

SECOND CLASS MAIL
Postmaster, see page 3

Volume 17
NOVEMBER 1991
Number 201

**OK
DX**
Just for
the Fun
of It

OKlahoma DX Association

BY (GUEST COLUMNIST)
JOE LYNCH, N6CL

While our president, George Adkins, AD1S, is away playing DXpedition, I volunteered to write the DX column for this month. I thought that as guest columnist I would do an old fashioned book review. The book I am reviewing is *The Complete DXer* by Bob Locher, W9KNI. Bob is a DXCC CW Honor Roll member. He has worked DXCC repeatedly with high power and with QRP. He writes with authority, yet as though he is telling you a story of how you can be first exposed to DX, then work DX, then work the rare DX, get the QSLs from the DX, improve your station and finally what is some of the mysterious, mystical secrets of the hunt for the DX.

The book is divided into two sections. The first section is devoted to operating techniques and basic station construction. The second section is devoted to advanced operating techniques, getting the QSL card, improving the station and some of the secrets of successful DXing.

In the first chapter Bob sits you down in his ham shack and gives you a tour of the bands. He tells you what you are hearing and what you can expect to hear during a night of listening to DX stations. He concludes with an example of how he catches a relatively rare DX station and the mild disappointment of not getting every station he hears.

In the next chapter Bob gets down to some basic information on how to listen for the DX station and (maybe more importantly) how to keep moving along, looking for the rarer DX station. He encounters the problems of listening when he talks about the "turkey tuning up" and how it should only take a few seconds at most to have a carrier on the air. Bob concludes by advising the reader to listen to every signal and try to identify from where the signal is coming. He is especially adamant on prodding the reader to listen for the very weak signal.

Next Bob discusses some of the basic equipment needed "for the hunt." Bob con-

cludes that the bare basic station should be a transceiver with a build in separate VFO or a separate transmitter and receiver. His personal preference is a separate transmitter and receiver. He brings one important point forward concerning goals. He states that if your goal is five band DXCC, then you should have a linear that will work to overcome your less than adequate antenna system rather than investing all your money in an antenna system that will do you no good on one or more of the five bands.

In the next chapter Bob discusses two basic operating techniques. The first deals with how to zero beat the station you want to work. The second assumes you have a rotatable antenna and gives pointers on how to aim your rotatable antenna.

Chapters five through nine deal with progressive skills in listening to pile ups and how to handle this DX phenomenon with increasing skill. Bob discusses several techniques to use with different DX stations, concluding in the final paragraph of chapter nine by stating "Putting yourself in the DX station's shoes is a good way to see what techniques are effective, both for that specific station, and for working DX in general."

In chapter ten Bob tells you when you should call "CQ DX." He points out that by calling "CQ DX" you can sometimes work relatively rare stations in locations surrounded by a well populated country (such as DU or VS6 near Japan) or a station with inferior equipment that will not work a pileup because of the equipment. He states that these stations will prefer to come back to someone calling "CQ DX" in order to avoid a pileup and in the hope that the calling station wants to have a more meaningful QSO.

In chapter eleven Bob discusses contests. Bob points out that you must determine whether you are a contester or a DXer. He indicates that contesters and DXers have very different goals. He states that the contester is working every station he can while looking for that rare station as a new multiplier. The DXer, on the other hand, is only working that rare station for a new country and generally passing up most of the more common DX stations. He alludes to a fact that some of the contest stations are not good QSLers, meaning that it is hard to get a QSL card from that station. Therefore, part of the strategy is to concentrate on stations known to be good QSLers over doubtful ones.

However, the old axiom should never be passed up. That axiom is: "Work them first and worry later."

These coming months are particularly good months for using contests to increase your country totals. As the "C&E" is being put in the mail, the CQWW DX SSB contest is under way. Next month the CW version of the same contest will take place. In December the ARRL ten and 160 meter contests will occur. In January the CQ 160 meter SSB contest is scheduled. In February the ARRL CW and the CQ 160 meter CW contests will take place. In March the ARRL SSB and the CQ WPX SSB contests will occur. Finally, in May, the CQ WPX CW contest will take place. There are other regional contests scheduled during these months and a check of "QST" or "CQ" magazine contest columns will give an indication of when to expect these contests.

Chapter twelve summarizes what you have read up to this point and gives you a preview of what is coming in the second half of the book.

If you want to gain recognition outside your own shack then chapter thirteen is for you. Since QSLs are required for DXCC you must go through the arduous process of obtaining cards from stations operating in foreign countries throughout the world. Bob discusses the problems and the pitfalls awaiting you as you try to obtain the coveted cards from the DX stations.

Chapters fourteen, sixteen and eighteen are devoted to hunting for the DX station. Frequently, Bob compares hunting for the DX station to a safari where one hunts for wild animals. The difference here is that you are often competing with other amateurs for the same DX station. Bob discusses techniques and "tricks of the trade" used in order to successfully ensnare the elusive DX prize.

Chapter fifteen discusses improving your antenna system. Bob points out that not only do you need to select your antenna, you also need to select the proper coax and the proper installation for the antenna to work efficiently.

Chapter seventeen describes what is the ideal location for the DXer. Bob takes you through the neighborhood and shows you

Continued Elsewhere



Oklahoma DX Association

some of the potential pitfalls to selecting a location. He warns about community antenna restriction and neighborhood associations that also have no interest in seeing your antenna mess up their view of the neighborhood. He talks about permits for antennas, proper antenna installation and safety requirements, such as guarding against lightening. Bob also goes into how to be a good neighbor ("don't immediately go all out at full power in the nearest contest.") and what to do about power line interference to your station, including how to diplomatically deal with the power company.

Chapter nineteen deals with accessories used in your station, from the type of headphones used to the type of keyer used. Bob also lists some options that will aid you in your record keeping and time calculations as you are increasing your DXCC totals.

Chapter twenty talks about the special language the DXer should speak, namely the native language of the DX station. Bob gives the example of using French and the pleasant positive results. Locally, Linda Kukuk, AA5-GS, has learned some Russian and has made many friends in the Soviet Union using her ability to speak Russian. It is often found to be that a native of a foreign country who does not speak English will appreciate the efforts made by an English speaking ham to speak a second language with the native. Personally, I have found pleasant QSOs with Spanish speaking hams who really appreciate my halting efforts to speak Spanish during the QSO. In fact, one Argentinean ham wanted my QSL card and QSLed me first! More than any other chapter in the book, this one indirectly emphasizes the importance of the good will involved with the relationships with our fellow hams.

Chapter twenty-one is brief in its discussion of how you play the game. In light of recent DXpeditions it probably needs to be rewritten to caution against becoming a part of the problem. Also, I disagree with his example of working a station he already has confirmed, albeit with reduced power. My opinion is that if a station is rare and you don't need it, resist the temptation to work it again even with low power. That contact you make may deprive some new ham of the opportunity to work a new one. Also, if you know that you have virtually no chance to work the station, then why should you contribute to the QRM on the frequency? There are better things to do with your time, such as spending time with the family!

Chapter twenty-two is the most intriguing in many respects. Bob describes all of the aspects of an upcoming DXpedition to

a fairly rare location. He goes into the "on-the-air" speculation and rumors that often precede the DXpedition. He builds up the reader's anticipation concerning the operation only to take a very fascinating twist. The tale is about a DXpedition to Clipperton Island and how near tragedy all but overcame the DXpedition. In a clever way Bob points out the dangers involved in putting on a DXpedition and the effects it had on him in the aftermath. In my opinion, reading this chapter alone is worth the purchase of the book.

Bob saves one last secret for chapter twenty-three before summarizing the book in chapter twenty-four. No, I am not going to give away the secret here. The purpose of a book review is to get you, the reader, interested enough in the book to go out and buy it. If I told all, you would have no need to buy it. However, I will say this much. I found it useful as a handy reference guide and a book to read as a way of review for me to keep my skills as a DXer polished. I do recommend it to old and new DXers alike. The book is published by Idiom Press, P. O. Box 583, Deerfield, IL 60015. It is available from "CQ Magazine's" Bookstore for \$11.95 plus shipping of \$3.75. It may also be available from Oklahoma Comm Center on a special order basis.

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DX and Contest Forums At Houston Convention '91

Meetings will be held November 8th thru 10th 1991 at the Sheraton Hotel, Houston TX (Near Intercontinental Airport).

DX FORUM on Saturday with Chip Margelli K7JA, Boris Stepanoff UW3AX, Rusty Epps 9N10AT, FO0XA, KP6KR, and the QSL Manager for ZA1A.

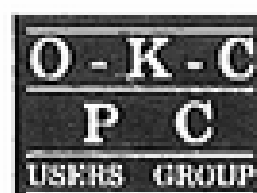
CONTEST FORUM on Saturday with Rusty Epps W6OAT, Boris Stepanoff UW3AX, and Tom Taormina K5RC.

Your regular scribe will return next month to entertain you with his tale of his trip to Wake Island. George is scheduled to sign AD1S/KH9 and his cohort, Craig Boyer, WE5I, is scheduled to sign WE5I/KH9. I hope you have a chance to work them.

73 de Joe Lynch, N6CL



STATE FAIRGROUNDS
Nov. 16th & 17th
DISCOUNT TICKETS
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BICENTENNIAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 76ER'S



The club met at the Wildlife Department, 1800 N. Lincoln Blvd. at 1945 hrs local time. We were called to order by Hank, KB5XM. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted by the group.

Members present at the meeting included: Hank-KB5XM, Jerry-N5HTF, Jim-N5BEQ, Chad-N5QIQ, Dustin-N5SFP, and myself.

Visitors at the meeting included Tom-K5LDI, and Kathy-AA5RU.

The monthly C.O.R.A. report was presented to us by Jim.

OLD BUSINESS.....

We still need to install our new antenna at the repeater site. A work day was scheduled for this purpose, and weather permitting, we should have a new antenna with a little more gain as you are reading this.

NEW BUSINESS.....

A request for volunteers was conveyed to the group for assistance with Ham Holiday '92. It seems that the small handful of hams of C.O.R.A. are doing all the work and preparation for Ham Holiday. Chairpersons are desperately needed for the following committees: Dealers and Awards, Facility, and the Breakfast. If you would like to chair one of these committees, or would just care to get involved with assisting a chairperson, please feel free to let one of the C.O.R.A. officers know. There's plenty of room for everyone and your help would be appreciated by all!

MORE NEW BUSINESS.....

It was suggested that the 76er's, as a club activity, offer to sponsor and administer a "Hounds & Hare" Radio Direction Finding contest during Ham Holiday '92. Discussion ended and the matter was tabled.

Thank You Kathy for attending our meeting and Especially for joining our club. We all Welcome You!

The regular October 12, 1991, meeting of COCO was brought to order at 12:15 by our own Don Fox. Other officers present were Martin, Treasurer, and Dorothy, Secretary. Eleven people attended the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

OLD BUSINESS: Plans for the newsletter were discussed because of the resignation of Joe Harding as editor of the C & E effective in December. One suggestion was to make last months happenings available at the next month's meeting. Mailing was considered too expensive an option. The question was tabled. Several suggestions were made for programs for future meetings.

NEW BUSINESS: A trip to the Dallas electronic flea market was suggested for a time of year when the weather is good. It was requested that the secretary find out the practical, that is money, aspects of such a trip.

SOFTWARE/ HARDWARE: The planned program on Quicken was not presented, because of personal business. We hope to

NOTICE..NOTICE..NOTICE..NOTICE INTENT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE BICENTENNIAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB(76ER'S).....

It has been proposed to add an amendment to the Constitution that would establish a "Family Membership Plan" wherein families consisting of more than one Ham would be assessed the dues rate of an individual. The proposed amendment will be voted on during the regular November '92 meeting so YA'LL COME!

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 2046 hrs local time.

The 76er's meet next at the Wildlife Department, 1800 N Lincoln Blvd. at 7:30 P.M., Tuesday, November 12th.

We would love to have you visit!

73 'til next month,
JACK, AA5VU

have the program in December. James Ferguson is to give next month's program on modems. Questions were asked about the different size floppy disks and which disk were safe to use in certain circumstances. There are essentially two sizes Double Density capacity and High Density capacity. The Double Density 5 1/4" can be formatted to run in a machine using High Density disks; however, the amount of information is limited. In the 3 1/2" the same is true; however, the timing holes are different, and the High Density will not work well in a machine using Double Density. Martin cautioned against modifying Double Density to make them High Density. Plastic chips can mar the surface of the disk and (what is worse) run the risk of damaging the read head of the computer. The cleaning of the hard disk drive was discouraged unless it was giving trouble.

A brief history of COCO was outlined. A brief history of the modern computer chips was also outlined, starting with the Z80 (Timex, TRS80 Model 1), then the 8080 (Zenith, S100). The 8086 and 8088 differed because the former was a 16 bit and the later an 8 bit internal processor. For a brief moment the 3" floppy and 80186 made an appearance. 80286 was the AT, 80386 the SX (16 to 20 MHZ), the 80386 (25 MHZ), and the 80386 the DX (20, 25, 33, 40 MHZ) followed in quick succession. The new version is 89486 SX lap tops and DX. The newest on the list is 80586. The games used on some older machines run at too high a speed on some of the faster new machines. These machines need to use normal speeds for games, etc. and use the turbo speed for computation, etc.

Several members requested a workshop on disk management and the placing of information on the hard disk.

NEW BUSINESS: The election of officers will be held at the December meeting of COCO. Anyone who wishes information or would like to volunteer, please call any officer.

The next meeting will be held in the Business Building on Rose State campus at 12 o'clock noon on the second Saturday of November (Nov. 9).



VHF Club NEWS

W5LOW
The Elmer Gookler Memorial
Station

Minutes of October Meeting

Meeting was called to order by Fred, W5NL, at 11:55 a.m. with 17 members and guests present. President Jack, WB5ZKZ, was away at War Eagle selling knives and otherwise enjoying himself. Fred started the meeting with a round of introductions and comments. Motions passed that the minutes be accepted as published in the C&E and that Treasurer Ellard, W5KE's report be accepted.

Fred related how Steve, W5VCJ, was progressing since his stroke. He is now home after over three months in the hospital. He is suffering from blood clots in his legs and is not out of the woods yet. Fred passed around a card so all could add their names. We hope you recover quickly, Steve.

Since Jack, WB5ZKZ, was not here to defend himself, we appointed him a second consecutive month as Honorable Turkey of the month. Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m. Joe, K5JB, Secretary.

Technical Stuff

I have to hand it to Stu, KD5DL, who has in previous months prepared some interesting columns containing electronic circuits of handy things you can build. Two months ago, he discussed some NiCd battery things and last month, he showed some voltage regulator circuits in his anonymous, front page article. (There was no credit given to Stu, but I recognized the handwriting, heh!)

I used to run a lot of little circuit articles, but recently I guess I haven't been doing all that much tinkering so haven't had much to write about, and besides it is more trouble to draw those little circuits than to send the whole column intact off to the laser printer. Not to compete with Stu, but this month I thought I would include a circuit of a regulator I built a couple of weeks ago to power up an IC-02 that was being dedicated to my packet "Local Area Network" at home. I initially prepared the battery eliminator for an IC-2, but the squelch action was unsatisfactory so I substituted the

IC-02. Though the latter would have been happy to run on 12 Volts, the former preferred on 9 Volts, thus the design choice was for a nominal 9 Volts. With only 12.5 to 14 Volts being available from my station 12 Volt supply (car battery), it is much simpler to build to the 9 Volt design value. In fact, my regulator only has three parts.

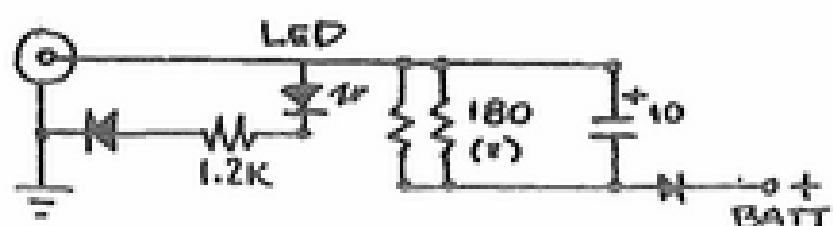


Figure 1. BP-3 Charger Circuit

Before we get to the regulator, let's discuss the Icom BP-3 battery pack. Over the years, I have accumulated some spares, mostly with shorted cells. I opened one and removed the cells and reinstalled them in the garbage can. The female power socket is installed on a little circuit board along with an LED and a few other parts. For Figure 1, I sketched out the circuit on that PC board for your information. Notice the capacitor which looks useless in this application (unless they thought a surge on power-up would open a shorted cell -- most common cell failure mode). I left the circuit intact, though all I wanted to use was the socket and the LED. The LED would serve as a handy pilot light, indicating that I had power available.

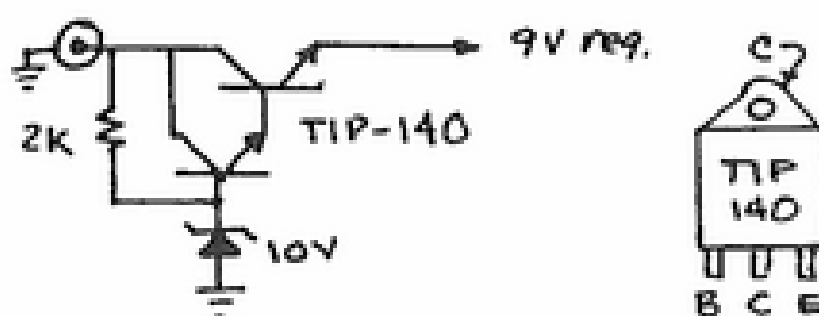


Figure 2. Regulator Circuit

Figure 2 contains the regulator circuit. I originally planned to add a .01 uF capacitor between emitter to base to prevent RF from messing things up, but I goosed it with RF from VHF and UHF talkies and the output voltage remained stable so I skipped the capacitor -- I shouldn't have.

If your 12V source has ripple, add a capacitor from the TIP-140 base to ground to take advantage of its gain to filter the ripple.

The Texas Instruments TIP-140 is a power darlington that I happened to have. It has a beta (gain) of 1000 at 5 Amps and is capable of handling 10 Amps so it is really loafing in this circuit. The calculated value of the 2 K resistor is based on the requirement to have 1 mA of base drive from a source that could drop as low as 12 Volts. The 10 Volt Zener happened to be in my junk box so I wired it in for test, it worked, and I left it there. The TIP-140 has an internal diode from emitter to collector so it is unnecessary to add an external diode to protect the device from current coming from the capacitive load (or a battery) when the supply is disconnected. (This is particularly important if you are using a PNP, which seems to be fragile in the reverse current base to emitter situation.)

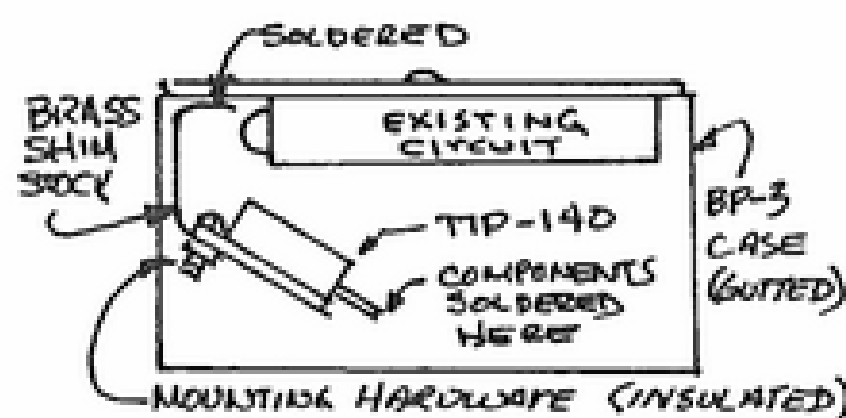


Figure 3. Regulator Mounting in BP-3

In order to simplify mounting, and get a nominal amount of head sinking, I prepared a piece of brass shim stock by punching a suitable hole for an insulating bushing, trimming and bending the brass to fit, and soldering it to the battery housing's top plate. The TIP-140's mounting tab is internally connected to its collector so I insulated the mounting tab from the brass with a mica insulator.

In addition to the RF susceptibility tests already mentioned, I ran a rudimentary load test on the regulator to check its operation. At nominal car battery voltage on the input, it showed 9.8 V at no load, 8.7 V at 50 mA (squelched receiver load), and 8.55 V at 500 mA. All were well within reason so I buttoned it up and it has been on the air running the talkie ever since. Joe, K5JB

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11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete		Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Joe K. Harding	

Central Oklahoma Radio Amateurs, inc.

MINUTES

24 SEP 91

The Meeting was called to Order at 7:37 pm with President Frank AA5GI in the Chair and the following Directors and Guests representing 5 of the 16 member clubs present :

ACARC - Tom Mangham K5LDI
Jack Conley AA5VU

MORI - Ellard W Foster W5KE

EARS - Jim Richardson N5OHL

OCAPA - Baron Bieber N5PQK

76ERS - Jim Buswell N5BEQ

C&E MNG ED - Joe Harding WA5ZNF

The Minutes of the Aug 1991 Meeting and the Report of the Treasury were accepted as distributed .

REPORTS : C&E : Editor Joe WA5ZNF distributed copies of the proposal from Cynoak Corporation to produce the *Collector & Emitter* if necessary were he unable to continue . Following discussion of Cynoak's proposal and his recommendation it was agreed that the Directors would actively search for a permanent volunteer from the ranks of Associate Members to take over from Joe and Baron N5PQK would take on the chore for at least two months to assure the finish of the calendar year ;

VEC : Jim N5OHL reported for the committee that 25 examinees tested by 10 Volunteer Examiners had tried the Codeless Technician level . 6 had passed the Novice Code and while 3 had attempted , 1 had passed the 20 WPM code test .

There being no Old Business . Elections for 1992 were held with the following results . each position by acclamation :

President - Frank J Tassone AA5GI , Vice-President - Jack Conley AA5VU

Treasurer - Tom Mangham K5LDI . Secretary - Jim Buswell N5BEQ

HAM HOLIDAY #19 <1992>

Committees will mostly be the same as in the past with the following exceptions : Frank AA5GI would like to relinquish FACILITY and DEALER/AWARD committees and the Board will seek volunteers , PROGRAMS will be chaired by Jack AA5VU .

On Motion from Baron N5PQK and Second by Jack AA5VU it was agreed without opposition to authorize the Treasurer to pay the \$35 fee for the Postal Box rental for the next year .

The next Meeting is scheduled for 22 October 1991 , same place and time , unless the Directors are notified otherwise .

This Meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm .

Secretary ,
N5BEQ , Jim.

ENID AMATEUR RADIO CLUB HAMFEST

NOVEMBER 2, 1991

HOOVER BLDG. GARFIELD CO. FAIR GROUNDS

THE FUN STARTS AT

8:00 AM AND CLOSES AT 5:00 PM

COVERED DISH DINNER STARTS AT 6:30 PM

VE TESTING WALK IN'S WELCOME

TESTING STARTS AT 10:00 AM

MANY PRIZES TO BE GIVEN AWAY ALL DAY LONG

TABLES ARE FREE BUT CALL FOR

RESERVATIONS 242-3551/233-8473

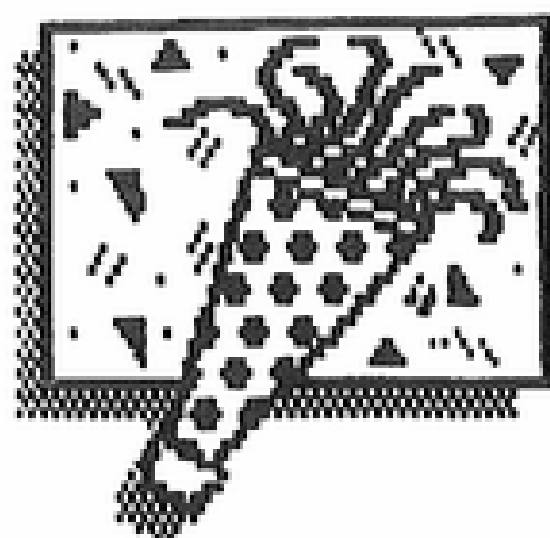
RV HOOKUP

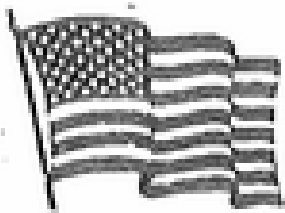

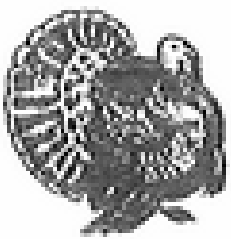












CONSESSIONS

\$1:00 AT THE DOOR

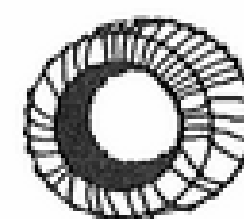
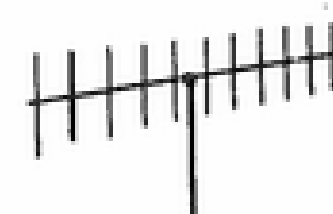
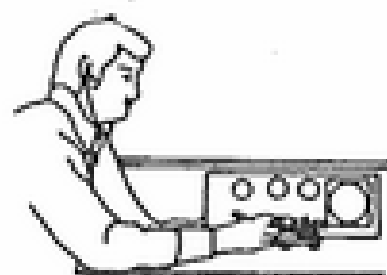
TALK IN 145.29/

444.4



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 GREAT PLAINS	4 	5 M O R I	6 	7 AERONAUTICAL CENTER ARC	8 	9 CENTRAL OKLA COMPUTER SCARS
10 WHEAT STRAW	11 EDMOND CLUB	12 OKLAHOMA UNIV. AARC BICENTENNIAL (76ers)ARC	13 	14 ALTUS ASSOCIATION CIMMARON ARS	15 	16 V H F
17 E A R S	18 VE TESTS 6:00 PM SALVATION ARMY 50 & PENN	19 AUTO PATCH	20 	21	22 	23
24 	25 	26 C O R A 7:00 PM SALVATION ARMY 50 & PENN	27 	28 	29 	30

CIMARRON



The October meeting of the Cimarron Amateur Radio Association was held in the playhouse at 827 S 13, Fairview OK on October 10, 1991.

President Curt Briggs N5RHO presided over the meeting attended by the following members: Ruth Simpson WX5Y, Betty Day KA5RTW, Nadine Painton N5FMH, Dennis Painton WK5V, Terry McColl N5MLT, and John Medley KB5NBQ/AK.

The club discussed the need for a new repeater and coax on the tower west of Fairview. Curt is going to see if he can get a local business to contribute toward the cost of the repeaters.

Tickets were passed out, to be sold for \$1.00 each for a prize of \$100.00 first place, and a \$50.00 for second place. The winners will be drawn at the Christmas Dinner.

The election of officers will be held during the November meeting.

Following the meeting we saw the video, "At Any Moment" showing Ham Radio during emergency situations.

Don't forget the WX5Y Playhouse, November 14, 1991.

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE !
73 KB5NBQ John

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