the newest lures. "Do the fish really go for these things?" he asked the salesman. "Dunno," was the reply. "We don't sell 'em to fish."

WHY DID YOU BECOME A HAM?

From HARMONICS South Jersey

Your traveling reporter made a survey among some of our members regarding this question. You may be interested in some of the answers.

1. It was recommended therapy to help me overcome a New England dialect. It failed. Boy, did it fail!

2. I wanted to become the first genuine "polish Ham" in the area, come hell or high water.

3. They said I would work with project models. I thought they meant models like Brook Shields.

4. People kept telling me I belonged to MARS and that my theories were out of this world.

5. Well, you see, I had all of this radio gear of my sons stashed away in the house and I didn't know what the hell to do with it.

6. It's a good way to relax and also carry on with the YLs across the country without my OM knowing the difference.

7. I enjoy helping the older hams relax, keeping their blood pressure down and to help them keep their sanity.

8. It's a good way to learn how to horse-trade and let your hair down.

9. I don't know why but boy, are y'all lucky I did! I could have been a CBER!

10. I had to. The FCC said my CB linear was getting all the local church systems and the Fire Department complaining that I was a big 10-4 on their frequencies.

11. According to the psychological course I was taking, its rooted in a deep seated masochistic urge and a call from beyond.

12. It's none of your business! Furthermore, you can not print anything about me in your paper. No. 13 and No. 14 have exclusive rights to anything to be published about me!

YOU'RE AS OLD AS YOU FEEL

Age 82 - Goethe wrote "Faust"

Age 79 - Benjamin Franklin appointed chief executive of Penn.

Age 75 - Cecil B. DeMille made the movie "The Ten Commandments".

Age 72 - Verdi Composed "Othello".

Age 70 - Sophocles wrote "Oedipus Rex".

Age 70 - Michaelangelo began work on St. Peter's Basilica.



ALTUS AREA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

The March meeting of the AAARA was called to order at 7:30pm by President Jim, KB5LS. The following members, from Altus unless noted, were present: Mike, N7DNU, Annie, KA5YWY, Mike, W5VXU, Herb, W5ZDI & Clyde, W5ZDI, both from Mangum, Mac, KB6FLG, Rupert, N4CIJ, Dwight, WB5KBH and Loren, WA5CBF. Special welcome to new member Mike, KA2BWT, who is stationed at Altus Air Force Base.

After the usual reports had been gone over the club had a long discussion on the events that had transpired with the clubs attempts to get the local zoning changed for tower height. Mike, W5VXU, gave a very good overview that covered the meeting with the METRO Planning Commission. Also discussed later in the meeting were on going plans for our future meetings before the Commission. As things stand right now we still have to go before the commission for a public hearing. Then based on the outcome of that on to the City Council for final action. Through the C&E we will keep the rest of the state advised on our progress. The fact that the club was better prepared this time around and we were before the proper board to get action resulted in a much better response. Barring any unforeseen problems within about 60 days we should have a workable change that everyone can live with.

The club is looking into the possibility of conducting Field Day this year. Loren, WA5CBF, has taken on the honors of putting the clubs act together.

The club will have had a table at the Lawton/Ft. Sill Ham Fest. Hopefully everybody will have been able to unload some of their boat anchors. And I will have the room in my small apartment to put them all.

Any one planning to be in the Altus area on the last Saturday of the month is invited to come out for our informal breakfast. Current plans call for it to be at The Ramada Inn on East Broadway at 8:00am. Check with the club

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In an attempt to loose weight, a woman got involved in a rigorous exercise program, and a friend made her three warm-up suits: one red and white, one yellow and one orange. Two months later the woman was noticeably discouraged. She reported that she had over- heard her 12 year old son telling a friend: "Yeah, after an aerobics class we never know who's gonna cook supper- Santa Claus, Big Bird, the Great Pumpkin"

officers listed or ask for info on the 19/79 for possible changes.

NON CLUB NOTE: There is an effort to take away parts of the 220MHz band for commercial use. This has been an ongoing problem for the last 15 or 20 years. If your interest lies in the VHF/UHF spectrum or you just want to help hold on to a part of our valuable bands, contact the FCC in opposition to this plan. Details in the current QST or from an OBS.

So much for the soapbox and just about all from this part of OK, So very best of 73 from the AAARA.

De Mike, N7DNU/5



OIDAR RADIO NEWS AND VIEWS

The Oklahoma Independent Amateur Radio Club (OIDAR) met on the 10th of March at 7:30 PM. The first item of business was a request from Mr. John Shipler for communications support for a track meet to be held on May 16th with May 23rd as a rain date at the local high school. Mr. Shipler request that at least four stations with portable units would be needed for the event. The motion to support the track meet came up for a vote and was unanimously passed. The next item of business was the treasurer's report. Phil - KA2QUIP reported that the club has \$ 114.86 in the bank. He also reminded club members that April was dues month. Following the treasurer's report, Lin Jackson - KA5ZJM gave a report on the Novice Classes. During the last set of classes, C.L. Hallmark - KA5ZWM presented a short video on RACES & ARES operations. This made a big impression on the future hams many of which did not realized that hams were as involved in emergency communications. I guess we take alot of things for granted. Especially the great work that the Ponca Fire and Police departments do. It is hard to imagine a disaster occuring were communications for both these organizations were to be cutoff and life or death decisions would have to be made with little or no communications from the field.

Taco - KA5FFL report that the last picnic was a great success. The next one will be the first Saturday of April with the second saturday being used as an alternate rain date. All the area hams are invited to come down to Fishermans Bend just below Kaw Dam and discuss some serious ?? ham radio. Bruce - KA5ZKI gave a report on the .31 repeater receiver site. The new Hamtronics helical coil filter /preamp was installed with no problems encountered. All the receiver site needs now is to be properly grounded especially now during lightning season.

Biz - WD0HCO reported that the .31 transmitter site also still had to be properly grounded. This was the main reason why the remote base was locking up the main repeater computer which had to be restarted manually. Hopefully this will be taken care of shortly. Several members had complained that no instructions for the use of the phone patch or remote base has ever been officially published. I appologized for this by reminding the members that the system was still experimental in nature and subject to changes as we find problems that still have to be solved.

Lin Jackson - KA5ZJM brought up the point that it was time for the HAMFEST committee to meet to begin planning for the PONCA CITY HAMFEST. With that the meeting ended at 9:15 PM.

Biz - WD0HCO

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DB224 antenna, and a rack had recently been purchased for the repeater upgrade project. Cost of these items was \$150. If you have not paid your dues for 1987, expect a note from Monte.

WOW we had a real good turnout for the SCARS Novice/Tech class. There were 32 folks gathered round the tables at the Red Cross on that first nite. And another 11 showed up for the upgrade code study group. The number held steady for the second and third nites.

Tom, Dick or

Harry Clark is the name of the new Red Cross director announced Mark, N5HZR. He (Mark) is in the process of establishing a good relationship with the new director. The first step is to find out what his(the director) name is. It will be all uphill from there.

A DISASTER

services course is being offered by the Red Cross on Tuesday, March 31, at 6:30 pm. It will be a 4 hour introduction to what the RC does, needs, etc. It is considered a prerequisite to the other Red Cross courses offered. If you are interested call Jim Kenney at the Norman Red Cross for info.

Headway on

Ham Holiday was reported by CORA rep Dave, K5PL. The fees for next summer HH have been set at \$7 for preregistration, \$9 registration at the door, \$2 for a table if paid early, and \$300 if paid late. The SCARS and OU groups have been put in charge of security, facilities, flea market, and are helping with the technical program. If you have suggestions for a program, contact K5PL, KD5WA, or one of the other CORA reps.

We heard that the Edmond ARS won the ARRL Club Challenge of the 80's and a brand new Yaesu HF radio and power supply. Well congrats to all them EARS.

The RFI committee which was charged with gathering info on RFI had finished its task reported Steve, N18W. A file would be put in the SCARS radio room along with a new version of the ARRL's RFI publication. A copy of the ARRL RFI book will also be donated to the Norman

Public Library. It's job finished, the RFI committee was pink slipped and shut down.

Too many fleas

around here sez Gary, WB5ULK, and hence recommended not putting on a flea market in Norman. Apparently the MWC group that sponsored on in January plans to have it every quarter or so. It is believed but not certain that the next MWC FM will be on the first weekend in April. Another flea fest would only water down their effort. Gary recommended SCARS support the MWC group. It's charge now being moot, the flea market committee was scratched.

A softball game between SCARS and EARS will be held on Saturday, April 4, at a neutral site in Norman. On a motion by A5A, the group appropriated \$500 for uniforms and equipment for the team. All 21 members of the team are expected to play, but we need volunteers to sell the hot dogs and pop, and to announce the game. The game will be either at the Norman High diamond or the L. Dale Everett baseball field on the OU campus. Contact Mark, N5HZR, for late minute details. The practices will be as usual on Saturday and Sundays at 11 am and Monday thru Thursdays at 5:30 pm.

Four new associate members have been approved for associate membership in the club. If you have forgotten, associate membership is open to persons having an interest in amateur radio but not holding a license. For special circumstances, the first year dues were waived for the new members, who are: Enos Semore from Norman; Mike Mantle, Jr., a student at OU; Hermann Ruth, III a student at OU from New York; and J. Bench, retired. All will be at the upcoming softball game.

"A Sucker is born every minute" is a famous line uttered by whom ?? (First correct answer wins the SCARS SA Award for April). However if you believe the line being sent by an outfit calling itself FEDERAL LICENSING, J.V. AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE DIVISION to amateurs who licenses are about to expire, you may be aback on in his old age so he candidate for becoming abought a new mattress.

naturalized sucker. This firm is asking for only \$35 to help you renew your license, which of course you can do for yourself for the cost of a stamp. If you need help renewing your license, contact one of the SCARS officers. See page 4 of the April issue of 73 magazine for the details.

Good show Sam

WA5RPP and the rest of the VE team that held the exams on February 25 in Norman. We heard, from an unimpeachable and reliable source, that the VE exams in Norman beat the others in this area hands down.

Upgrades included:

Jana Thomason	KB5AOP to Tech
Gloria Guinn	KB5BGM to Tech
Bruce McElhaney	KA5ZFL to Tech
Kurt Nielsen	None to Tech

The next VE

exams will be on Monday, May 4, at the Red Cross building in Norman at 7:30 pm. Please note the change in date and time. Well "wait" you say "what happens to the headphone system for the code tests? That was a big advantage to taking the exams in Norman." We know and a new audio distribution system complete with 10 headphone sets, high fidelity audio amplifier, and 15 ips, 1/2 in tape deck is in the mill and will be ready for May 4. So tell your friends and relatives, the best will be getting better. Remember, Monday May 4 at the Red Cross in Norman.

A 24 hour

clock from Radio Shack was the door prize given away at the March meeting. Andi, WU5W, held the winning ticket and donated the clock to the new NWS station.

The next

meeting will be on Saturday, April 11, at 9:30 am at the Norman Red Cross located at 1205 Halley Drive. Hope to see you there.

————— KD5IT —————

He wanted something to fall about to expire, you may be aback on in his old age so he candidate for becoming abought a new mattress.

THE BIG SIGNAL

OKLAHOMA CITY AUTOPATCH
ASSOCIATION, INC.

Have you missed us in the C&E? We have missed YOU TOO!
I have several new topics for YOU.

1. NEW MEETING PLACE
2. REPEATER WORK
3. WX NET
4. NOVICE ENHANCEMENTS

1) We have recently benefited from a new permanent meeting facility provided us by the Salvation Army. It is located at NW 50 and PENN. on the NW corner. We have the facility of the kitchen and a very nice facility. ARES is assisting the ARMY with the installation of a complete HF station with rig and beams. This facility is to be for ARES emergency communications. We had our first meeting at our new home in March. The agreements were not finalized in time to notify the club in the C&E, but we had a good turnout for the great programs that were presented. You missed a good time if you were not with us. We had not one, but TWO programs presented. The first was from our STATE DEPT of TRANSPORTATION. We learned about our state highway funding and scheduled projects, status of projects, and how our highways are designed. The second program was presented by KBOQJ J. Fields on Packet Radio and a complete station for a live demo. He also informed us on the progress of OPRA, Inc. and the packet network for Civil Emergencies on 145.09 Mhz.

Our program in April will be presented by Mr. Mark Phelan, Agent in Charge, US Customs Office in Oklahoma City. He will tell us about this office which was recently opened and the US Customs work in general in the Okla. area. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE !

2) Repairs were made on our antenna systems at the CH 9 TV tower several weeks ago. Those who helped were N05M, N5FMU, KA5RVH, and WB5THW. Please thank them when you hear them on the air for donating their entire weekend to our club. The 81/21 had been down for several weeks. It was found that the transmit coax was full of water. Our thanks to Elmo, W5JCB, for helping us with the new piece of coax on

Sunday. Saturday was used as an evaluation of the situation and a repair list was made. The connections and antennas were all checked and damage was listed. The receive line developed a short in a connection and at the end of the day no repeaters were working. Crimp on N connectors were added to list of needed repair supplies. The 22/82 transmit ant had three broken elements. Not bad considering their age and the recent ice storms. Spare ant elements were taken up Sunday and replaced after the receive line was repaired. Then the new piece of coax for 81/21 transmit was installed just in time to get off the tower at dark. We hope all will continue to work well during the spring storm season. We could use your help next time. I am working on a list of volunteers for repeater repair and maint. let me know if you want to help too. call your pres. N5FMU.

3) THE WHEATHER NET ! Our thanks to Ron, KE5M, for volunteering to act as the NET COORDINATOR for OCAPA this year. Volunteers for the net control and radar work were taken from the club member survey.

Net control group 1.

W5MEL K9WIC W5OEC KA5TH

Net control group 2.

W5JCB K2GKK KC5IS WB5CTS

Radar coverage:

N05M WD5ISS N15J K9KV N5FMU

KF5DK KA5LBF N15G WD5DYI

We had a training and organization meeting one Saturday morning. I hope we will all be active in supporting our new weather net organization.

Some practice sessions have been held on Sat. afternoon and it would be a great help if you would participate and help our new net controls get some practice.

4) NOVICE ENHANCEMENTS

I have had several people ask me lately if OCAPA is going to put up a 220 repeater or link for these new privileges. If YOU want to see the club support a new area like this, I will be glad to hear your motion at the next meeting.

73, CHARLES, N5FMU

K5JL REPEATERS

146.22/82	147.81/21
52.68/52.525	449.3/444.3

The South Canadian Amateur Radio Society

WHAT A MEETING

SCARS had on March 14! It was called to order at 9:35 am by Mark, N5H2R. However it didn't get to order until Jerry, W5MCJ, arrived with the donuts (at 9:41 am) and the 4 dozen were devoured (at 9:46 am). Attendance was 46; great show!

Lots of help

was on hand for the installation of the amateur radio station at the new NWS storm center in Norman. The antennas and radios were installed on Saturday March 7 with the help of:

Dave	K5PL	Gary	WB5ULK
Dorinda	N5IUA	Monte	WB5RZX
Mark	N5H2R	Jean	N5H2V
Steve	N18W	Andi	WU5W
Louis	KD5WA	Randall	NOHRF
Ron	N5H2S	Pete	KA5COI
Don	KB5ABS	Leland	W5MCN
Frank	N5IQJ	QR	A5A

Gary, WB5ULK, gave a tour of the NWS facility after the meeting. The amateur radio station was most impressive as were the other tools used by the NWS for storm forecasting. The ham gear consists of a Kenwood 7950 for phone and an Icom 28, MFJ tnc, and ATT 2B2 for packet. The packet system will be tied into the NWS storm warning computer and will automatically send storm warnings and info as they are posted by the NWS. Phase 2 of the packet development will have the computer driven system scanning selected packet stations for wx info and displaying it at the NWS. The amateur station seats two, the NWS Liaison Net operator and a trainee.

Steve Wolfe, N18W, is the new NWS Liaison Net director and he is seeking volunteers to help with his net. If you are interested, you can reach Steve on the packet BBS on 145.01, KD5IT-1; on 145.09 thru the N5H2R Mail-O-Matic; on 147.060 SCARS repeater; or at 799-5150

The till is

heavy with ducats, \$1160.00, to be precise. Although \$800 has been committed for ongoing projects, according to Monte, WB5RZX, the SCARS treasurer. Dave, K5PL, reported that a VHF receiver, the UHF link, a

Salem

220 MHZ ALERT - FCC GIVETH AND FCC TAKETH AWAY DEPARTMENT

The recent FCC action with regard to Novice Enhancement sort of leaves us all with mixed emotions. Sort of like seeing your mother-in-law drive your new cadillac with the IC-751 mobile over a cliff. Some people view this as nothing more than a series of events including the previous volunteer exams to dilute the required skill factors that the amateur radio has always advanced as a principle justification for its existence. Others, more interested in the social aspects of radio (which includes the public service aspects) feel that electronic skill and knowledge are not essential elements of being a "ham." Rather, amateurs must demonstrate a certain skill level consistent with the proper operation of the modern amateur transceivers. Once this has been mastered and a smattering of knowledge demonstrated with regard to Rules and Regulations of the FCC, new amateurs can take their place in the ranks ready to offer their services in public service.

Others like Wayne Green (only to mention one), feel that the code is an unnecessary element of the amateur service that unnecessarily keeps out many persons who might otherwise join the hobby and make their availability for public service (and the purchase of magazine subscriptions) more or less a fact.

I find a middle ground. I think that the code can be and is a necessary element of the discipline required of amateur radio operators. I also don't think that it really keeps all that many people away. Those who really want to be an amateur operator can spend the 13 hours (average) it takes to learn 5 words a minute. This is not a serious chore. As a threshold requirement (and communication skill at a minimum), the code requires a demonstration of a minimul interest in the radio art. I know many amateurs who cursed the code to me as prenovices and now spend much of their time on the bottom

end of 20 meters where they can tread only because they acquired an amateur extra license. I also know a couple of Advanced Class who complained to me bitterly about the code, yet now work the HF frequencies and split their time between CW and SSB.

But, the rejection a year or so ago of the Code-Free license did point up a problem in the amateur service and that is the previous decline in the numbers of operators. While there might be a legitimate explanation in the fact that it was always difficult to arrange a test (although the Novice has always been a volunteer exam program), that really does not address the problem. Basically, the Novice license can be very boring. If you don't like CW, you might as well give it up. The statistics for Novice renewals or upgrades were the most revealing in this regard. Amateurs were not really going past the novice class. I have to admit that it takes a dedicated and motivated individual to hang on through the novice experience. Yet, if phone privileges were available to the Novice, how many of them would ever advance? I dunno. That is a tough question. The temptation to spend time on phone as a novice and not increase one's skill as the higher class licenses demand is an easy trap to fall in. The thought of a terminal novice licensee who never advances past his original expectation in radio is reality.

But, perhaps that begs the question. Really, we might be asking is whether or not that we should require those interested in radio to advance past novice entry requirements. And, also whether we must monitor those requirements so that advancement must follow a particular timetable. The novice license used to be good for a fixed time and was nonrenewable. It was basically up or out. And a lot of people went out. There wasn't always time to spend making sure that you could get the studying in necessary to get that technician or general license. Besides, there are so many other distractions these days. Some of which can be as interesting as a 40 meter round-table on Sunday afternoon, or even

as dull or funny as listening to the Liberty net. One of the first distractions are these new damn computers. Believe me, they offer a completely absorbing and complex experience. The time that it takes to get an amateur license is nothing compared what it takes to learn PC DOS. I can personally vouch for that. And I still only enjoy a moderate amount of computer literacy. Better make that elementary. In the world of computers, I still have a novice license. But since I treat it like a tool and not a toy, I don't have the incentive to put together the time required to gain "technician, general, advanced or even extra class" computer skill. I may always be a novice.

That is not to say that I don't want to learn. I do. But, I use my computer in my work. It is not easy to find the time to sit behind it and play with all the variables offered by DOS. So, as experience is gathered, the skill level increases. And so on. I guess that I can understand why some people just don't happen to get all that fired up about learning electronics and wave propagation. I just don't have all that much desire to learn about computers. I just happen to be crazy about radio.

Well, novice enhancement is a way of attracting and holding all those interested persons who might want to get an amateur license. And they don't have to all be electrical geniuses to be productive and helpful members of the amateur service. And it appears that just the suggestion of novice enhancement has stimulated amateur growth. In its NPRM, the FCC points out that 21,000 people entered the Amateur service in FY 1986, an increase of 20.75% over the 19,000 in FY 1985. At the same time, the dropout rate has decreased by 15.13%.

Now, what did the FCC offer to new novices? Well, it varies. Mostly, the new frequencies are already underused and certainly in need of population. HF phone privileges will certainly stimulate and hold interest in upgrading for the purpose obtaining other HF privileges. The 10 meter band is an underpopulated band as far as HF operation is concerned.

Hell, it is probably a good reason to put novices down there just to keep the CB bootleggers out of the band. Besides, 10 meters is a fascinating band, as many of those who operate 11 meters have found. When the band is closed, there is fairly reliable groundwave coverage. When that changes when the band opens, you can talk just about anywhere and power is not really a consideration. Directional antennas are smaller and easier to construct and in some instances can be cut down from CB. So, the CBers can transition from the band by the purchase of a hacksaw and a radio. I know some of those people sound really funny and strange. Hopefully, those awful habits will fall away. But, if they have gone to the trouble to actually go down and get a license, well, maybe responsibility will follow. I have a lot of faith in exCBers. We have a lot of productive operations and operators in our midst that came in by that route.

The 220 Mhz band is also grossly underpopulated. I don't think that the FCC was willing to unleash novices on the two meter and 450 Mhz bands. There are already too many structures that are already in place on both of those bands and for the most part, they could not handle a massive influx of new operators. They just wouldn't assimilate easily. But 220 Mhz offers an opportunity for the new novices to populate a rather bleak band that only gets any utilization on the coasts. I have heard numerous proposals over the past several years about putting on a 220 Mhz repeater. Yet, there has been nary a peep. With an entry level offer of privileges in this band, hopefully utilization will go up. More on this later.

The 1.2 Ghz allocation is also a logical choice. This band is also underutilized. It offers reliable ground wave operation with some possibility of real experimentation. The recent availability of equipment in this band lessens the difficulty in getting on the air. Icom has both base station equipment, mobile and hand-helds. Novice operation might encourage other manufacturers to come forward with additional equipment for all of these bands.

The FCC has left an incentive to upgrade in all of this. First, these frequencies are only a drop in the

bucket of those available to the general class or better. And, if the novices want to join the "mainstream" on 2 meters, they still have to upgrade to Technician. This only requires an additional test. There are still CW frequencies available to the novice to assist in raising their code speed or maintaining the 5 words a minute necessary to get the Technician Class.

The Commission also has placed power restrictions on enhanced novice operation while perhaps minimizing potential interference. But, to operate with amplifiers or more power, an upgrade will be necessary.

It may take some time. But, there is no harm with more people coming into the hobby. And that means that the more people, the more political clout that can be wielded. Politicians understand voters, and the more voters there are, the more they listen. Any highly motivated group can always exert influence in excess of their actual numbers.

Which brings up a second point. Along with novice enhancement, the FCC recently introduced a new NPRM that intends to reallocate a portion of the 220 band (220-222 Mhz) for exclusive use by government and nongovernmental land mobile operations.

This frequency grab follows previous efforts by commercial interests to "grab" this frequency. First, it was the Class E CB band proposed about 10 years ago. That threat finally fell away. Now, the NPRM is a general docket call (General Docket No. 87-14) to arms again for the amateur community. It is also unfortunate that the Commission intends to take away a portion of this band just as the Commission just awarded a portion to enhanced use for novices.

The April 1987 issue of QST details some of the problems and issues that influence this matter. The editorial page "It Seems to US . . ." also provides a proposed response form to the Commission. Just as in the past, hysterical arguments do not cut it with the Commission. Use of a proper form will greatly

increase the likelihood that your comments will be given serious merits. To warrant presentation of formal comments, you should send an original and five copies. Use 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper and type only on one side. Use double space, it is easier to read. Formal comments will be placed in a binder and placed in the FCC public room for examination by others. Leave a large enough margin so that it can be read if placed in a binder.

Address the comments to Secretary, Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554. Be sure to put the general docket number No. 87-14 on your comments.

What should you say? Well, it varies, especially if you have a particular interest in using 220 Mhz. In any case, don't be hysterical or threatening. It will add more heat than light to the debate. First, be sure to state your name in placing the comments and also state early or in the title that they are Comments of John Q. Ham in Opposition of Proposed Rulemaking. The arguments should be logical and unemotional and most importantly, factual. Point out the recent novice enhancement will give the band a chance to populate and that premature removal of the frequencies from amateur use will severely hamper growth in the band. You can also suggest that there might be other more appropriate frequencies in which the commercial interests might be better suited. One serious problem is that the FCC apparently proposed ACSSB (Amplitude Companded Single Sideband). Only the FCC has taken ACSSB seriously over the last several years in their efforts to nudge commercial operators to go over to ACSSB. There is some evidence to show that ACSSB and FM might not be compatible in the same band and that interference potential is increased. In any case, see the latest issue of QST (April 1987) for all the most recent information and this is no joke.

Micheal Salem N5MS

THE IC u2AT-A VANISHING BREED

Yumm, Yumm, Icom really makes some delicious radios. I don't particularly have anything against any other radio, but it just so happened that the first radio that I bought after I got a couple of Motorola HT-220's for two meters was an Icom IC-2AT. The Motorolas were great radios. You could not really find any better. They were solid and reliable and only had one drawback. They were crystal controlled. But then again, back then all radios were crystallized counterweights. There were very few, in fact, none, synthesized radios when I first got up around 2 meters and 450 Mhz. The first synthesized handheld was a synthesized job I saw at Dayton made by WA4DSY. He fit it on a board in the back of the HT-220. It drew some current, but worked on all the frequencies in the 146 to 148 Mhz range. In comparison to the current of the stock HT-220 (about 3 mils or so unless you had a PL and then the current went up to about 4.3 mils), the DSY synthesizer drew about 25 to 30 mils. WA5DUC and a couple of others built one up and I think that they worked relatively well despite some birdies and other minor problems.

Well, this was the age of the Icom talkies. The IC2AT was (or at least appeared) to be a minor miracle. Here was a small handheld that only drew about 20 mils and was fully synthesized. The BP3 battery pack didn't last long, but the optional BP4 battery pack would stand the watch all day long. I ran through a couple of those for about 3 years or so and then graduated to using the high power BP5. I have handled a couple of those in the last several years.

The radios have not been without their problems. Some of them have been dealt with here in the C & E, others have simply made the trip on the bus back to the Icom repair station in Dallas. The turnaround is nothing short of phenomenal down there. I have sent a radio or a battery charger and gotten it back in less than one week. That includes 3 or 4 days in transit with UPS.

When Icom brought out the IC02AT and IC04AT, I took a long hard look

at these radios. I had wanted to get a scanning and memory radio, But these were not the ones. They were too big and bulky and the current drain on receive standby was over 50 mils. They would suck a BP5 battery dry in a relatively short time just sitting there. The keyboard was a little had to handle and not only a little complicated, but many features were lacking. I bought an IC04AT on a trade and used it for awhile. It was nice, but just too large and heavy and current hungry. I did like the style and as I noted last month, I bought an aircraft radio (IC A2) to use when flying and otherwise. The current consumption can be overcome with some niceties as a plug in cockpit charger and other available power sources.

The competition from Yaseu and Kenwood was really great. I expected Icom to come out with another scanning receiver and microprocessor controlled walkie talkie and they did just that. The IC u2AT is much less than a handful and looks awful convenient. The ads discussed many of the features, but didn't mention current consumption, hence battery life.

I really wanted to get my hands on one to take a gander, and a month or so at the sidewalk sale in Dallas, I did. Later that week, I was describing it to Mark N5HZU at the Wednesday evening version of the Brahms Ice Cream "spit and whittle club" and he hauled off and ordered one the next day. Saturday, he brought it down to the shop and with some help from Dean N5AMV who rounded up some test equipment, we put it through its paces.

Transmit power was the first test since it was the easiest. Into the Bird 43, the radio was doing about 2.5 watts on high power and .15 watts on low power. It was consistent all across the transmit range of 144 to 148 Mhz. We checked the modulation and it was deviating on voice peaks about 4 to 4.5 Khz. As is typical with Icom, the mike gain was very hot. It was designed for the thin reedy voices and would probably be noisy sounding in a noisy environment. I have found that a resistor across the mike in the IC2AT always did the trick. Don't know if a similar solution can be worked out

here.

The audio from the touchtone pad deviated a little low, about 1.5 to 2.5 Khz, but that should be enough to access the local system. The high tone is about 3 db higher in deviation than the low tone, and that should be an advantage in those systems of excessive pre-emphasis and rolloff, so this is actually a plus rather than a minus.

On to the receiver. In the hambands (it really didn't matter where), the radio had a phenomenal squelch sensitivity of about .10 to .12 uV. 20 db s+n/n (with the old ear) was about .24 uV. The receiver covers 139.1 Mhz (Squelch sensitivity of .12 uV) to 167 Mhz (Squelch sensitivity of .18 uV and .3 uV for 20 db sensitivity). I consider this to be very good. The radio has no compromise on sensitivity like the IC02AT and some others.

This compares with a squelch sensitivity of my IC2AT of .17 uV and 20 db of .3 uV. We next checked the current drain. Here is where the u2AT really shines over some of the other microprocessor radios, especially its bigger brother the IC02AT. Icom had some screws loose in their design philosophy of the ICo2AT. For some reason, it seems to me that they leave the audio stage on all the time. This is probably a class B or A stage. You can put your ear up to the speaker and hear the hiss of the amplifier. I thought that a squelch should really do that. And it should also cut off the final audio stage so that you don't draw excessive current. Well, I don't really know how much current it actually draws in that one stage, but it probably is excessive even if it is only a couple of mils.

The ICu2AT draws only 26 mils in standby squelch, a very decent value in comparison to some other processor controlled radios. It even compares very favorably to the IC2AT which draws about the same or a little less. When the receiver unsquelches, the audio stages up to about 54 mils, a decent value and also still comparable to the 2AT.

Icom has a squelch circuit that is activated after 30 seconds or so of

inactivity on the band. It then pulses the receiver off and on at about a 2 hertz rate. If a carrier appears on the receiver input, the receiver is activated on continuously until the activity stops and then 30 seconds after the last activity it goes back to sleep. The circuit is very effective and doesn't seem to hurt a thing. The current drops to a phenomenal 6 mils during the "sleep" state and the pulses only bump up to about 8 mils or a little more. The peaks are definitely higher, but the average is low. Mark and I experimented. I would have the radio and let it go to sleep. We would then transmit to it and listen for the delay. After about 4 or 5 tries, it was barely noticeable. I don't think that it would be a serious problem at all, unless you were going to use the radio for packet or something like that. This feature makes this radio one of the only ones that is now competitive with the Motorola HT-220 in terms of current consumption.

In transmit, the current drain is considerably more. These numbers may be a little low since we were using alligator clips to hold this test together (bubble gum and bailing wire were optional). There did appear to be an IR drop from the wires and clips. In transmit low power, the current was 180 mils, very respectable. In transmit high power, the current consumption went up to 560 mils, still not bad for 2++ watts. The battery is special for the u2AT and not the same as the 2AT or 4AT. The radio is physically a lot smaller than the earlier. It will easily fit in a coat pocket or even a shirt pocket if you are wearing a woolen shirt. It probably won't fit with a pencil carrier.

The split is not programmable and must be set with a switch. I don't think that much of a problem for me since I usually check it on my 2AT. There is also a built in PL encoder, but that must be set by removing the battery and exercising a row of dip switches.

One feature I especially liked is the method of changing frequency. You don't program in the frequency like you would with a keyboard entry transceiver. Instead, you hit a series of switches which function much the same as thumbwheels and

bump the frequency up and down depending upon which way you want to go. When you get a frequency you want, you can put it in memory. You can make it scan or step through the memory one by one. I judge this to be an especially good feature. The frequency is read on an LCD display that is on the top of the radio. This means that you can simply look down on your belt and see what frequency you are resting. If you want to change to another frequency that is in memory, you simply reach down and toggle a switch up or down until you reach the appropriate channel. If you want to change the frequency by 10 Kh or so, you hit that toggle switch up or down, depending upon your desire. This is very convenient.

One thing I almost forgot. The selectivity is fairly good. I didn't run any curves, but did run a crude test. I tuned up to 146.10 and tested the squelch sensitivity. It was opening at .12 uV. I moved up 10 Khz and the squelch sensitivity went to 8 uV. At 10 down, it was 7 uV. At +11 Kh, it was 45 uV and at +12 Kh, it was above the capability of the IFR signal generator, about 50 uV plus 40 db. The same was true for -12 Khz.

I judge that to be pretty good in comparison to the selectivity of the IC2AT. At +10, the 2AT was 2 uV. At +11, it was 10 uV, +12, it was 20 uV plus 40 db and finally over the system at +13 Kh.

At -10 Kh, it was 8 uV, -11, it was .7 uV plus 40 db and at -12 Kh, the signal was gone. Now, I think that my IC2AT was a little skewed (It has had a hard life), but the +10 Kh and +11 Kh frequencies are very significant. I think that it can be said that the u2AT has pretty good selectivity.

Well, enough talk. Time now for action. I have been watching the pennies. The IC u2AT does appear to offer many advantages that the present Icoms don't. The size is really one of the main factors for me. It will fit much easier under the coat. I don't know how rugged it is, but it might take some to be as tough as the regular 2AT. My 2AT regularly takes a beating. I have dropped it numerous times. It has a cracked case and I have had to replace the back. Most of the

battery cases have numerous dings on them. I wish that Icom had built the u2AT with a metal case, but it is still plastic. Still, it feels very solid and sturdy. I did not have the inclination or guts to ask Mark to open his radio up so I could take a peak at it. But, Mark did go down and make a copy of the schematic for me. The circuit is simple and uses a diode matrix to program the frequency ranges. The ability to listen outside the normal ham bands is always helpful, especially the weather channel from NOAA. I judge this especially helpful especially when you are trying to hunt down broadband noise that might only occasionally appear in the ham bands.

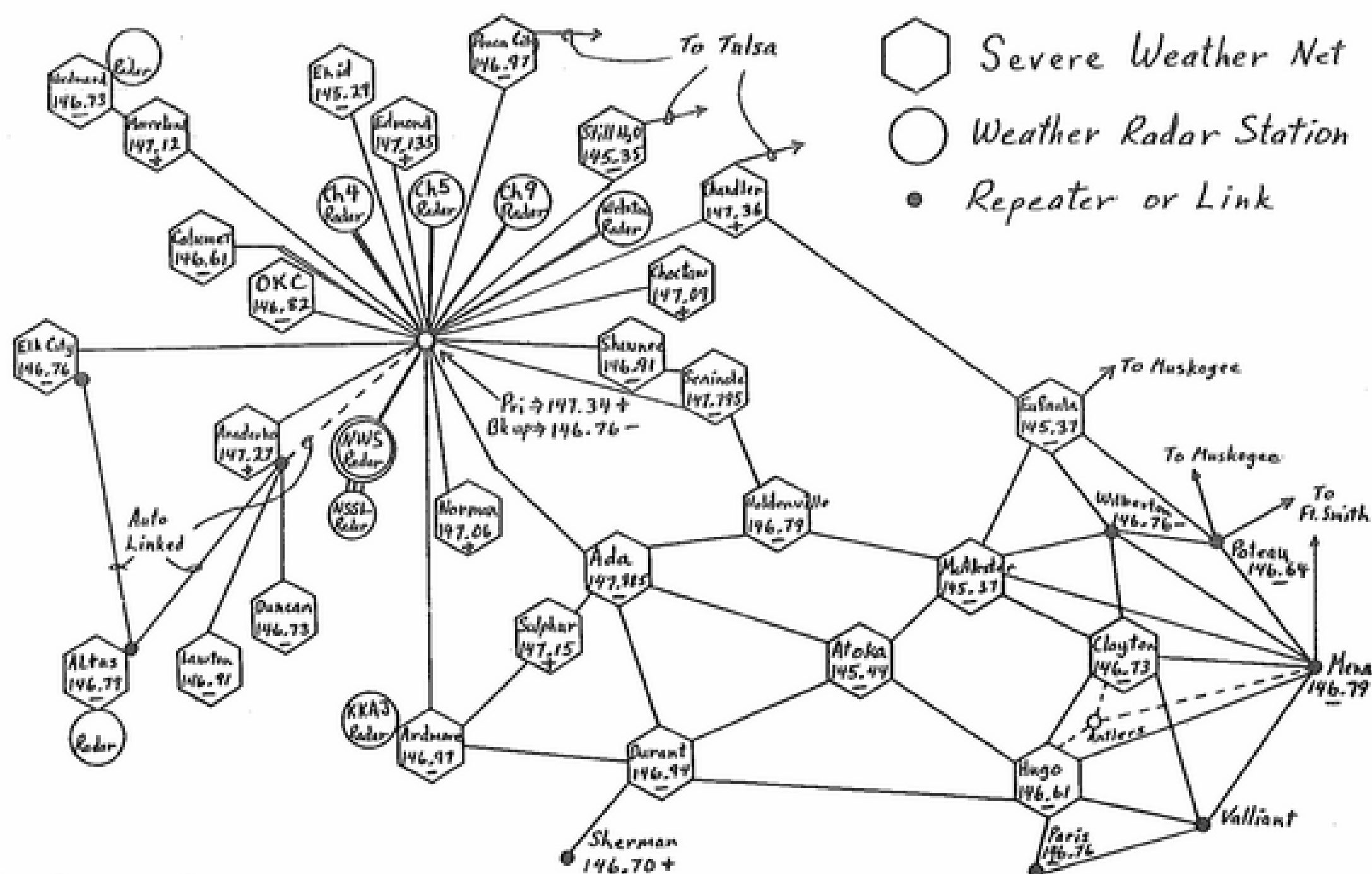
If lucky, they will be on sale at Dayton with all the dealers virtually fighting to put one in my hands at the lowest dollars possible. By the way, it appears to use some of the same microphone speaker accessories that the regular 2AT does. This will help. I didn't see the drop in charger, so I really haven't paid any attention to whether there is one or not. Probably. I understand that you have to buy a belt clip for the radio because they aren't available readily. That I don't understand. Icom has delivered to this country great quantities of a remarkably complex piece of equipment and still manages to stumble and fall on the simple stuff like a piece of bent stainless steel for a belt clip. Mama mia!! or is that Syonara. Whatever.

The touchtone pad is for tiny fingers only. My good friend Louie W5UZZ better buy a pencil or tiny stick to go with the radio if he wants to use the TTPad. All those years of eating ice cream has probably put the individual numbers outside the reach of his digits. While this may be a great digital radio, it is not a radio for great digits. Sorry Louie.

The radio is available for less than \$300.00. I expect the discounts at Dayton to be a little less. Wellll, we'll see.

Micheal Salem N5MS

OKLAHOMA SEVERE WEATHER REPORTING SYSTEM



This System is set up to simplify the means of transferring WX related information between the National Weather Service and the individual local spotter nets, with minimum interruptions to the local nets. This system was tested last year, with the majority of the nets participating, and the result was very successful.

The NWS has moved to the new office building and radar site in Norman, and the Amateur station moved with them. The old office at Will Rogers, will not be manned except for emergency back-up, which we have left ant & coax for that reason.

The South Canadian Amateur Radio Society will support & staff the Amateur Station at NWS, and would except any volunteers who want to help. Call: N18W Steve Wolfe or NUSW Andi Wolfe at 799-5150.

To reduce the confusion of multiple call signs used at NWS, we will be using only one call this year. "WB5PWY" * Pretty Weather Yesterday *

How this System works is: Each local area net has assigned a liaison which can monitor both freq. 147.34 in OKC, and the local net freq. He is to keep a log of all warnings in his area for the local net, and to up-date the net upon Net Controls' request. Also keep a log of

If you know of any information which is missing, or incorrect, please let me know ASAP. WB5TMW Dick (405)745-3877,

LOCATION	FREQUENCY	NET MANAGER	LIAISON	BK-UP LIAISON
Ada	147.885 -	W7LLP Abe	W15Y Jim	
Altus	146.79 +	WB5UMH Diana		
Anadarko	147.27 +	W5OFG John	W5OFG John	Various
Ardmore	146.97 -	WA5IJA Gene	KE5JE Elton	K5RSK CD
Atoka	145.44 -		WD5JCF Eldon	
Calumet	146.61 -			
Chandler	147.36 +	WD5CIG Ron	WB5PNH Toni	
Choctaw	147.09 +	AB5H Frank		
Clayton	146.73 -			
Duncan	146.73 -	WD5CLB Lee	N5DNH Leo	
Durant	146.94 -	K5KJH Mel		
Edmond	147.135 +	N5DBM Ken S.	K5SRR C.D.	WA5ZKX Harold
Elk City	146.76 -	K5HXK Jim R.	WB5FBU Gary	
Enid	145.29 -	WA5UJF Chuck		
Eufaula	145.37 -			
Holdenville	146.79 -	K5SMT John	K5SHRU Robert	
Hugo	146.61 -	WB5TTU Ron H.		
Lawton	146.91 -	K5BYF Chuck		
McAlester	145.37 -	W5BEC Harry	WB5RNB Bill	Various
Mooreland	147.12 +			
Norman	147.06 +	K5EFJ Ken N.	W5MCJ Jerry	W5MCN Leland
OKC	146.82 -	K5SM Ron	N5FM Frank	WB5TMW Dick
Ponca City	146.97 -	W5ZWM CL	N5ANV Vernon	W5TXF Jay
Seminole	147.795 -	W5JF Ron	WA5ZAN Doc	K5UKG Lloyd
Shawnee	146.91 -	K5LZF Bob	WA5RDG Brian	N5BEZ Dean
Stillwater	145.35 -	K5FVL Dan	WB5KQL Club	Various
Sulphur	147.15 +			
Woodward	146.73 -			
Ch 4 Radar	- - -	WD5DYI Mark N.		
Ch 5 Radar	- - -			
Ch 9 Radar	- - -			
Tinker Radar	- - -			
Warr Acres PD	- - -	WB9OEZ Robert		

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



Here it is April and spring is well underway. EARS welcomed in spring, with a Hampout. We camped out at Canton Lake, the first weekend of spring. And also to celebrate the novice enhancement.

Cal K8ODU was the first to arrive at the camp site. With Lee & Edie KASWIS/KASYPX arriving minutes later. Work got under way setting up the trailers then putting up the antennas for 2 mtrs for a link to the 147.135 repeater. And for simplex at the camp site.

Shortly, everyone else started arriving. Tents and trailers were up in record speed. At the same time more equipment was set up for use on HF and 2 mtrs. We had two HF stations set up one for 10 to 80 meters phone and one for 20 & 40 packet and phone. 2 meters was set up for packet, repeater, and SSB. Several contacts were made on all rigs even the autopatch was used several times during the weekend.

There were 14 families present with a total of approximately 45 people there. It was next to impossible to get a head count with all the activity going on.

The weekend was your usual spring weekend with thunder storms threatening. It started to sprinkle and the rigs were put away. It stopped as soon as it started. Then last but not least Tommy, KASWAV and family arrived bringing another shower with them. The only way to stop it was to help Tommy set up his tent. It worked, as soon as the tent was set up it stopped but that wasn't all Tommy brought us that night. Just when we thought we had it made the wind shifted and this chilly feeling came over the camp as this frigid cold air descended upon us. I'm here to tell you it got colddddd! Some of us were all too soon reminded of things we had forgotten to bring along. Like jackets, blankets, heaters and fuel for the fires. We all

endured the night. We awoke with a little of the animal showing through. But after a hearty breakfast and a lot of coffee we all went about the tasks of the day. Some of us set the equipment up to try for some more contacts, while others went out to see the sights and shopping in the great metropolis of Canton for items of need previously mentioned.

There was entertainment. Through the weekend we had monkeys in the trees swinging from the vines (rope to tie off dipoles and antenna mast), a bear on a bicycle screaming meemies, wild indians and other assorted creatures.

We had a fish fry Saturday night, which I might add was terrific!! The fish was fried and charcoled with numerous side dishes, a feast for every one. After the feast it was back to the rigs to try for more contacts on 10 meters and 2 meter side band. Others collected at a table to play a mean game of UNO. From where I was it sounded like it was a great game.

Sunday after breakfast it all started coming down except for a few people who stayed until Monday. If you weren't there you missed the time of your life!! Lets do it again.

The 850 controller is in the assembly stages. The check has been mailed and we should receive it very soon now. As soon as it arrives time will be made to get it installed.

The club station is coming along smoothly. Classes for use of the HF rig should start soon. Larry Traub, N5IXV is working on the material to be covered. The classes will be limited to approximately 5. Due to the limited space available. Contact Larry to set up a time for your class.

The April dinner meeting will be held on April the 17th at the Truckers Village at 6:30 P.M.. Truckers Village is located on the east service road of interstate 35 between Wilshire and Britton roads. There will be a program put on by the Citizens Against Crime. It will cover the do's and

My minister told me that at my age I should be giving some thought to 'the hereafter.' I told him I think about it many times a day, when I open a drawer and ask myself, "What am I here after?"

OKLAHOMA SEVERE WEATHER REPORTING SYSTEM

severe WX reported by the local spotters, and report that COMPLETE info to NWS.

NOTE: This is a net for liaisons & WX stations only. All spotters are urged to check into their local Net.

The incoming information should be COMPLETE & in this sequence.

1. WHEN the event occurred.
 2. WHO witnessed the event.
 3. WHAT happened, in detail.
 4. WHERE the event took place
- ***** Hail Reports *****
 *** NO MARBLES EXCEPTED ***
 Use coins or inches in dia.

The Oklahoma Thunderstorm Outlook will be broadcast on NOAA WX Radio, at 12:00 noon and 3:00 PM. This will tell your spotters if they will be needed.

Please look over the list of net mgr. and liaisons for your area and send me any additions, corrections or any suggestions you might have to make this a better network. The corrections will be in the next issue.

Thank You,

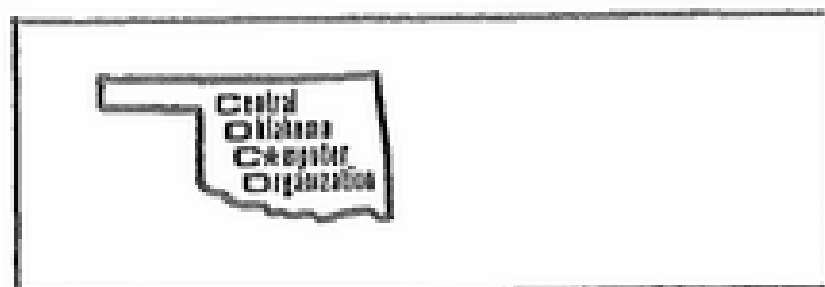
Dick Baker (405) 745-3877 H
 WB5TMW (405) 278-2888 B
 622 N. Oakwood Terr.
 Mustang, Ok. 73064

don'ts of protecting yourself when or if you need it. I hear it's a great program. Plan to attend. See you there.

The soft ball game between ears and scars has been set for the first weekend in May. Let's give them a few scars to remember and not let them pin our ears back!!!

Here something to think about, EARS is 30 years old this year. The club was formed on or about the first of May 1957, What do you say lets celebrate the 30 th year anniversary in style! Let's hear your ideas on how to celebrate, EARS wants to hear from you. contact any board member with your ideas or suggestions. WE need your response as soon as possible so we can get the plans worked out.

73 TO ALL . LEE KASWIS



President Paul Pape called the meeting to order at 9:16 AM on March 14, 1986. 87 members and guests attended.

Secretary-Treasurer Report

1. COCO, Inc. is in good financial shape.
2. I read the COCO, Inc. Constitution to the attendees.
3. At a previous meeting someone made an off-hand comment about the Enid chapter. This offended some of the Enid members in attendance. Please, in the future, think before you speak.

Old Business

1. We had a report of the CoCoFest committee. They still need an advertising chairman despite several people having volunteered for that committee. Hopefully, a chairman will rise from their ranks. We decided to hold the event on Saturday, August 8, 1987, at the First Christian Church, located at 36th and North Robinson. Dale Goad volunteered to chair the concession committee. He's looking for some assistants.

2. Chuck West volunteered to serve as the CoCo 3 RS DOS public domain librarian. He joins Lee Lash and Howard Wilson, who volunteered last month to become librarians. In order to build up the club's public domain library, the attendees decided that everyone should bring a disk full of his favorite public domain programs to the April meeting. Please don't forget.

3. A motion for the club to establish an account on Delphi failed to carry.

4. It's full speed ahead for the swap meet on Saturday, May 9, in the Red Cross parking lot. The OKC IBM PC users group is also holding a swap meet at the Fairgrounds that day.

5. Dorothy Roberts and I volunteered to author the newcomer's welcoming packet on disk and cassette. The packet will include a table of contents, a list of members, a list of those willing to answer hardware and software

questions, a copy of the COCO Constitution, CoCoNet info, frequently encountered problems and their resolutions, a listing of the videotapes and public domain software available, poop on the swap disk program, and a brief explanation of the meeting format.

6. The following is a list of people who volunteered to assist other members with problems. Those people volunteered at the March, 1986 (yes, 1986) COCO meeting. Please restrict your phone calls to the 6-10 PM time period on weeknights for all listed below:

Sam Murr	324-6443
Jim Seals	381-2005
Harold Todd	685-3685
Tom Mangham	677-5291
Holly Holcomb	387-9267
Jack Cochran	732-8029
Bob Pace	376-3569

New Business

1. Tom Mangham volunteered to list COCO, Inc., CoCoNet, and CoCoFest '87 in the COMPUTER SHOPPER.

2. Steve Moore inquired about the Midwest City resident whose letter in the March RAINBOW questioned whether there were any BBSs in the OKC area. Several attendees had contacted him and invited him to one of our meetings.

3. David Graham introduced an amendment to the COCO Constitution concerning satellite chapters. The motion passed unanimously.

Software Problems

1. Steve Moore sought answers to some very complicated questions concerning connecting hard disk drives to the CoCo.

2. Dorothy Roberts would like a program that can generate crossword puzzles.

3. Tony Parker of Edmond has lost his documentation for COLOR SCRIPSIT. Can someone help him out?

4. Sam Murr needs a timer program. I suggested that he look in the BASIC manual. I have found, however, that the timing loop in the manual doesn't keep accurate time on my CoCo 2. I increased the FOR-NEXT loop from 460 to 660 to yield an accurate timing mechanism. The upper limit of the loop depends on whether any other instructions are in the loop. The more instruc-

tions in the loop, the smaller the upper limit should be. Accuracy is a matter of trial and error.

5. Raylon Rogers would like to acquire a copy of FUN FILE or FUN GRAPH.

6. David Graham is still looking for an OS9 BBS software package.

7. Harold Todd offered to upload to CoCoNet the patches to allow TELEWRITER 64 to run on a CoCo 3.

8. Gene South requested a program that would read the directories on both sides of a diskette and print out a listing. Someone recommended Bob Helms' excellent brainchild, the CATPRINT and PROGLIST tandem.

9. Chuck West wondered where he could obtain some diskette mailers in OKC.

Hardware Problems

1. At the January meeting Mike Weigel reported on a problem he was having with PAN, a speech synthesizer program. Mike resorted to reading the documentation and learned that he shouldn't have the speech synthesizer and the joysticks hooked up simultaneously. After disconnecting his joysticks, the incessant droning disappeared.

2. Ronn Folk wondered how to determine temperature and wind speed with his CoCo. Larry Boettcher and several others offered some feasible solutions.

Doorprize Winners

Rogue - Doug Bell
Interbank Incident - Fred Cundeiff

OS9 - Jeff Little
paper punch - Bill DeMand
stapler - George Roberts
dust cover - Paul Pape
dust cover - Wayne Little
used diskette - Vic Moore
diskettes - Robert Browning
diskettes - Billy Gill
diskettes - Hazel Roberts
diskettes - David Coburn
diskettes - Tom Brewer
disk box - Marc Bosley
disk box - Erik Petrich
disk box - Howard Wilson
disk box - Andy Rayburn
disk box - David Graham
disk box - Jeff Loeliger
fan - Jeff Chappell

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



QCWA Chapter 63's on the air operation during February '87 as follows:

SESSIONS 4
CHECK-INS 152
TRAFFIC 21

Herein we present Chapter 63's birthday list for April '87. Special wishes to all. Also we wish to again thank Eunice Holt for bestowing special cards to each. TO EUNICE: many Sunday Check-ins acknowledge receipt of your cards and express "thanks".

03 Hortense Baker	YL W5AS
04 Emma Hawkins	W5PWN
07 Ted Helthecker	W5EJ
10 Bill Myrick	NG5G
11 Frank Phillips	AB5J
15 Ivan Miller	W5HPU
16 Kenneth Cochran	W5CXE
17 Fred Boardman	W5NL
26 Howard Baker	W5AS
26 Sharon Russell	YL WK5Y
27 Don (Doc) Bowers	KX5W
28 Marion Skaggs	YL W5VSW
29 Jon Cornelius	W5PHD

Here is a special invitation letter to all Central Oklahoma Chapter members and other readers; from Luther S Pully, Jr. (W5JIZ), Program Chairman, Dallas Chapter, QCWA...VIZ

The National Board of Directors of QCWA will hold their Spring '87 Meeting in Irving, Texas on April 2&3. They will be our guests at the regular Dallas Chapter QCWA on Sat., April 4th. Leland Smith, W5KL, QCWA President will have the program.

All of your chapter members are invited to our meeting. We meet at WYATT's Cafeteria-southwest corner of Forest & Marsh Lanes in northwest Dallas. Time is 11:30 AM, with program, starting at 12:30 PM. This is the first Saturday of April-same as Electronic Center's Sidewalk Sale.

To Secretary: Please notify all of your members. Be looking forward to "Seeing You" & all. Leland will bring us "to date" on National QCWA. SAT. APRIL 4th. "Visit with all QCWA Officers & Board Members-Eyeball, that is".

GOOD NEWS ITEMS: Ken Cochran, W5CXE, New Iberia, La. has been rather seriously ill of late. Recent word that Ken is on the mend & reported "well". Our very best and continuing "good health" to you Ken.

Sue Soard, W5OQT'S, voice was heard & welcomed on last Sunday's (March 15th) busy net. We all were pleased to hear Sue tell of her remarkable recovery. To your continuing "good health", Sue.

Vy 73, Howard, W5AS

<<NOSTALGIA de W5NL>>

Recently & while disposing of many hundred weights of accumulated junk, encountered a rather ancient QST (April 1928). At least it precedes my starting Amateur days by five (5) years. Sincerely believe many of our members will find the following info, particularly many of the listed calls a good memory jogger. For myself can only serve as your reporter because my early Hamming took place in Iowa. However, I was well acquainted with Ken Ehret, W5APG (Apples, Pears, Grapes) for many years. Anyhow under DIVISIONAL REPORTS, Oklahoma Section (page 56) the following:

OKLAHOMA-SCM, K.M. Ehret, W5APG-The First West Gulf Div. Convention held February 10th & 11th proved a great success and indicates a greater development of Amateur Radio in the Division. 5ANL still keeps skeds. 5AMO is RM, taking the place of 5FJ who has gone to Washington to attend radio school. 5ANT arranged more skeds and hopes to have an 852 doing its stuff soon. 5AIR reports having a great time at the Convention and helped a man find his mother via amateur radio. 5AYO handled considerable traffic and gets a real punch out of his 210. 5VH had flu and his traffic dropped as a result. 5AZG has moved and had to crate his set temporarily. 5AFX gets out fine now with a pair of 852's. 5AAV built a chemical rectifier after trading his sync and seems to be as good results. 5APG keeps his naval reserve skeds. 5SW finally dropped down to 20 meters and reports results FB. 5QL tore down his big set after the tests and is going to rebuild.

TRAFFIC: 5APG 14, 5AAV 10, 5AFX 15, 5ANL 19, 5AMO 244, 5ANT 60, 5AIR 9, 5VH 12, 5AYO 32, 5SW 1487, 5QL 6666.

Would like to iterate that one of our members has a super memory. While talking with Mel Bolger, W5AXM (via SWB) happened to mention the above. Mel promptly attached names to some of the calls W/O leaving the phone.

5SW T.E. Fink
5FJ Lyman Edwards, Enid)
5QL Harold Hartman
5AFX Art La Marche
5AAV Guy Sullaway
5AMO ?? Morgan

Kudo's to you Mel. Perchance other members will be compelled to fill the gaps. Also under Alabama Section noted that "5AS, the old Morse OP, is DXing on 20 with indoor antenna system & traffic was 16.

On page 88 is a story of the February West Gulf Div. Convention. It was sponsored by the Univ. of Oklahoma chapter of Alpha Sigma Delta, national radio fraternity of Hams at college. "Other places visited included KFJF, the 1-Kw station with ten kilowatt modulation, 5QL, 5AFX, 5APG, 5ZAV, and the highline carrier current phone system of the O.G.&E. Co. After the visits the gang journeyed to Norman via special interurban & in autos!!

Special acknowledgment to ARRL & QST for this early day information to Chapt. 63 & other readers.

Vy 73, Fred, W5NL

MORE C O C O

Program

This month we experimented with the special interest group (SIG) concept. A group of Q59 enthusiasts met in the rear half of the room while Sam Murr and Dorothy Roberts led a very educational discussion of BASIC in the front portion.

See you next month. Don't forget to bring a disk of your favorite public domain programs.

- Martin Schiel, 670-6891

Q. R. Zedd

ELMERS NEED LOVING, TOO

It has been three months now since Q. R. Zedd, A5A, world's greatest DXer and all-around great person, began on his greatest challenge -- trying to elmer one Homer Klott to a ham ticket.

We are happy to report that Homer is making real progress now. Examples:

He has stopped putting bobby pins into power sockets.

He now clearly understands and can explain the difference between resistance and voltage.

Only days ago, he copied his first very own practice CW QSO.

Problems do remain.

Homer still unscrews light bulbs and sticks his finger in there.

He thinks a capacitor is something like a meter maid.

His CW is still a little slow. To send him a long letter like a Q or a Z at a speed he can copy takes about an hour and a half. The first practice QSO sent to him read "This is a test. QSL?" To send it at his copying speed required four days.

Homer thinks he is doing fine, and plans to go straight for the Extra his first time out with the examiners.

On hearing that, we drove out to Honor Roll Ranch, just a hoot and a holler south of town, where we found the great Zedd sitting in a rocker on the front porch, reading a book on abnormal psychology.

Zedd looked bad. He has lost about 15 pounds, and there is a lot more gray in his hair these days, thanks to Homer.

"There has got to be a way to make his mind work," Zedd said grimly. "Maybe it is in this book."

We told Zedd that Homer was telling the boys he planned to go straight for the Extra Class ticket.

Zedd bolted into the ranch house, and retching sounds came out.

Soon he was back, pale and shaky.

"You don't think Homer

can pass the Extra exam?" we asked.

"I ain't sure he could pass an EEG," Zedd told us. His face worked under obvious emotional stress. "Would you like to hear some of the answers he gave on the practice test I gave him last week?"

We were thrilled.

Zedd pulled out a paper, composed himself, and began his report.

"I asked him to define 'control operator.' He said that is somebody that stays in control and never loses his temper.

"Malicious interference. He said that is in football, when the linebacker knocks the wide end down before the ball gets there."

The tic was back in Zedd's cheek. But he gamely pressed on.

"I asked him about MUF. He said that's what a lady puts her hands in in the winter, to keep them warm. Or it can also be your basic play made by a Red Sox infielder in the late innings of a tie game.

"Ground. That is a ball not hit in the air. The kind the Boston infielder MUFs.

"Antenna. He says that's a problem you get on a picnic sometimes. Like 'Hey, Mom, I think there's an antenna cookies.'

"I asked him to give me a frequency he might use as a novice operator, and he said every night.

"Trying to make it encouraging for him, I put in some questions about your standard phonetic alphabet. I asked him the phonetic for the letter C. He said cat. I asked about D. He said dog. You know what he said when I got to G? He said jiminey crickets."

Zedd paused and rubbed his hands across his eyes. There was a tremor in his hands.

"I'll give you just a couple of more. A-1. That's what you used to be if you were healthy and got notified by the draft board. A-3. That's bad eyesight but you still might go.

"Do you want to know what Homer thinks a feedline is? That's what forms in the cafeteria during rush hour.

"Or here's a good one.

You'll like this. RST stands for a rural street. If you move from a rural street to a city street, and you take your station with you, you've got to notify the FAA on a FAA Form 599.

"What are the logging requirements for today's amateur radio operator? He says if you log, be sure you know all about chainsaw safety first."

Zedd threw up his hands. "I gave him a code practice kit to put together. He put all the pieces in with a glue gun. I showed him how to solder. He wrecked my best Unger iron, trying to use it to cook suzy-Q frenchfries. I told him about DX. He said that was good, but he preferred Shamrock or Shell. I gave him a dang good KWM2, with the transmit tubes removed, to listen to. He brought it right back; he said the picture tube was too small and hurt his eyes, and it wouldn't pick up Wheel of Fortune anyhow.

"When I tried to talk to him about public service, he said he was interested in that. He said on his scanner he often heard the dispatcher tell a police officer out in the field somewhere to public service his wife.

"Would you like to hear just one more? Aw right. Let me look, here."

Zedd scanned Homer's practice test papers and found one more.

"Listen," he said, the tic getting worse even as he spoke. RF. That's what, if a neighbor's dog does too much of it at night, it's a nuisance and you need to public service the police."

We asked Zedd what he planned to do next.

"There's only one thing to do with a man like this," the great man said, "and I've already done it. I've bought him a lifetime subscription to 73."

--K05B

A friend was having a hard time operating her desk-top computer. It was apparent that she had reached the end of her patience when she muttered at the screen, "I know one thing. If I had a glass face like you do, I'd sure behave better."

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