



## ARRL WEST GULF CONVENTION

**THE BIG SIGNAL**  
OKLAHOMA CITY AUTOPATCH  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

I read in one of the C & E's lately that some were concerned about the whereabouts of the not so loyal editor of the Autopatch's column in the Collector and Emitter. To the surprise of many, I am still alive and kicking, although not kicking as hard as in the past. I have managed to get on the air a little more than in recent months, perhaps once or twice a week now. I have even made some recent contacts on h. f. and found out that c.w. still sounds the same - GREAT. I hear so many new calls on the repeaters that I am unfamiliar with that I hardly know who is who anymore, and I am sure the same is true on the other end. Anyway, we will give it another shot since the KING has asked me to do so.

### NEW OFFICERS

For those not in the know, new officers were recently elected to run the show for the next year and it appears the club is in good hands. To wield the hammer we are most fortunate to have the honorable WA5BQX. Mr. Bob Robert Shaw. B. R., as he is affectionately known, will make a very good leader for the club. He isn't all that tall off the ground, but he wields a big stick and will get things done. One of the greatest attributes of this fine gentleman is his loyalty to the finest institution of higher learning in our fair state, that being O. S. U. Anyone who has the nerve to wear the clothes out in public that he does, can't be all bad.

What can you say about the Vice-President? He has held this position so many times it is beginning to be a joke. We are stuck with Dennis, WD5CSM, for another year and he has already let it be known that he is not interested in submitting anything for the Collector and Emitter, which is the primary responsibility of his office.

Some new blood has been drained out for the Secretary and Treasurer. W5MEL, or is it W5LEONARD, will keep minutes of the meetings for awhile and Larry, KF5JN, will be the banker.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

I realize it has been over a month since we had the annual Christmas party, but I feel it worthwhile to mention it for those who didn't



HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
CORA COLLECTOR  
AND EMITTER

attend. A hearty thanks and congratulations should go out to both Larry and Leonard for putting on such a good show. Attendance was at an all time high for such an event, and the food was out of this world. We had oodles and gobs of delicious bar-b-cued brisket, ham and turkey with all the trimmings. The White Elephant gifts were present as usual. If you didn't attend this year, you missed a good one.

### FOX HUNT

Several of the guys have started a fox hunt on Saturday mornings which might be of interest to others. I'm not sure how often this is done, but give a listen on the .82 repeater and someone will be talking about it. I believe they usually meet around 9:00 a.m. at the Will Rogers Park on N. W. 36th and Portland to begin the hunt. So, if anyone is interested, get out the sniffers and meet the guys.

### CLUB MEETINGS

I haven't been able to attend all the club meetings of late, but the ones I have gone to have been excellent. Very informative and interesting programs have been offered and our attendance has been very good. But, there is always room for you if you haven't been attending. By the time this article is printed, it will be too late to make plans for the January meeting, but we will have had an interesting speaker from the local F.B.I.

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## BICENTENNIAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

*"To Promote Radio Communications"*

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by the President, Dennis Musser. Introductions followed. 17 members or guests were present. The club meets at Oklahoma City Community College, 74th and South May, room 2N5.

**REPEATER REPORT:** We are having problems with the transmitter at this time. Bill has checked out the cavities and swept them and they seem to be OK. But since then spurs have been found on the .85 and .82 machines. Dick Baker reports he has tested and found the transmitter to be at fault and has turned the power down to 10 watts out until the problem is resolved. Bill Skipper reports he is having some better test equipment brought from Tulsa that will help to define the problem. Bill suggested that the repeater be turned off to protect Dick since his call is on the repeater. Dick says it should be ok for now but thinks that we may be able to use the transmitter off of the digipeater if necessary.

Dick brought one of our transmitters with him to the meeting and an extended discussion was held about it by Mac K2GKK who was visiting and works in the radio field.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Bylaws Article II sec 2 which was not approved at last meeting has been tabled again until next month.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There is an urgent need for a training coordinator. Volunteers were asked for but no one came forward. If you are interested in this important job please contact Dennis Musser or Don Graham. Responsibility of the Coordinator is to coordinate the Novice training class, make sure all training materials are available and

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## MORE AUTOPATCH

office. Dan Vogel, the Media Representative and Profile Coordinator presented a program on Computer Crimes. I am sure that King Bob Robert has several interesting meetings lined up, so everyone should be making plans to attend. Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday night of every month at the Salvation Army Headquarters Building at the corner of North Penn and Northwest Expressway, beginning at 7:30.

### THURSDAY OUTINGS

Several of the fellows have started meeting for lunch every Thursday at different locations. I have made a couple of these and normally some good food and chit chat is available. Normally, they will meet around 11:30. Give a listen on the .82 repeater any Thursday morning to find out the location of lunch that day.

### SATURDAY BREAKFAST

King Bob Robert may suggest in the future that we start meeting on Saturday mornings for a friendly breakfast or coffee. It seems he has done this in the past. I think it would be a good idea. Mention this to the King and let's see if enough of us can't twist his arm and get this started. Sounds like fun.

### I HEARD

No I HEARD this month, but perhaps next month. I have done hours of listening but about all I have heard is how to fill up a 60 meg hard drive. If you want to know all about hard drives and how to fill those suckers up, give a listen to .82.

### GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS

Dirt is being collected from various sources to write articles on some of the more obnoxious or outstanding members of the club in the coming months. Any help would be appreciated and sources of information will be held in strictest confidence. So, if you have some good quality, low down, interesting dirt about one of your fellow members who you would like to see in writing, give me a call. One of the prime candidates at this time would have to be our beloved King. Our vice-president is also not that well known, nor is the former treasurer.

### FOR SALE

One slightly used tower, approximately 40 feet. Prefer selling to old alcoholic who wouldn't have far to fall should he be climbing it, since its preferred position would be horizontal. Call B.R. 549.

K5NK

When the centenarian was asked the secret of his long life, he replied, "When I work, I work easy. When I sit, I sit loose. When I start to worry, I go to sleep."

-----  
| KAY KOUNTY |  
AMATEUR RADIO KLUB

### JANUARY MEETING NOTES-

We had another good turnout for the January meeting. I think it was because everyone came to pay their dues for the year, I heard Mike say that maybe we'll start collecting the dues monthly so we'll have a good turnout all the time! Several items were discussed. The up-coming public service event (see below), the status of the new repeater controller (any day now!), the Emergency Communications trailer (see below) and the Novice/Tech class that will be starting soon (see below). After a good eye-ball QSO we adjourned to Braum's.

### NEXT MEETING-

Our next meeting will be down at the EOC room in the basement of the police station. (If we can get it all arranged!) We'll discuss the upcoming storm season with Norman

### 76ers CONTINUED

report to the faculty Advisor, Don Graham. Discussion about changing 76ers meeting to another night was held but after discussion it was decided to not consider it. Motion was made by Bill Skipper to leave meeting night as it is now. Seconded by Chris Everett and motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Funds were merged with the OKCCARC. The 76ers deposited \$284.21, the OKCCARC had \$134.75 and \$103.50 common funds were deposited. Current balance is \$522.46.

SECRETARY REPORT: The minutes of the last meeting were passed out to all. Motion to approve by Bill Skipper. Motion carried. Jerry Sproul the club Sec/Treas has requested that he be relieved of some of the responsibility due to change in his work schedule and other duties. Chris Everet volunteered to become an assistant, which was ok'ed by those present.

MISC BUSINESS: Bill Skipper has a chance to get a solid state repeater if the club is interested (RCA). A discussion followed on repairing transmitter strips and other problems with the City of Mustang and Amateur Radio Operators.

Jerry, N5AUH

Coffelt and Harold Fisher. In the meantime, we're reviewing our Emergency procedures for the club. This meeting will be on Feb. 16th at 7 p.m. in the EOC so mark your calendar now and plan to attend,

### PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT-

Our first run of the season comes early, the Groundhog Day run this year will be held on Feb. 4th. It will be a 15 K run out at Lake Ponca. We'll need several helpers on this race since it's rather long. If you can help, please contact Mike N5LPZ at 765-9539 or check into the Monday nite net!

### NOVICE/TECHNICIAN CLASS-

A new class will begin on Feb. 7th at the Vo-Tech building. It will be held on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7p.m. to 9p.m. or so. Tell your friends who've said, 'Someday, I'm gonna work on getting a ticket'. This is their chance! Also, we can still use some help teaching the class. We're going to split it up into sections and one or two persons will teach each session. The book we're using this time is the Gordon West book that is available at Radio Shack. If you could help, even a little, please contact me (Dave KD5FX) at 762-8616.

### EMERGENCY TRAILER NOTES-

Marsh (W5UBO) volunteered to pick up a new jack for the trailer and get it put on. Lou (N5GIW) and him are going to get that done this Saturday (1/21) if the WX holds up. (We're overdue a bad snow storm!) We'll need another work day to finish a few details on the trailer when spring gets here, so stay tuned.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS-

Some of the ideas bounced around at the meeting for upcoming programs were- a talk on lightning protection from Fred Seamans (W5VAY), a talk and video show on remotely tuned long wire antennas from Bob See (N5PC). (By the way, he's the guy to blame for getting me started in this Ham radio biz. Thanks, Bob for all your help over the last few years!) If you have any other ideas for a program, contact Mike N5LPZ or Steve KB5DOR. That's it for now, see ya on the Monday nite nets at 9 PM on W5HZZ/R 146.97! 73, Dave KD5FX

Election-year complaint: What this country needs is someone who knows what this country needs.

# GREAT PLAINS ARC

in Northwest Oklahoma??

## COMMUNICATION TRAILER UPDATE

We've learned that Lewis, W5KFK, has been busy as a beaver working on the communication trailer belonging to the GPARC. I think that he has to do it in self defense so that he will be able to use his shop as needed. Freida, N5EOX, must be anxious too because she's been doing some of the carpenter work as well. At any rate, the Patterson's efforts are appreciated by all the rest of us.

## PROJECT MOORELAND

The ham radio systems placed in the Mooreland School System by Bart, NZ5T, and Jody, KG5Z, both teachers there, has proven to be a huge success. Their success was recently reported in two newspaper articles and by a radio show. The students are really impressed with the wonders of radio and think that it is really something to actually talk to residents of some of the places they have studied. Both of these hams are to be commended for their hard work. We're sure to hear more of this operation in the future.

## GONNA TURN IT OVER

I've decided that after several years of doing this article it is time to get some new ideas into the operation. Or as Gerald, WG5Z, would say, "Time to hang up the old poison pen". Leon Carlisle has most graciously volunteered to try the editors job for a few months. Let's all do our best to help Leon by keeping him informed with what's going on and more importantly, by letting him, know what you would like to see in this article.

It's been fun and who knows, I might give it another shot (in ten or eleven years!). For the last time, Nuff Said.

Lois, N5JGQ

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CIRCULATION: BOB GRAHAM, WBSNSV 677-8685

## 1 AERONAUTICAL CENTER ARC

MEETS: FIRST THURSDAY, FLIGHT STANDARDS BUILDING. FAA, SOUTH MACARTHUR 7:30 PM

PR TED ANDERSON, NYSW 685-4016  
SE DOUG TEACHMAN, WODXA 392-5458  
AsPR HAROLD TODD, WASVAD 685-3685  
AsVP CHARLIE GREENE, WASJGU 943-5631  
EDITOR: BILL OLIVER & LUKE ELLIS 329-6333

## 2 CENTRAL OKLAHOMA VHF

MEETS: 11:00AM THIRD SATURDAY, THE BRICKS RESTAURANT, 3100 N PORTLAND, OKC

PR JACK HUSE, WBSZKZ 691-1152  
VP FRED BOARDMAN, WSNL 427-2505  
SE JOE BUSMELL, KSJB 732-0676  
TR ELLARD FOSTER, WSKF 789-6702  
EDITOR: JOE BUSMELL, KSJB 732-0676

## 18 GREAT PLAINS ARC

MEETS: 2:15 PM FIRST SUNDAY  
WOODWARD PUBLIC WORKS BLDG.

PR WINDLE HATCHETT, WASPLN(FT SUPPLY) 766-3561  
VP BOB BAYLESS, WBOGAX NONE  
SE ROD FORD, WBSOVT(6AGE1) 923-7483  
TR FREIDA PATTERSON, N5EOX(WOVD) 256-2111  
EDITOR: LEON CARLISLE, KB5CZT

## 4 OK CITY AUTOPATCH

MEETS: 7:30PM, THIRD TUESDAY

SALVATION ARMY. NW 50 & PENN  
PR ROBERT SHAW, WASBQX 341-4763  
VP DENNIS PATTERSON, WDSCSM 495-0769  
SE LEONARD HANSTEIN, WSNEL 789-7201  
TR LARRY DAVIS, KFSJN 722-4564  
EDITOR: CHUCK WILHITE, KSNK 721-4926

## 5 OKLA UNIVERSITY ARC

MEETS: 7:30PM SECOND TUESDAY (SEP-MAY)

119 WILSON CENTER, 1334 S JENKINS  
PR FRANK DONALDSON, N5IOJ 329-4172  
VP JOHN MUSTENBERG, KESN 325-2382  
S/T JIM GREENSHIELDS, WDSHPU 321-9981

## 6 ALTUS ASSOCIATION

MEETS: 7:30PM, SECOND THURSDAY, NORTH MAIN FIRE STATION (CD) ALTUS

PR FRANK FERITTA, AASIT 482-1398  
VP NONE  
S/T MIKE SCHENKEL, WSVXU 482-1797  
EDITOR: MIKE SCHENKEL, WSVXU 482-1797

## 7 BICENTENNIAL (76er) ARC

MEETS: 7:30PM, SECOND TUESDAY. THE BRICKS RESTAURANT. NW 31 & PORTLAND

PR DENNIS MUSSEY, KAS6TH 524-4760  
VP DICK BAKER, WBSJHW 745-3877  
S/T JERRY SPROUL, WSAHU 354-0017  
EDITOR: JERRY SPROUL, WSAHU 354-0017

## 9 WHEATSTRAW ARC

MEETS: 2:30PM SECOND SUNDAY. LOCATION VARIES. SEE CLUB SECTION FOR DETAILS.

PR PERRY JONES, W5MGZ (Wxford) 772-6063  
VP GEORGE MASCHINO, K566L (OKARCH) 263-7614  
S/T JOE GARLAND, WASFLT (CALUMET) 893-2660  
EDITOR: RALPH WILDER, WASPFK(WATONGA) 623-5421

## 19 OKLA INDEPENDENT ARC

MEETS: 7:00PM SECOND TUESDAY  
SOUTHWESTERN BELL OFFICES, PONCA CITY

PR VERNON TREIBER, Jr. NSANV 767-6260  
VP TRUMAN STEINER, WBSNRE  
SE DEBBIE WHITE, NSLPF 765-5707  
TR STEVE HUSTON, KB5DOR 762-4726  
EDITOR: MIKE MORRIS, N5JJR 765-6260

## 11 EDMOND AR SOCIETY

MEETS: ODD MONTHS, 3RD SUNDAY, 2:00PM EDMOND EOC. DINNER, EVEN MONTHS, 3RD FRIDAY.

PR HAROLD HELLS, WASZKX 623-5191  
VP MARTIN McGEE, NSLZB 947-4968  
SE DANN ROWELL, NSKND  
TR GLORIA QUINN, KB5BGM  
EDITOR:

## 13 KAY COUNTY ARC

MEETS: 7:00 PM, THIRD THURSDAY, SEP-MAY, PIONEER VO-TECH, PONCA CITY OK

PR MIKE MORGAN, NSLPZ 765-9539  
VP STEVE HUSTON, KB5DOR 762-4726  
S/T HARRY BEATIE, WD5DPR 765-3862  
EDITOR: DAVE LAAND, KDSFX 762-8616

## 14 CIMMARON ARS

MEETS: 7:39 PM SECOND TUESDAY  
WXSJ PLAYHOUSE, 827 S 13, FAIRVIEW

PR JACK KELLY, NSLBN (405) 227-4515  
VP RAY BARNES, ABSZ (405) 274-3334  
SE DENNIS PAINTON, WKSJ (405) 764-3599  
TR MADINE PAINTON, W5FMH (405) 764-3599  
EDITOR: JACK DAY, NNSZ (405) 227-3462

## 15 SOUTH CANADIAN ARS

MEETS: 9:30AM SECOND SATURDAY, RED CROSS BLDG NORTH OU CAMPUS. NORMAN

PR ANDI WOLF, WUSW 799-5150  
VP DORINDA SKAGGS, NSIVA 799-5363  
SE KEN  
TR MONTE BATHAN, WBSRZX 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, WDSBYI 755-4672  
VP SANDY ORCUTT, KASONI 340-0034  
S/T KAY NORTHCUTT, WDSBYJ 755-4672  
EDITOR: MARK NORTHCUTT, WDSBYI 755-4672

## CENTRAL OKLA RADIO AMATEURS

MEETS: 7:00PM FOURTH TUESDAY. RED CROSS BLDG. 10 & HUDSON OKLA CITY (BACK DOOR)

PR FRANK TASSONE, KAS6I 341-4945  
VP DORINDA SKAGGS, NSIUA 799-5363  
SE MARSHALL MADDOX, WUSP 360-3205  
TR MARK KLEINE, NSHZR 329-4285

## GREAT PLAINS A.R.C.

WSMGH Repeater 146.13/73

### LAST YEAR

Obviously the hustle and bustle associated with Christmas and the New Year made a good excuse for my not getting this article in by the December deadline. Our annual Christmas Dinner was held at the Woodward Public Works Building with a good number in attendance. Everyone present enjoyed the delicious meal and particularly want to thank Freida, N5EOX for preparing the turkey and trimmings.

After the meal, the election of directors was conducted. Those elected to the four positions were:

Bob Bayless

Leon Carlisle

Willis Ridings

Kent McIntosh. The meeting was then recesses and a short director's meeting was conducted with the following officers being elected from the board:

PR Windle Hatchett, WA5PLW

VP Bob Bayless, WBOGAX

SE Rod Ford, WB5OVT

TR Freida Patterson, N5EOX

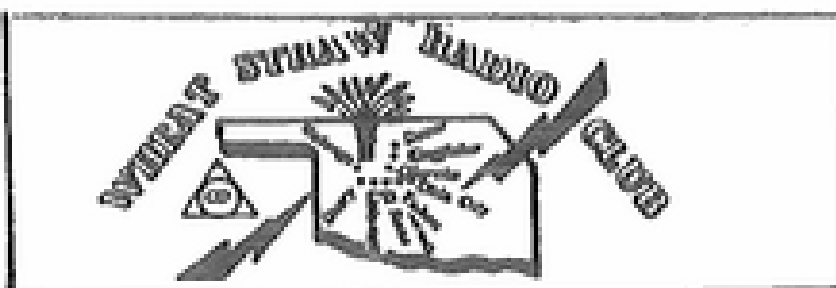
Ed Leon Carlisle, WB5CZT.

Net Manager, Andy Taylor reports that the Northwest Oklahoma Service Net totals for the month of December, 1988 were: 13 sessions with 116 check-ins and 8 pieces of routine traffic being handled.

### THIS YEAR

Our New Year started with the arrival of a Christmas card from former local ham Larry Dunn, N5LSC, and family who are now residents of Teller Alaska. Larry maintained that he had been having antenna problems and was mostly active on 80 and 20 meters. Larry is the Principal of the school there and also

teaches a few classes. The Teller School has around fifty students from grades K-12. They say that when they arrived there in August, the temperature was mostly in the 50's. At this time of year it is staying around zero unless the wind happens to be blowing then the temperature often goes down to forty or fifty degrees below zero. To make matters even worse, right now they only have around four or



The Wheatstraw Amateur Radio Club had its regular monthly meeting January 8, 1989 in Okarche. We had thirty people present, five were visitors. We welcome them to join our club. The meeting kicked off the new year with W5MGZ Perry as the new president.

The repeater went down but thanks to the technical committee it was repaired quickly. It was voted by the members present to auction off our 8 KW Power Plant at the next meeting in Watonga, February the 12th. It will be at the Catholic Parish Hall, located from the Southwest 4 Corner, north on the Clarence Nash Blvd about 1000 block on right side of road. A slide presentation was given by K5GGL George on Turkey in 1952. That has been several years back but is seemed very hard to make a living. They were still plowing with oxen. The ground looked like a desert. No grass to speak of for the cattle to graze on, they mostly ate leaves. Good program, George.

After the meeting there was good fellowship going on as usual. Refreshments were served by KG5JB Betty, N5JUT Jan, WA5RLP Margaret and Vicky. There was a large

five hours of daylight and on a cloudy day, tells us that it may never get really light at all. Sounds like a nice place to visit (in the middle of summer, that is!).

### MEETING NOTES

Our first 1989 meeting was held January 8th with 16 members present. Most of the time was spent discussing the upcoming Eyball QSO. It was decided to make this years event a two day affair starting at noon on Saturday and continuing until the following Sunday afternoon.

The 1989 Mooreland Eyball QSO will be held April 1st and 2nd. V.E. Testing will be held at 2:00 pm, Saturday the 1st. The entry fee for this year will be \$3.00 which will be good for both day's activities. Heck of a deal! Whatever happened to inflation

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE

variety for any type of diet. Some of us have to watch what we eat.

A good person you should know. W5VVU Harold (Bus) Blum is a lifetime member of the Wheatstraw Radio Club. He was born at Calumet in 1924. After graduating from high school he served 32 months in the Navy. It was there he learned electronics. He has been teaching it for 36 years. When Bus was discharged from the Navy he went one year to college. He was reared up on a farm and still lives on one.

Bus recalled how he got his first electronic book. His brother wore glasses, one day he went swimming in the river north of Calumet, forgetting to pull his glasses off. Brother told Bus he would give a five dollar bill if he could find his glasses. The time it took Bus to find them was not discussed, but he found them. With the five dollars he ordered his first ARRL Hand Book.

Bus has built three school houses at his home over the years. He feels that in the last eight years he has the best one man school in the world. He has the first battery (made in 1800), he has bulbs, tubes, a transmitter, rectifier on up to and including a robot. The articles he has are items comparative to one made then. Bus knows when they were invented and by whom. Bus loves teaching electronics, in plain terms to him it is a gift of God. His fall term started September on the last Monday at seven o'clock.

Bus and his wife Helen live north of Calumet, one and one half miles, then east one half mile to top of the hill on north side of road at mail box. If you wish to write to him, the address is Route 2, Box 179, Calumet OK 73014.

N5IKN Tom and N5ING Bertha have had colds. Ann Peil had a feak fall damaging some ribs and some bruises. We wish all of them a quick recovery.

Having some high winds about a week or so ago, KA5WHJ Harold and KB5FOR Mary had bad luck. The wind blew part of their HF antenna loose and over on a 7500 volt electric line. All of their equipment was lost. They were very lucky there was not more damage. We were all sorry to hear about it.

WA5PFK Ralph

# ARRL OKLAHOMA SECTION

## MANAGER'S REPORT

BY: JOE LYNCH, N6CL

This month I want to discuss some of my goals for the section.

1. I want to see more involvement on the part of all amateurs with A.R.E.S.

Unfortunately, Oklahoma County typifies the rest of the state in that there is a very limited participation in A.R.E.S. Please contact your county emergency coordinator to join your county A.R.E.S. program. Within Oklahoma County, you should contact Frank McCollom, N5FM, who is serving as acting Emergency Coordinator due to O. J. Watkins, WB5SRX's recent resignation due to health problems.

2. I want to see more clubs organized and affiliated with the League. One way to get young people involved with ham radio is to have a ham radio club on campus in the junior high schools, high schools, vo-techs and community colleges. This can be accomplished by existing clubs adopting a school and working with that school to establish a ham club. All it takes is for one member of the staff to agree

to be the contact person for that club to become affiliated with the League and enjoy some great support for its program.

3. I would like to see a continued healthy growth of numbers of ham operators. Ham radio classes exist all over the state and many individuals are taking advantage of these classes to learn the material necessary for licensure or to upgrade. While this is impressive, there is still not enough young people becoming involved with ham radio. I believe that we continue to need to find ways to attract young people to the hobby. I hope you will join with me and together continue to make ham radio strong and healthy in Oklahoma.

People in the news:

Frank McCollom, N5FM reluctantly accepted O.J. Watkins, WB5SRX's resignation as the emergency coordinator for Oklahoma County, due to health problems. In the interim, Frank is serving as Acting Emergency Coordinator for Oklahoma County. Tommy Guinn, KA5WAV, has been appointed the Emergency Coordinator for Logan County. If you live in far north Edmond or other cities within Logan County and want to be involved with A.R.E.S., then — contact Tommie at 341-3886.

By the way, Tommie was recently very embarrassed by a "bag lady" who became very scantily clad at his birthday party at Crocketts. Yvonne Warriner, wife of John, KE5MT, is in very critical condition at Presbyterian Hospital. Our prayers and concerns go out to Yvonne and John.

Now a question for the members of C.O.R.A.: Do you want the League, specifically my office to get involved in the issue surrounding the "business rates" repeater clubs pay Southwestern Bell for their not business telephone lines? Please let me know. 73 for now. Joe

Unisys Packard-Bell Acct: Wyse NEC Okidata MFJ Products

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3-9 —

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## NUMBERED RADIOGRAMS

THE RATIONAL ANONYMOUS AMATEUR'S LEAGUE (RAAL) in its finite wisdom has sanctioned the use of certain numbered texts for the relaying of routine messages. This procedure eliminates the unnecessary lengthy transmission of complete texts, freeing up valuable air time to allow the discussion of such important topics as the length of your coax, the unexpected rise in your SWR from 1.1 to 1.2 or the gory details of your latest operation. Simply send the appropriate RAAL message number in place of the text itself. The letters RAAL are inserted in the preamble before the check but after the cash. Hard cash always takes precedence. What could be easier?

ONE - We're all in danger. Please worry.

TWO - We're all OK except for strange Uncle Ernie who has six toes.

THREE - The fire department managed to save the house but they drowned the cat.

FOUR - No need to worry. The radiation half-life of plutonium is only 5,000 years.

FIVE - Suggest you remain where you are. The earthquake shook things up a bit and the place is a mess.

SIX - I have arrived safely but my baggage is lost.

SEVEN - My baggage arrived safely but I am lost.

EIGHT - My baggage and I have both arrived safely but the plane is lost.

NINE - Please acknowledge if you did not receive this message.

TEN - In response to your question, the answer is a mealy-mouthed "maybe".

ELEVEN - In response to your request, the seven sheep and four gallons of peanut butter are on the way, but the walrus trusses are not to be found.

TWELVE - In response to your request, I would if I could but I can't so I won't.

THIRTEEN - Don't use 13, it is unlucky.

FOURTEEN - Okay, it sounds better than sticking my finger in an electric socket

FIFTEEN - Please hurry home, I'm waiting for you.

SIXTEEN - Expletive deleted.

SEVENTEEN - Happy birthday to you and yours.

EIGHTEEN - Sorry I forgot your birthday last month but I was busy feeding the iguana.

NINETEEN - Have a darn good Arbor Day.

TWENTY - Merry Summer Solstice.

TWENTY-ONE - Best regards to your fish, OM.

TWENTY-TWO - Congratulations on your parole.

TWENTY-THREE - Congratulations on your complexion clearing up.

TWENTY-FOUR - Your last message doesn't compute. Please check your data banks.

# SCARS

The monthly meeting of SCARS was held on 21 Jan 1988. The meeting was postponed to this date due to a snowfall of 8.5 inches (4 inches of which struck without warning) on 14 Jan. Meeting was called to order by NSIUA, the vice president, at 0931L (1531 UTC). The minutes of the previous business meeting (held in November) were not available because the outgoing secretary (NSIUA) had not gotten them completed.

## Treasurers's report:

We have some some money (about \$1200) exact amount not determined at this time due to payment of dues by several members in the last few days. Monte reported that the tone bill has increased by a dollar and some cents per month.

## Old business:

a. Phone line: KD5IT was not present to update the club on the status of the phone line. A suggestions was made that maybe CORA should be made the action agency to work on the state Corp. Commission. It was decided to wait and get a report from KD5IT before any formal action was taken to approach CORA.

b. Mini Baja: KD5IT was not present to update the club on the status of the Mini Baja. Discussion from the floor indicated that there would probably be one.

c. Olympic Festival: The Red Cross is requesting assistance for communications at several large events. A coordinator between the club was not identified so it was decided that since NSH2R was not present he would probably be the coordinator. Steve Wolf N1BW is coordinating communications for the cycling events.

Volunteers are needed to sign up asap.

d. The christmas party was discussed with thanks to those involved in setting it up. Copies of the video tape of Jack Bickham's program discussing his long association with Q. R. Zed, A5A, will be available from NSKUK. Just give him a VHS or BETA tape and he will copy it for you. Guests present that were introduced were:

Forrest Mitchel, KB5F0L;  
Joe Lynch, N6CL,

OK Section Manager;  
Carol King, K5CP2, Assistant  
Section Manager for OK;  
Shawn Wakefield, WK5P

## New business:

a. The Centennial Commission has requested help for the parade and wagon train April 21 and 22. We need someone to take charge of communications and coordinate volunteers. (Keep in mind that Sat the 22nd is the day of the big bike race we will also be supporting). The person to contact about the parade is Jack Tarver - 329-0620.

b. The Centennial Commission has also requested S.C.A.R.S. to have an entry in the parade. Andi's suggestion is: The S.C.A.R.S. handi-talkie precision drill team. The response was overwhelming (no one moved a muscle or made a sound lest it be taken as a sign of volunteering to organize same).

c. Dues are due. See WB5R2H to pay up for the new year. Same rate as last year (no cost of living increase this year).

d. On January 12, 1989, John Nelson passed away from Lou Gehrig's disease. John was a long time supporter of the club and is the person who donated the repeater.

e. Monte "passed the keys" to Don KB5ABS to open up the meeting hall during the coming year. Monte has done the key and doughnut for the

last couple of years and will enjoy a few minutes more sleep on saturday morning.

## Committee reports:

a. Technical - No one present from the technical committee.

b. NWS - The OPRA NetRom node is once again working after great effort by WB5R2H and WB5FWE in getting the radios and TNCs working. Due to a better antenna location the coverage is better and that should help improve network data flow.

c. ARES - KA5EFJ will be bringing application forms to the next coffee/ meeting to sign up new members. The ARES applications do not need to be reaccomplished for those who are already members.

d. CORA - There was no CORA meeting in December due to December.

## Door Prize:

No door was available that would fit into the meeting room so a drawing was held for a "Power Strip". Everyone waited in anticipation of the meaning of this and much conjecture ensued. Finally the winning ticket was drawn (number 391265) and the "switched multiple outlet strip with surge protection" was won by KEEP THIS COUPON who was not present. Monte accepted on his behalf. Meeting was adjourned at 0955L (1555 UTC).

Thanks to Ken, NSKUK, for recording these minutes and passing them on to me. The next SCARS meeting will be on Saturday, February 11, at 9:30 am in the Red Cross building in Norman. And Don will have the coffee and do-nuts every Saturday at about 9 am. See u there next Saturday.

👉👉 KD5IT 👈👈

# Are Hams in Danger of Cancer from RF?

**Stratford CT** ... Since the beginning of this year a number of newspaper articles have appeared around the country describing links between amateur radio and RF exposure with deaths due to cancer.

The cause of these recent newspaper stories is an article which appeared in the January 1988 issue of the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, a medical journal.

The article was titled "Increased Mortality in Amateur Radio Operators due to Lymphatic and Hematopoietic Malignancies." It was written by Dr. Samuel Milham, Jr., who works in the Epidemiology Section of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Olympia, WA.

This article describes an extensive study of the cause of death of licensed radio amateurs in the states of Washington and California. The study covered the period from 1 January 1979 to 31 December 1984 and was the latest of several in which Milham compares death rates and causes with exposure to electrical fields.

Milham's first study appeared in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1982. This study was based on a comparison of the cause of death for men in Washington State with their listed occupation.

The statistics were determined for eleven occupations which involve exposure to electrical and magnetic fields. Occupations such as electronic technician, radio and telegraph operators, power station operators and television and radio repairmen were included.

In 10 of these 11 groups there were more deaths due to leukemia than would normally be expected. Milham's conclusion was that electrical and magnetic fields may cause leukemia.

Following this first study an amateur radio operator contacted Milham and suggested that he study mortality in hams, who are exposed to electrical and magnetic fields.

This resulted in Milham's second study, which appeared as a letter in the 1985 Volume 1 issue of *Lancet*, a British medical journal. The basis for this second study was the "Silent Keys" column in QST which lists some of the members of the ARRL who have died.

The study took the names of male hams in Washington and California listed in "Silent Keys" from 1971 to 1983. The cause of death or death certificates were checked for most of these amateurs. The results showed a higher than expected mortality rate due to certain types of leukemia.

The latest study which triggered the recent newspaper articles is a more extensive study of mortality in hams. This study was based on a list of all licensed amateur radio operators, purchased from the National Technical Information Service.

The list showed those who were licensed between 1 January 1979 and 16 June 1984. Hams with Washington or California state addresses were taken from the file.

A search for deaths was then done by name. Because there are much fewer female hams, records showing female names were removed from the study.

More than 62,000 names were compared with death records in the two states. In this group there were 2,485 deaths during the study period.

Analysis of the data obtained from this study indicates that there were more deaths due to two specific types of leukemia than would have been expected.

Acute myeloid and acute unspecified cell were the two types of leukemia mentioned. It was this point which has been emphasized in the newspapers. There are, however, several other points which Milham made in his article describing the study which are more encouraging.

One important point was that "the

overall mortality of amateur radio operators is quite favorable when compared to that of all US males."

Milham's article also indicates that in addition to electric and magnetic fields amateurs are exposed to electric shocks, soldering fumes and degreasing agents in pursuing their hobby. He also mentions that about "one third of the group also works in jobs with electric and magnetic field exposure."

However, the article also states, "The low standardized mortality ratios for malignant and non-malignant respiratory diseases suggests that members of the ARRL have a lower ratio of cigarette smoking than does the general population."

The ARRL responded to the newspaper articles and Milham's study in the March 1988 issue of QST. The ARRL mentioned that the study also showed that amateurs had fewer deaths from certain kinds of leukemia than the general population.

The QST article also raised questions about the methodology used in Milham's earlier study of hams. But the ARRL Committee on Biological Effects of RF Energy is still studying Milham's most recent article.

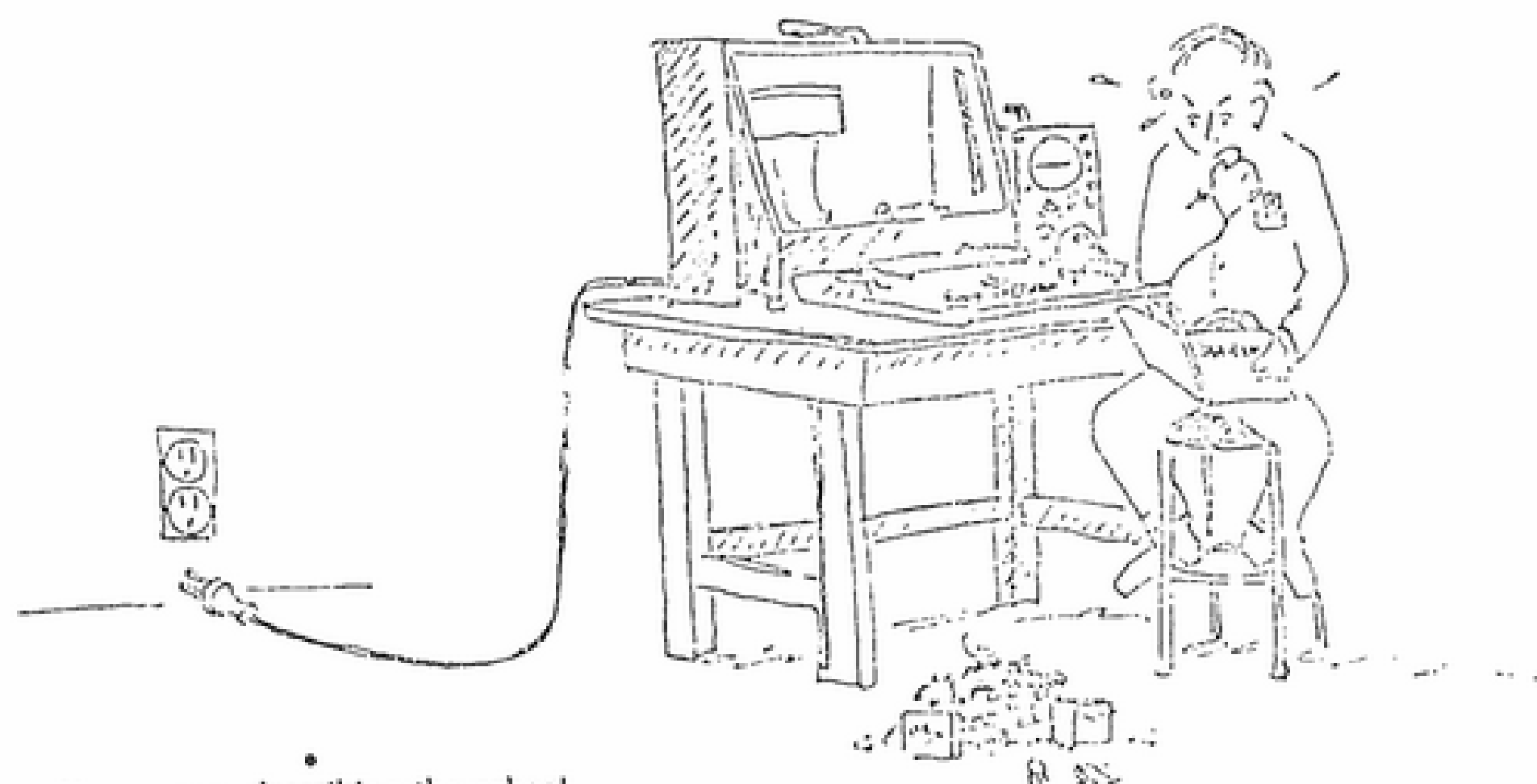
Milham had several comments which put the issues in proper perspective. He said in a phone interview that "all we know about it is FCC registrants have increased mortality in some areas and decreased (mortality) in others."

He also pointed out the fact that only some types of leukemia are elevated indicates that there is something real which requires more study.

When asked if he felt there were any special implications for broadcast engineers, Milham suggested that he would not jump ship and change jobs at this point.

He does however, believe there is sufficient justification to do more studies on the effects of electrical and magnetic fields.

Neil Lewbel, in addition to writing about radio and electronics, is licensed as amateur station KA1P/Q. He can be reached at 203-377-8517.



Young man, describing the school play in a letter to his grandparents: "It's too bad you couldn't get here to see the play. It was called 'Hamlet,' and a lot of people came. Some of them had seen the play before, but they laughed just the same."

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## Q. R. Zedd

### HOMER MAY HAVE A BRAIN!

It was one of those dull and wintry January afternoons out at Honor Roll Ranch. Little did we know that a shocking event was soon to take place.

A nice big fire blazed in the hamshack fireplace, and the great Q. R. Zedd, A5A, world's greatest DXer and all-around genius, had just rolled his chair back from the No. 1 operating position after working Vietnam, China, Laos, Sri Lanka, Crete, all Russian stations and WA5MLT on successive calls. Heat from the adjacent walk-in linear had made the big ranch house too hot, and a couple of windows had been opened a crack. Tondelayo, Zedd's bride, was serving hot buttered rum (and RC Cola and Moon Pies for the faint of heart), and little Zepp Zedd sat happily in his corner playpen, assembling a Heathkit transmitter.

Your hard-working reporter was lucky enough to be there, along with several other members of the South Canadian Amateur Radio Society, that revered band of hardy amateur radio operators whose lives have been dedicated to spreading the fame of Zedd and his many exploits.

"Work us one more station, Mr. Zedd!" pleaded WU5W. "Work the hardest of them all, WB5QNK!"

"Andi," quoth the master, "I'll work him if he calls me. I promise. But right now I am expecting two more guests at any minute."

While we were chewing on that, wondering what radio greats might be on the way to Honor Roll, just a hoot and a holler south of town, the doorchimes sounded. They played "Boomer Sooner" and "Hail to the Chief," and had started on a high-speed rendition of the Constitution in CW before the darling Tondelayo tripped to the door and swung it open to the elements.

In walked this tall, bearded, goateed gent wearing a black top hat and a floor-length black cloak with crimson lining that swirled when he walked.

"Dr. Cortex!" Zedd yelled, and hopped out of his easychair to go shake hands.

"Boys," Zedd told us with a flourish, "I want you all to meet Dr. H. D. Cortex, the greatest psychologist and hypnotist in the world!"

Well, naturally, since even the great Zedd seemed excited, everyone

clustered around the strange gent and shook hands and gave him moon pies and asked him to autograph the wrappers, and all. The good doctor swirled off his cape, revealing a black Victorian-style suit and itty bitty patent leather boots that would have done justice to the man in black himself, the inimitable Johnny Cash. (But Cash visited Honor Roll last week, and that's another story.)

After Tondelayo, all aflutter, had gotten Dr. Cortex a Colorado KoolAid and a \$20 Havana cigar, which Zedd obtains by requiring Cuban operators to mail to him, postpaid, before he consents to work any of them, a conversation began between the doctor and A5A.

It went like this:

"You said, Mistair Zedd, zat this vould be my greatest und hartest chob!"

"Doc, this is going to be your greatest challenge since Pat Jones hired you to go up there to Stillwater to try to hypnotize the Aggies into thinking they could beat OU. This might be even harder than when you hypnotized Billy Graham out of smoking cigars and playing the piano in that place in Las Vegas. *This, doc, is going to be a real killer!*"

"Vat do you haf in mind?"

"There is this guy named Homer Klott, see. He wants to become a licensed amateur radio op."

"But vat can be the problem? Surely he can learn overnight, vat with the greatness of you titching him!"

Zedd's mighty brow furrowed, and he revealed, not for the first time, the depths of his frustration with Homer Klott.

He said, "Homer came up to me after the club Christmas party a long, long time ago. I said I'd be his Elmer. I thought like you, doc, it would be easy. I mean, when you are an electronic genius and a magnificent teacher, not to mention a worldwide inspiration, you ought to be able to teach anybody, right?"

"Ja, das is so..."

"Homer is... slow. Doc, he is so slow he is running in reverse gear. I can't seem to get his dull brain to absorb *anything*."

"So what I want you to do, Doc, is hypnotize the dumb little mother. Make his brain receptive to data. Wake him up. Make it possible for me to help him learn!"

"Ach!" Dr. Cortex muttered, and a grand smile wreathed his face. "Iss no problem vatsoever! I haf done zis many times!"

Zedd colored with hope. Then he put the coloring book aside. "Doc, I'm sure you remember when I built you that super-sensitive listening device that made it possible for you to visit Freud's old office in Vienna, and pick up the faint echoes of those

interviews he did back in the thirties."

"Ach! Ja! I can never repay you for zis greatness!"

"Doc, if you can hypnotize Homer into *thinking*, we're even."

"When iss zis Homer to arrife? I can do zis zis very night!"

Zedd looked solemn. "I hoped you would be agreeable, doc. I asked him to come at three o'clock."

Dr. Cortex hauled out a big, ornate pocket watch. He scowled at Mickey's face. "But iss past dat time now, already!"

Zedd smacked his forehead. "I forgot. Homer doesn't know how to tell time."

We were all plunged into despair at that. But Zedd brightened at once.

"Never fear," he rumbled. "Homer will be here. He is just smart enough to know that three in the afternoon falls somewhere between dawn and darkness. All we have to do is stand by."

So we stood by, anxiously awaiting this historic medical experiment. Would Dr. Cortex actually be able to affect Homer's brain? Did Homer *have* a brain? Tension mounted.

(To be continued next time)

-- KU5B

## J.R. Willis dies

"J.R." James Raymond Willis, a local business man for 65 years, passed away Tuesday morning, December 27, 1988, in the Baptist Memorial Hospital in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. J.R. was born in Willow Grove, Tennessee on November 26, 1904. He and his mother, Effie Willis, came to Granite when he was five years old.

He was a graduate of Granite PHS. He received his engineering degree in 1928. He became a registered professional engineer (No. 65) in 1928. From 1926 to 1935, J.R. was city manager of Granite.

He earned his wings and a commercial pilots license, while in Tulsa.

He purchased both granite quarries and was the first to build wire saws, semi-automatic polishing mills and to use a torch as an effective way of quarrying.

J.R., along with H.C. Ford, Jr., built the first cable TV system for Granite. Their cable company installed the first Christmas tree on the mountain in 1962 at the end of Main Street in Granite.

He built the first ham radio station in Granite in 1926. Also known as Radio Babe, WSATO, was a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association.





## VHF Club NEWS

W5LOW  
*The Elmer Gorkler Memorial  
Station*

### VHF Club Meeting

The December meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. on the 17th at the Homestead Country Kitchen by President Jim, K5VRL, with 20 folks present. The minutes of the previous month were approved and we went right to election of officers. The results:

Jack Muse, WB5ZKZ, President  
Fred Boardman, W5NL, Vice Pres.  
Ellard Foster, W5KE, Treasurer  
Joe Buswell, K5JB, Secretary

With that done, we finally relaxed and enjoyed the rest of the meeting which adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

The January meeting will occur after I print my February C&E contribution. I will report on that meeting next month.  
Joe, K5JB, Sec'y

### A Very Packet Christmas

I took advantage of a few days off work around Christmas and New Years to do some packet piddling and play with some new toys.

To enhance the "piddle capability" of the TCP/IP setup, I went out and bought a computer capable of doing all the things I wanted to do in packet and enable me to create a file sharing environment where users could access my files either through the TCP/IP or a conventional AX.25 link.

For fear of power hits scrambling things I hate to scramble, I have not used a computer with a hard disk drive for extensive periods on the radio. For some time now, I have been using an Apple for the bulletin board, and an AT&T PC6300 (Gucci) with a 360K and a 720K floppy drive to run the TCP/IP and the smart monitoring program. Some time ago, I got a DRSI PC Packet Adapter (the packet circuit that plugs into an MS-DOS computer) which worked well in the Gucci but I was keeping the machine awfully busy with all that stuff running at once and the floppy drives were somewhat slow.

Just before Christmas, DRSI started making a TCP/IP implementation available for that card. Once I had that I really started racking up the clock cycles on the Gucci, trying to do all the things I wanted to do at once.

Once I decided to improve people's access to the TCP/IP files I ran out of capability in the one machine so I set out to get it a companion. Since I am not really aware of the hardware available in the MS-DOS world, I got some help from Dave, WB5FWE, in scouting out the market place and developing specifications for a machine that would do what needed to be done; with a little room for expansion; that wouldn't cost an arm or a leg; or, a lot of grief if lightning got it.

As it turned out, it wasn't all that cheap. It cost almost as much as I gave for a full blown Apple II+ a few years ago, with a floppy disk drive (Wow!) and 64K of memory (Ahh!).

It is a 10 Mhz 80286 machine with a 40 Meg hard disk, 1.2 Meg floppy disk, 1 Meg of memory, 4 (count 'em) serial ports and the cheapest orange screen picture tube I ever looked at! Since the system unit is as big as the boot on a intermediate sized car, I named it La Caja Grande!, the BIG BOX!

As soon as I got the thing, I installed the TCP/IP and got it working. It uses the Net/ROM protocol and links into the world via the UHF Net/ROM backbone. Then I set out to create some tools that would move packet mail and files around easily between the TCP/IP and plain vanilla AX.25 environments. For the AX.25 user, I adopted the C-BBS, a version of the popular packet bulletin board program that is related to the WORLI one on the MS-DOS computers. I chose it because source code, written in C, was available and with such full disclosure I would more easily be able to pass files between the two environments.

I chose the packet bulletin board structure to work with because all the I/O and file handling details are already worked out and packeteros are already used to using them with all their bells and whistles.

Here is how mine is related to the WORLI bulletin boards. Hank, WORLI, wrote the bulletin boards that were first used on packet, on the XEROX 820 computer. In the early versions of the WORLI MS-DOS variant, there was a team effort to write the new one using the C programming language. About version 4 dot something, a guy in the Northeast made a few changes and started claiming it was "all new, and original work" and the team got pretty miffed. From that point on Hank has not released his source code. A couple

of guys, K3RLI (no relation to WORLI) and AG3F decided to keep the C programming effort alive and continue to make updates and distribute the source code for the "C-BBS".

It is interesting that the owner of the copyrighted name, CBBS, Ward Christensen, came along on HamNET one day and said, "Watch it guys! Don't call it CBBS. Christensen wrote the first widely used computerized bulletin board (CBBS), and incorporated the XMODEM protocol that bears his name.

One of the things that make some computers "unfriendly" are the file name limitations that they have. Short program file names, like gblewx.exe are nice when it comes to typing them but they sure don't give much clue as to what they do. A file name for the Proceedings of the 7th Annual Computer Networking Conference, like 7CNCAPR.PT1, isn't even that easy to type and it sure doesn't tell you what it is unless you already knew. I borrowed an idea from my Apple PBBS, which shows the user directories of 20 character descriptions (originally I set it up for a user with a 40 column screen). In my MS-DOS BBS, which incidentally is primarily a file server rather than a message or bulletin handler, I simply set up the files with names like F1, F2, and so on. Then I wrote two programs to manage them.

One is FUP (file updater) which scans through a directory searching for files matching a wildcard specification. In this case, I am using "F\*." (F-splat-dot), which means any file that starts with F and has no extension (characters after the dot). It works them over numerically and puts them in order. It reads the first few lines from each file and lets me create a description which it puts in the file as the first line, automatically adding the file size. (You ever get embarrassed when you started to read something on packet only to find out it is 16K long, and should have been sent in a floppy mailer?)

After the list of files is updated, it lets me close gaps in numbers if things have been deleted and generally performs housekeeping chores on the directory.

The second program, GINDEX (generate index) reads through the files with the wild card specification, and makes another file containing all the descriptive first lines. This file is quite small and easily downloadable. I make a

copy of that file available in the message area so it can be read rather than downloaded. Oh yeah, I added the ability to add a custom header for each file type (e.g. Technical, Software, C&E Articles) that tells exactly what command to use to download a specific file.

With that done, I wrote MIP, the mail-to-IP mover that hourly checks if there are any messages on the C-BBS that need to be put on the IP for moving to the WB5FWE gateway. I didn't make any provision for moving traffic in the reverse direction yet because, 1. I didn't need it, and 2. it was going to be harder to do, heh!

I haven't had anyone fool with the new system much so I don't know if it will be easier to use than the Apple PBBS or not. It is certainly easier for me to import things from Compuserve's HamNET, or wherever, and it is a lot easier to program for than the Apple. Software tools for the Apple are outdated and I have to use combinations of machine language and Basic to make it work on packet.

Incidentally, In the Apple, I activated the automatic receiving of messages from the new MS-DOS computer, for whatever that is worth. I may decide to keep the Apple on as a place to stash those oldie but goodie files.

I wouldn't guarantee it to be the same tomorrow, but it has one port on UHF for the IP, one port on 146.415 (call is K5JB-1), and one port on 145.01 (call is K5JB). The 145.01 port is restricted from downloading, but it is available for uploading, files. Messages can be read or posted just like on a "real BBS". The 146.415 port is available for uploading and downloading by local users. The Apple PBBS is still running on 146.415 (call is K5JB) and a few of the files are duplicates. I still haven't figured out the best way to use both of them. I am primarily interested in making information that I pick up available to those who might be interested. For example, I have the software release notes for all the TAPR versions of TNC-2 code from 1.1.0 through 1.1.6. If there is any packet radio information has ever been available in electronic form, I probably have it somewhere around here.

The Apple is a 2c and it runs on battery power. It seems to be very tolerant of storms and such, except when I neglect things and leave an outdoor antenna attached. I have had two failures, over the several years it has been in oper-

ation, that I think were caused by lightning.

Oh yeah, the third C-BBS port floats from place to place, sometimes on a TNC, sometimes on another computer, like the Apple. I refer to it as the "Port of the Day". (The C-BBS supports the gateway function between frequencies and works pretty nifty too. It transports the user's call with the "\*\*\*\* LINKED to" convention. Incidentally, most of the packet bulletin boards will recognize the user who comes in through a gateway if it uses that "\*\*\*\* LINKED to" message. I bet you wondered why the DR- 200 switch at CHN did that.

The IP traffic between Dave, WB5FWE, and me is all routed on the Net/ROM UHF circuit. I (or anybody) can post mail for anybody in the national packet network by either using the IP or the C-BBS, though the syntax is slightly different. To send a message to my buddy Hoss, WA5ZAI, at N4QQ, on the IP, I use the command:

M WA5ZAI%N4QQ@WB5FWE

while using the mailer, MB. From entry to the mailbox on IP, I use: "S" instead of "M", and there are no spaces in the address.

On the C-BBS, the parser isn't real smart and there has to be a space around the "@" so mail to Hoss would be sent as: S WA5ZAI @ N4QQ.

The mail transporter in my machine sees mail that needs to be sent and makes the proper files for the TCP/IP program and makes the address like the one shown above. The call, "WB5FWE" identifies Dave, who is secretly known as "44.78.0.8" in the IP world and tells the IP router to send the message to him for further handling. Typically, messages to Hoss have arrived in Washington in a few hours.

On Christmas Eve, I waited until too late in the day to post a bunch of Christmas greetings and Dave was unable to move them on 30 Meters. He re-routed them to Coy, N5OK, in Claremore, who I think uses 20 M. Unfortunately, Coy's computer broke and the messages were delayed a bit. Nevertheless this performance isn't too bad though when you consider it is all done with mirrors!

#### Mail Call

Last month I mentioned that the real nice thing I like about packet radio implementation of TCP/IP is the way mail

can be sent and received right at the user's terminal without having to log into a BBS. I also discussed some other ways to do this, including writing your own program, or using a script file for an existing communication program.

Here is a fragment of a message that Dave, WB5FWE, routed to me that relates more details on the computer program I saw mentioned in Washington, D.C. the last time I was there. This message was posted on a bulletin board (N4QQ) in that area about January 6. It is a comment in response to some discussion about forwarding to personal mailboxes:

"Wouldn't it be better to encourage smart software in the users terminals to detect the message pending on the mail beacon, connect and download the message, then request the bulletins on subjects of interest to the individual user. All this to be done in the user software with no requirements on the bbs sysop. LAN-LINK 1.50 has this feature. I can tie up N4QQ for 30 minutes or so automatically each Sunday night uploading/downloading messages and bulletins without touching a thing. 73 Joe G3ZCZ@N4QQ"

I don't know what "LAN-LINK" is but Dave, WB5FWE, tells me that it is a fairly pricey communications package, meaning it costs over \$50. It would still be a good project for a programmer who would hack together a little communication program that would watch monitored packets and wake up if it saw the owners call in one of the "Mail for: xxx" announcements from a BBS.

I started toying with the idea since last month and put part of it together (like the I/O, a small array to hold a few monitored lines to enable "looking back" at which BBS sent the notice, a method for reading in a configuration to match each BBS's style, a path to use for connecting to each BBS, etc.) I didn't finish it because some more interesting things caught my fancy. It got a little more complicated than I first envisioned because I kept adding features that I would want in a full-featured communications program.

My latest hack, untested on the air, makes note of a message on my mail box and sends a notice to the recipient that he has mail. Thinking out all the "what ifs" in designing an automatic system to take care of various link states, successes and failures is a good exercise that keeps my gray matter from completely drying out,

even if the results are pretty worthless, and will probably never be used. It is much like the hamshack and garage here, full of unused transmitters, repeaters, remote base systems and what-not that were a heck of a lot of fun to build, and were set aside after only one or two uses.

#### BBS Coordination Meeting

I had the pleasure of eating a bunch of Pizza, slurping a bunch of 807, and meeting with some of the packet bulletin board operators the other day. Mac, K2GKK, who among other things, is known for gathering the ARRL bulletins with HF RTTY, cleaning them up, and feeding the local bulletin boards, sparkplugged the get-together.

Monte, WB5RZX, who runs the "home bbs" for most of us; Dave, WB5FWE, who is the HF and TCP/IP gateway operator, and WA5BQX, Bob-Robert, the new kid on the block, got together to plan better ways to route traffic to reduce the congestion on .01. Let's face it. .01 is a backbone frequency around here that acts as a super highway for data (both computer and keyboard generated) that does not enter and leave on HF. Without coordination, the BBSs create chaos, and justifiably, arouse anger from the other users of the frequency, specifically the keyboard operators.

Monte and BR split up the traffic going different directions and worked on strategy to prevent clobbering .01 locally and reduce pipelining traffic across places like Tulsa, which does not have the sophisticated network we have here. They discussed the ways to best utilize .05 as the local user access to their systems. (The trinode Net/ROM, OPRA on .09, OKCBBS on .05 and #NORM on UHF were re-installed by Monte and Dave a week previously and were undergoing tune-up and shakedown.)

The first night WA5BQX BBS got plugged into the system he was flooded with bulletins and stuff because his bucket started out empty. Normally bulletin forwarding is done at night, say midnight to 5 a.m. and message forwarding is done around the clock (kind of like first class mail as compared to second class mail). That first night started at 6 p.m. because somebody (I ain't tellin' who) forgot that 0000 UCT is 6 p.m., tsk, tsk!

Out of carelessness, I left my monitoring program's "weed filter" off and recorded 314K of information over night!

I caught it just before it used all the available room on my little diskie.

(My "weed filter" was previously called "lid filter", but I am mellowing with age. Someone once defined weed to me as a "displaced plant", meaning that somebody--maybe its mother--would think it was wonderful and normal. The term "Lid" is really derogatory and should be reserved for circumstances more deserving, lest we cheapen it. I really like the term "weeds" when referring to packets I am not really interested in. Sometimes "weeds" are really interesting when I am in the mood for them.)

#### Thanks!

A lot of work goes into networks like the Net/ROM and BBS systems and those who do that work could certainly use some thanks from time to time. I can tell you from my personal experience and observation from voice repeaters and digital networks that users are quick to bitch when things aren't working right and seldom say "Thanks" when they are smooth sailing. Thanks, Net/ROMers and BBSers!

#### New Goodies

Here is something for you who would like to know what is coming out new in ham radio. I picked this up off of Compuserve's HamNET. It was posted by Bob Gobrick, WA6ERB.

"While on a recent vacation in Europe I came across some interesting information on new ham rigs which should see U.S.A. release. The info comes from the German "BEAM" amateur radio magazine and conversation with Elizabeth DL2KCE and Don DJ0KM - owners of the popular German ham store "Garant-Funk".

Kenwood TS-790: 2m/70cm/23cm multimode. Kenwood's answer to the Yaesu FT-736R is a super VHF/UHF multimode with features such as dual frequency displays and dual audio sections (monitor two separate frequencies), full duplex satellite mode with a "Doppler correction button" (don't ask me what that is), 59 memories, CW filter, IF shift, packet-ready, etc. The unit comes with 2m (45W) and 70cm (40W) and the 1240-1300 UHF module (10 W) as an option (mode L). Unit requires a separate 12V power supply. This unit has already been released in Europe.

Icom IC-725: Basically a stripped down IC-735 (looks the same except for the

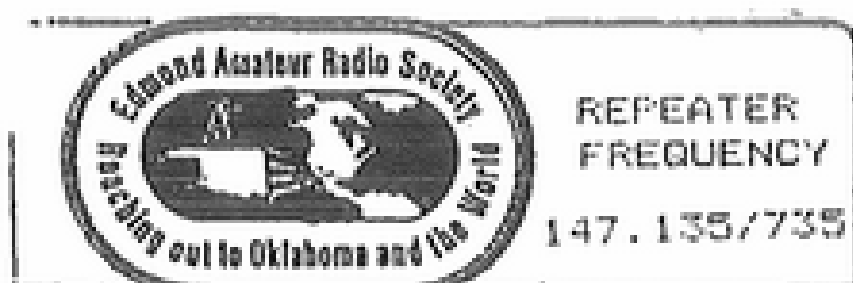
missing 735 "trap door"). Unit is priced to compete with the Yaesu FT-747 "plastic rig" and the Kenwood TS140S. Unit has a lot of the 735 features except the AM transmit, FM and CW filters are optional. 30KHz- 33MHz, 26 memories and 105 dB dynamic range are some of the pluses. A "TUNER" switch showed up on the photo I saw but I could not tell if there was an optional AH-3 antenna tuner (built-in?) available. Release is "real-soon-now".

FT-1020: Finally the "big" one from Yaesu - basically a rig to "fill" the gap between the TS-940S/IC-761 and the "granddaddy" Icom IC-781. Yaesu has included every feature it is capable of drawing on from it's past HF/VHF rig technology. 150W HF rig with dual frequency display and dual receiver sections (like the 781), 100 memories, 4 IF filter selection, shift and width controls, packet-ready, keyer and every bell and whistle you can think of. This rig should give Kenwood and Icom a run for the money. As usual with Yaesu, the rig was introduced at the November 88 Hannover Ham show but dealers have no idea of when they will be delivered in Europe. Dayton should be interesting this year.

By the way please refrain from asking me further info about these rigs - please call Kenwood, Icom and Yaesu. My info comes from "squinting" at photos in German ham radio magazines - and yes my command of the German language is even worse than my eye-sight. Bob WA6ERB.

#### ROSE - More Promises

RATS, the Radio Amateur Telecommunication Society, is still making promises of updates to it's ROSE switch, formerly known as the COSI switch. You might remember that I gave it a really game try shortly after Dayton last year and couldn't make it work on the DR-200 switch. I suppose it works on the TNC-2 designs but the DR-200 really went skitzo. It is moot now with the Net/ROM design becoming well established. It is a shame to have the DR-200 switches lying around for lack of code. There were hints that the Nord < Link folks of Rip/ROM fame might write a Rip/ROM workalike for the DR-200. That would take some original work and might raise my opinion of them a bit. I would even grant them dispensation for their theft of the Net/ROM code if they succeeded in doing something that would make our DR-200s useful. See, my scruples are limited. Enjoy! Joe, K5JB



#### EARS-1988

Well here it is, 1989, time to review 1988. Seems like just a few days ago I did this for the year 1987. Writing this article, I am reminded what a great club EARS is. We will talk about activities and equipment in a moment, but first lets talk about what makes EARS so very special--the people--the dedication and enthusiasm of the members of EARS is nothing short of amazing. They work together, help each other, (especially new hams) and have a good time at what ever the club is doing.

That is enough mushy stuff for now lets talk 88. We started the year with all the good things established in years past still going strong: Monday night information net, post 73 with its own net on Tuesdays, the siren test for the city of Edmond, and our get togethers on the 1st Saturday of the month at the EOC. Business meetings on the 3rd Sunday of odd months at 2p.m. and dinner meetings at 6p.m. on the third Friday on even months. The board meetings are held the Tuesday before the regular membership meetings.

January found us with a comfortable amount of money in the bank and lots of members. We started making early plans for the field day activities in June and the 200 call special event station/Oklahoma QSO party. The board approved the scholarship committee proposal and we were off and running to make the Bertha Watson Scholarship a reality! And the antenna classes at the Vaughn garage were coming to an end.

February is traditionally the month for graduation ceremonies for the "ham classes" and this year was no exception. This year we had a real treat. Mr. Tom Comstock N5TC came up from lower Oklahoma (Texas) and was our guest speaker. Bill Wright, in preparation for his move to Lower Oklahoma, resigned as repeater trustee and the new call sign on the repeater

became KA5WIS. We miss Bill and Carol and wish them well in San Antonio. The First of the club jackets were ordered this month also. Two weather related activities were in Feb. On the 6th, spotter guide lines were reviewed and then EARS pitched in a little help with SCARS for the big Weather extravaganza at Norman on the 26th. Many EARS members spent the day at Norman polishing their weather spotting skills.

March found us wearin' the green. We helped the Irish club of Oklahoma City stage the St. Patrick's day parade. We received a very nice plaque for our efforts, but most important, amateur radio had made some new friends. Then one day here came a shipment of the long awaited EARS jackets. Which prompted a new order for those who hadn't ordered the first time.

April started out busy with a chartered bus to the sidewalk sale at Dallas. What a day, starting out at 2:00 a.m. some 40 people sleeping on a bus, the only sounds were road noise and Brad, KB5CDE, talking to the bus driver for 4 hours. We bought all the bargains--ate catfish at Marrietta-- and got home about 12 hours later VERY TIRED. David Smith took a new job with the OHP and moved off to Pawnee and Wes Johnson was appointed to the board in Davids place (more on this later). Joe, N6CL, was appointed ARRL Liaison, which must have really inspired him, for in just a few short weeks he became the ARRL Section Manager for Okla. One of the most important activities of the month was when 19 members some how escaped from their jobs on a Tuesday morning and assisted in the disaster simulation staged by Edmond CD. Then there was the Hamp out at Red Rock Canyon and a now famous one liner that I will never live down. The fun, food and fellowship were beyond compare!

May brought a Kenwood 7950 2 mt back up rig to the station at the EOC, new software to help program the controller, and a move of a few feet of the main site receiver to get rid of the noise that had plagued .135 for YEARS. Several members went back to school in May--we set

up and operated hf phone, cw, packet and 2 mt phone and packet along with 440, for a Special ED class at Harding middle school. May 13 ARES set up a special event station at Quail Springs Mall--Ears helped a little. Members picked up the large tent used for operations, erected it, helped set up antennas and coax, and operated the first 6 hour shift. The Post operated the last shift and then dismantled the operation.

June found some of the guys spending a couple of weekends making a surplus generator that the CD had around for years useful by getting it running and up dating the wiring. However, field day over shadows every thing else in June. We operated 10A, yes, with that 10A we were capable of putting 10 rigs on the air at any time all on emergency power. We had a computer operating to check for dupes and help with the final tabulation and we got most of the bonus points available. Several of the members earned the famous award WAN (worked all night). The amazing thing about this group is that there is always plenty of help to help break down on Sunday afternoon. Every thing about the weekend was great: the cooperation, the fun, the food, and the special times with special friends.

JULY the 4th, as always, found EARS hard at work early in the day from staging the parade entries until late in the evening with the annual fire works at CSU stadium. Then the best part, ice cold watermelon with our friends as the traffic cleared away. There were over 150 man (and woman) hours given on a holiday to help insure a safe and happy 4th of July (yea team). The sun burn hadn't gone completely away by the next weekend as we provided communications for the Warr Acres 40 year celebration. Hot air balloons-Indian tacos-all kinds of bands-dancing just about any thing you wanted in the way of family fun.

Amateur Radio is a very special privilege and the members of EARS are always willing to "give something back to Amateur Radio" and that's what makes EARS so special. That may not be a completely unbiased opinion however. CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

## EARS - 1988

AUGUST was an exciting month getting ready for HAM HOLIDAY 88. We provided man power for registration and also talk-in, as well lots of other odd jobs needed to pull a convention of a thousand or so people together. Our own John Thomason was president of CORA for most of 1988, then Frank Tassone followed John as president of our central organization. Ham Holiday 88 was also the scene of the presentation of the first Bertha Watson Scholarship Award--Miss Valerie Rahn, a student from Central State University, received the check. She is a very deserving person and we thank the Outside selection committee for their help with our scholarship. With the growth of the club over the past few years it was suggested that a change in the constitution regarding the number of members of the nominating committee. It became official and the committee is now 5% of the club but never less than 3 members.

By SEPTEMBER Dave Smith was back in town and Wes Johnson was moving to Arkansas so Dave was re-appointed to his old board seat. Mike Mize and Bob Long were appointed co-emergency coordinators. Sam Sitton was elected as Vice Director of the West Gulf Division of the ARRL. One of the best classes in recent years started. We had lots of family members to get started in ham radio--from Grand Kids to Grand Parents--they all worked hard and earned those coveted FCC tickets! The threat of a hurricane prompted the installation of a new dipole antenna at the EOC. We operated some traffic--one Del City family found out that their son, living in Mexico, was alive and well due to a health and welfare request from an EARS member.

In OCTOBER we provided help with communications for three events: the Myriad Gardens run, the Classen Classic run, and the Edmond CROPWALK. The fall Hamp out sort of turned to a hamp in with most of us finding rooms at the lodge at Lake Texoma during the hamfest. And then there was our dance --a fund raiser for the scholarship fund. Jim and Judy Lewis from Plano, TX came up and provided entertainment. We had

lots of fun, food and dancing some of my favorite things. The dance put the scholarship at over \$500.00 enough for the 1989 award.

In November we had just about talked the City of Edmond into letting us have their old communications van to set up as a mobil operations vehicle when someone decided to make a bonfire out of it. Better then after we had put a lot of work into it I guess. Joe Lynch coordinated operations with the KV200X special event Station and many of us worked the first Oklahoma QSL party anyone could remember. The new board and officers were elected at the business meeting in November: Harold WA5ZKX pres, Marlin N5LZF Vice, Dawn N5KMQ Sec, GLORIA KB5BGM Tres, Shelby KA5YPE, Mike KB5BIX, Bob N5KUE, Lee KA5WIS, and Phil N5HIP.

In DECEMBER the club's IBM compatible computer became a reality, complete with a 30 meg hard drive--how many ham clubs you know with one of those? EARS helped a family to have a happier Christmas with a food basket donated through the Hope Center. The Scholarship committee finished out the year with the best Christmas dinner you could want. The decorations and Christmas carols made it a perfect evening.

What a year! I enjoyed every minute of it and EARS, I thank you for letting me be your President for two years. This club has been very good for me and to me and I am very proud of my association with it. Like most things in life you get out of it what you put into it and the reason EARS is so great is because so many people give so much of their time-energy-love-work--so much of themselves with the new leadership. You ain't seen nothing yet! I know I left out something. The post would take an article this long to do justice to their year. I guess I can sum it by saying EARS; it is good and getting better!

73, Phil N5HIP

Crashing into a telephone pole, the speeding motorist was knocked out. When he regained consciousness, he discovered he was clutching a handful of wires.

"Thank goodness," he sighed in relief. "It's a harp."

N5DD, Dallas, TX, Silent Key

Amateur radio lost one of its best ambassadors...and finest operators on Friday, December 30th. Phil Ashcraft, N5DD, succumbed to a high voltage shock he received while working on one of his amplifiers. Phil did not get started in ham radio until he was 62. After the ham bug bit him, he set about building the strongest station he could assemble. A picture appeared in QST many years ago showing him lowering antennas by helicopter to a 185 foot tower. His antenna farm consisted of several 100- plus foot towers on several acres. His equipment were all Collins S-Lines with maximum power amplifiers. The N5DD 2-meter repeater was on an 800 foot tower which he owned. The Ashcraft setup was awesome!

On Wednesday, December 29th, Phil was installing resistors on the input of his two linear amplifiers. He was adjusting the driver so that it would present the proper impedance to the 4-1000. Somehow, Phil had the high-voltage power supply on and got zapped by the 4,500 volt, 2 amp supply when he reached into the amplifier.

The results of the shock were the worst imaginable. The current ripped through his body and out of his ears, his chest and his hands. His ear was burned completely off, his hand halfway off...fingers welded together, wristwatch seared into his flesh, his shirt was incinerated right off his back...the room was full of smoke.

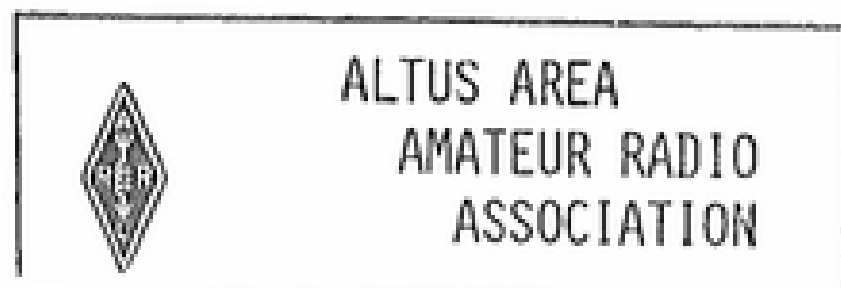
Phil refused medical assistance and said his time had come.

NOTE BY FORWARDER: I realize that this is more than just a little bit gory and probably tinged by a close friendship of the author with the deceased. I read through it several times before deciding to type it in on my PK64 and forward it. My decision is a result of having put my hands where I should not have and gotten away with just pain that lasted for a few months. My encounter with the EMF god "ZAP" were limited to the 1 KV vicinity. A friend here in the Oklahoma City area got cross-ways with the 2 KV plus in a Heath SB-200 and survived but took 6 months to regain full use of his hand.

PLEASE!!!! Get your ARRL Handbook out and review the safety precautions listed there. Let's not add to the SILENT KEY Listing in QST needlessly.

73 de Mac, K2GKK @ WB5RZX

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>JANUARY</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>MARCH</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> AERONAUTICAL CENTER ARC  Ground Hog Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> GREAT PLAINS ARC	<b>6</b>  New Moon	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Ash Wednesday	<b>9</b> ALTUS AREA A R A	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> SOUTH CANADIAN ARS
<b>12</b> WHEATSTRAW ARC  Lincoln's Birthday First Quarter	<b>13</b> EDMOND CLUB	<b>14</b> O U 76'ERS ARES OIDAR CIMMARON ARC St. Valentine's Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> KAY COUNTY A R K	<b>17</b> EDMOND SOCIETY	<b>18</b> CENTRAL OKLAHOMA VHF CLUB
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Washington's Birthday Observed Full Moon	<b>21</b> OK CITY AUTOPATCH	<b>22</b>  Traditional Washington's Birthday	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> EDIT NIGHT FOR C & E	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> CORA CORA CORA CORA CORA CORA  Last Quarter	<b>FEBRUARY</b>		HAM HOLIDAY XVI HAS BEEN SET FOR THE LAST FULL WEEKEND IN JULY 28-29-30	



## ALTUS AREA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

The Altus Area Amateur Radio Association met at the North Main Fire Station at 7:30 pm on January 12th.

Taking over the leadership of the club was Frank Fertitta, AA5IT, with Mike Schenkel, W5VXU, assuming Secretary/Treasurer duties.

Also present for the meeting were Shorty Moore KF5ME, Dwight Dennis WB5KRH, Terry Hackworth K5HP, Bob Barclay N5NQO, Joe McDonald W5CCV, Don Roberson KG6LE, Clyde Smith W5ZDI, Glenn Gagnon visitor, Ann Schenkel KA5YWY, Chuck Nichols WD5BBN, Phil Hunsberger K9PNT, Robert Campbell KB5GGC and his father, and James Molledahl KB5LS.

Frank gave a briefing on the new Altus Area Weather Net which meets each Friday evening at 7 pm on the local 19/79 machine. He indicated

that there would also be a swap information session where anyone with some amateur equipment to dispose of could enter the net and see if he or she could find a buyer.

Mike gave a brief description of the status of the USAF MARS program. He stated that there was now seven active MARS members with five more awaiting their call signs.

Also, there are serious efforts underway to establish a MARS station at Altus AFB again.

The Installation MARS director, Lt. Nutterfield, is very interested in promoting a new MARS effort at the airbase and some equipment has already been identified as available for a base MARS station.

A location for the station is being sought.

Dwight announced there would be a weather spotters meet in Wichita Falls on Feb 18 at the Community Center from 9am to 5pm.

Jim brought the news that any one interested could obtain their Novice Roundup logs or dupe sheets from him.

Among the more recent activities were: Terry who is into packet radio now. Bob, who seems to be following that same line as well as Don, with Frank indicating he is interested in almost anything to do with amateur radio.

Joe's main supporter, Irene, provided the cookies and goodies for the meeting and I can't remember much in the way of leftovers.

Mike reported that the club is solvent with up to date figures showing that we have \$351.99 in the bank.

Total club membership stands at 22 paid up members.

And finally a reminder to all that the next club meeting will be on Feb 9th at the downstairs meeting room in the North Main Fire Station.

LEASE or SELL: DX-QTH. 55 Ft tower, 3 Yagi beams 10, 15 & 20, TV satellite dish on extra lot. Brick house near university, Mid-Hi and grade school. 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage. For photos write Box 927, Edmond OK 73083 or telephone 341-4209.