

SECOND CLASS MAIL  
Postmaster, see page 3

Volume 18  
JULY 1992  
Number 209

### Oklahoma City Autopatch Association

Howdy! This is NJ1V. What do you think of this weather we've been having? Personally, I wish it would just blow itself out! I'm not very happy about the weather lately! As many of you already know, Mother Nature dealt me a nasty blow on Thursday June 18. During the severe weather that moved through the Metro area, the top 28 feet of my 100 foot Rohn 25G tower came crashing to earth as a result of a faulty guy wire clamp and winds in excess of 80 MPH! As a result, I lost a big triband beam, a two element 40M beam, and a 2M/70CM dual band vertical, along with the rotor, almost 100 feet of hard-line, and possibly a very thick wall mast! While this mass of metal and wire fell dangerously close to the house, we were very lucky that the tower was all that sustained any damage.

I was not home during the storm, but Ruthie N5RJM had advised of the incident during the weather net. Ruthie has asked me to convey her TNX to those that called via radio and the landline to see if any help was required. She told me that she felt quite secure, although rattled, as a result of all the concern that was displayed. And TNX from me too!

Speaking of weather nets, they have been quite frequent lately. Prior to the 6/18 weather, it was necessary to activate the net on Sunday June 14. Leonard W5MEL got caught away from the radio (GONE FISHING!) when the weather dictated that the net be activated. Mike N5VIT took over the Net Control duties, and did a TERRIFIC Job! CONGRATS Mike, and TNX for jumping in. You certainly handled the job like a veteran!

We do have some work to do, though, in the way we respond to directives from Net Control during the nets. In reference to the activity during the net on 6/14, I have been asked by Leonard W5MEL, and B.R. WA5BQX to print the following:

**LISTEN! FOLLOW NET DIRECTIVES!**  
Remember that LIVES might be in danger!

Know what you are going to say before you key up. Clearing your throat or several uhh's may prevent



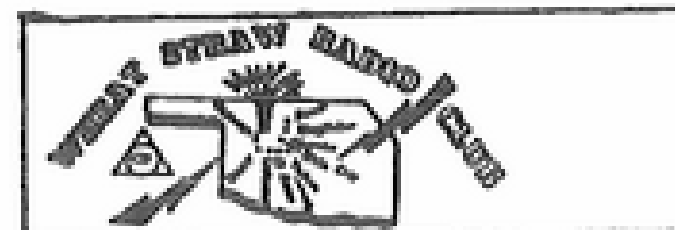
REPEATER  
FREQUENCY

147.135/735

EARS is handling the staging and running of the Edmond 4TH OF JULY PARADE. Mike KB5BIX is our coordinator so please let him know that you want to help out. Activities will start about 8 PM at the UCO Library. The parade will kick-off about 10 AM and then run until around noon. Bring your handie-talkie and some suntan lotion.

On this last Saturday (20th) I went up to the field day location. Alton KB5LIC was already there with Mike KB5HXT putting together a 30' tower. It is so light that you can pick it up with one hand. Joel KB5FCF came with his tower belt and went up the main tower to put on a pulley for the BIG antenna. Others that came to help out were Kevin N5USQ, and James N5XCT. Larry N5IXV had a brand-new trap dipole that we put together. He also brought another short tower to be used at field-day. Thanks for the help guys.

Getting a QSL card from a foreign country is a real pleasure to all DXers. However, it can be also very frustrating waiting for a couple of years not knowing what actually happened to the card you sent. Long ago the postal workers in many countries learned that envelopes that have addresses with radio call signs or make a direct reference to amateur radio somehow, often contain dollar bills. Many hams have told me to not put any call sign on the envelope and do not mention anything about a 'radio station' or 'bureau'. Just put a regular address and your normal return address. Best method for getting a QSL card back is to send a self-addressed envelope (no call sign) folded with the card you send and a one dollar bill also



The June 14th meeting was as a covered dish dinner. It was in the back yard of the Joe Hyatt's home. About the time we got started eating good it started raining hard with high winds. I heard there was a tornado cited in the air near Kingfisher. That made every one run for shelter. We still enjoyed seeing everyone. And a big thanks to Joe and Mary ann.

We turned around and did it again. Thursday evening at about seven o'clock the 17th Goldie and I were hosting 20 veterans to a hamburger fry.

It rained very hard and the wind blew. The worst thing was the up and down lighting. Some times the lighting would strike so fast it was like a automatic rifle firing. It rained an inch and a half so fast the water raised up over the road and the curb backing the water up our driveway.

The rain has made it hard on some of the farmers. It may be they have lost the wheat crop for this year.

A good Maringue recipe. In a small saucepan mix 1T. cornstarch, 2T. Sugar and 1/2 C. water, cook stirring often until mixture thickens & bubbles. Remove from heat, cover and cool to lukewarm. In small mixing bowl, beat 3 egg whites pinch of salt & 1/4 tsp. Vanilla until thick, add 1/2 C sugar and warm thickening. Beat until very stiff.

Spread evenly over filling sealing the edges. If you wish sprinkle coconut generously on top and brown in 375° oven. Cool before serving. Store in refrigerator.

The next meeting will be 12th of July at the American Legion room in the Watonga City Hall. Turn off 33 highway north one block east of noble. It w-



priority information from being transmitted.

Net Control will establish the **MINIMUM CONDITIONS** for reporting. Net Control **DOES NOT** want blue sky reports, temperature drops, etc. If you observe signal light outages, or other such situations, QSY to another frequency to call Police, Fire, or other emergency services. Net Control does not have time to call in these reports.

If Net Control reports that your signal is weak or unreadable, then **STOP TRANSMITTING!** You are only doing a disservice to net operation.

If you disagree with the Net Control's operation, please QRT, or volunteer for Net Control. [Submitted by W5MEL Leonard]

WX Net views... Guys and gals, we really need to tighten up our operating procedures and standards on the WX Net. This last one (6/14) was really not a good showing of our operating techniques and habits. Don't forget that when you transmit there are many people that hear your transmission as well, and they may not be too impressed with what they hear!

When Net Control asks for only certain specific info (hail, winds over so many miles per hour, etc.) and the very next guy comes on and gives a blue sky report, I almost think that some of us have been born brain damaged or without ears! The WX Net is a public service operation, not an agenda for us to let everyone know how great we are.

Pass up the temptation to showboat and direct your efforts toward being as professional an Amateur Radio Operator as you can be. If this is the best we can do and we make no real efforts to improve, then maybe the time has come to shut down our WX Net operation, in which case I would give Gary England our sincerest apologies for our not being able to hack it! [Submitted by WA5BQX .B.R.]

#### OCAPA News

We had a great turn out for the June 16 meeting! TNX to all that attended. We continued the planning process for the Field Day exercises, and it looks like we are going to have another good one! I will report the activities in the next edition.

Last month I incorrectly reported that Tony ex-N5VVU had passed 20 WPM. Sorry for the mistake Tony, but now you really have to knuckle down and do it! But Tony did receive his new Advanced Class call sign - KJ5AR. Dale N5TXE and Tom N5TCG passed their Advanced theory and Bob KG5OE passed 20

WPM and is now Extra Class. CONGRATS to all!

#### Other OCAPA News

Here are some other bits of news and info passed on by Chuck K5NK:

**LATEST OCAPA GOSSIP:** N5RJM recently had a birthday and now she will admit that even though she is a lot older she is much better. Want to tell us at what John? N5SAM is contemplating a plan to get his wife up to Tulsa for the hamfest. He's not interested in seeing all the new goodies or buying any more equipment. He's only interested in a romantic weekend! It seems the kids get in his way. One of the great discussions one day concerned locals. According to N5KXI, there is some sort of law prohibiting permanent erections in Piedmont! N5VIT loves Country Music so much, he manipulated his talkie in his tool pouch so that when he stoops over, the pliers will depress the mic button so everyone can enjoy hearing Garth! WA5BQX was headed off to Tulsa or some unknown place when he experienced quite an explosion. Poor fellow couldn't find the key to unlock his spare. That's what you call being in a fix. And, what is this B.R. about you shooting stuff out behind your barn? One day our friendly intruder came on frequency and everyone was attempting to find out where he was when KA5RVM advised W5MEL that he was close to his "Work 20". Some folks wear their hair long and others wear it short. Some have a lot while others are getting a little thin on top. For some reason NJ1V says he has to pay extra for his haircuts. Why John? Everyone enjoys a good ham and cheese sandwich now and then, but for some reason, N5KXI thinks he has seen enough of them. He finally got his wife through school, so now he can a bologna and cheese. W5MEL has started bragging about his fish again. If your shack really does look like the floor of a barn, you might find some long lost lures if you give it a good cleaning. Who is this WZ3 running around? Some folks will go to any extreme to become a Yankee. You gonna police too? de K5NK.

Also from K5NK the following:

#### Meet a Fellow Member

Being somewhat sore at me for not including any nasty remarks about him in the last issue of the C&E, and to save my neck, I felt it imperative that I spend a few minutes discussing one of our greatest members, that being Dale N5TXE.

The Autopatch club has many members, most of which live in the immediate Oklahoma City area. We do have some who live in other cities and some who live out of state. But, Dale claims his residence to be Covington, up north a few miles,

actually in the Enid vicinity.

It's too bad that Dale's call isn't N5TEX, for that would be much more appropriate for him. You don't have to be around him very long to see how much hot air can be blown in such a short period of time! No offense to our beloved member Lee, N5KXI, but most people know that many of our friends from south of the Red River blow a lot of hot air!

Dale works for some unknown chemical company and his primary job is to deliver barrels of said chemicals to oil fields throughout the state. While he is motoring around in his big truck, he finds time to occupy the .82 repeater quite frequently. Now and then he will make a visit to the Oklahoma City area on Thursdays so he can partake in the good food served here. Needless to say, he can normally eat his fair share.

On one of his recent jaunts to an oil field site, he encountered what he believed to be a school of harmful critters known as copperheads. Having majored in math in grade school, he was able to count to eight. Since no one actually saw these reptiles, there is a very good possibility they were of the garden variety. Dale had been working out preparing for the upcoming Olympics in the Pole Vault and Shot Put, however, after his run-in with said critters, he saw how high he could jump, so is now training for the high jump!

Because of the dangerous materials he hauls around, he never has any problems in traffic. When he is in a big hurry to get home, he simply flips one of his signs on the truck telling everyone he is carrying something that would greatly endanger their lives if they get in his way and everyone stays clear of him.

Dale claims to be an expert marksman with both bow and arrow and rifle. It is amazing how many deer he tells of seeing and shooting during hunting season. Has anyone ever seen any of these deer Dale has said he has killed? Couldn't prove it by me!

I'm not certain as to what it means, but Dale brags about his ability to communicate from both ends. As a result of this statement, he has been advised by WA5BQX to be very careful when he visits his local proctologist.

There are many sides to Dale, and one of the better ones is his love for the greatest mode of operation there is, that being CW. When he first got his license, he was just terrible at copying the code. However, with the advice of some fellow hams, he quickly developed the art of copying through making actual contacts on the air and now

## MORE OCAPA

has his Advanced and only lacks passing the theory to earn his Extra Class license. Good going Dale!

Dale would probably take the prize for being the best joke teller of the club. Most are a little raunchy, but he gets a big laugh out of watching other folks bust a gut. Dale is pretty much an okay fellow. I guess we should consider ourselves lucky to have such a giant in OCAPA! de K5NK. [Looks like you should have left well enough alone Dale!.....njlv].

### Info of Interest

From Mac K2GKK, the following:

**THE MACHO NERD.** There's a new breed of man around these days. I call him "The Macho Nerd."

The Macho Nerd is the high-tech guy of the Nineties who proves his masculinity by letting the world know about his great computer system and how much he knows about technology.

It no longer matters how athletic you are, how good-looking you are, or how much money you make. All that matters is your hardware. When you meet a Macho Nerd, the first thing he asks is "So what kind of system do you have?"

This is how The Macho Nerd sizes you up: Macintosh guys consider themselves superior to Apple II guys, and Apple II guys consider themselves superior to Commodore or Atari guys. In the Macho Nerd dominance hierarchy, IBM guys consider themselves to be above EVERYBODY.

I've met guys who were ASHAMED to tell me they still use an old TRS-80 computer. They can't even look you in the eye when they say it, and make sure to add that they'll be buying a new computer any day now.

I myself am embarrassed to admit to Macintosh aficionados that I still use "MacWrite," an adequate but elementary word processing program. "Whattsa matter, wimp?," they sneer, "Not man enough to handle Microsoft Word?"

To these computer literate bullies, bigger is better, new is good, old is bad, and the more money you paid for your equipment, the tougher you are. It isn't good enough to have a hard disk drive anymore. Now you've got to have an 80 MEGABYTE hard drive. It isn't good enough to have an RGB display. Now you've got to have a TWO PAGE display. And a scanner on your desktop ALWAYS helps you earn respect.

Real men don't use floppy disks. Bytes are for sissies. Megabytes are "where it's at". The more the better. User friendliness is for wimps. And the more desk space your computer system takes up, the more of a man you are.

The computer industry feeds The Macho Nerd mentality by constantly introducing new, improved, better, bigger versions of their products.

"Microsoft Word," for example, was supposed to be great when it was introduced a few years ago. But how good could it have been if they've since upgraded it with version 1.05, then 3.0, then 3.1, then 3.12 and 4.0? Can't these guys EVER get it right?

Computer people used to hide their hobby from the rest of the world like it was an illicit activity. These days, you can't shut them up. Most conversations, it seems, eventually work their way to spreadsheets and databases. When it reaches that point, they like to show off their manliness by spouting computer jargon. I know a few things about computers, but at a trade show recently a guy talked to me for a half an hour and I have absolutely NO idea what he said. When he was finished, I felt like I had been beaten up by the neighborhood bully.

The sad part is, it looks like The Macho Nerd is here to stay. Teenage boys used to dream about driving a four-on-the-floor Corvette with 400 horsepower under the hood, mag wheels that could go from zero to sixty in less than seven seconds and a good-looking blonde in the passenger seat.

These days, those same boys fantasize about an IBM 486 machine with four megabytes of memory and a Hewlett Packard laser printer that will go from zero to 500 characters per second, and a good looking blonde telecommunicating from her terminal across the country. (Some things never change!) [Author Unknown].de K2GKK.

TNX for your help with the articles Chuck and Mac. It sure takes the pressure off of me! In any members would like to help out with material for the C&E please let me know, and I will be sure to get it published.

### Technical Tips

I took the opportunity to visit the VE test session at the Salvation Army HQ on Monday June 15. By the way, those VE guys sure do a great job! Make sure you take the opportunity to thank them for the volunteer job that they do whenever you get the chance.

Anyway, back to the technical tip! I watched Dale N5TXE sit there and whiz through his Advanced theory exam in very short time. He brought his test up to be graded, and missed only two questions! Now as we all know, the Advanced theory test is supposedly the toughest of all of the theory tests. So how was it that this ham stepped through this

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## OCAPA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

=====

The Oklahoma City Autopatch Association welcomes its NEW members who are listed below:

CALL	NAME	QTH
=====	=====	=====
KA 5 AFN	Bob	Edmond
KI 5 FY	Dan	Wesley, AR
WD 0 GTY	Jeff	Bethany
KB 5 KYM	Ian	Wesley, AR
KB 2 LWS	Earl	Tinker AFB
N 5 PHF	Sharon	Wesley, AR
KB 5 TCW	Jeff	Okla City
N 5 XAX	Ryan	Okla City
N 5 ZHR	Tom	Okla City
N 5 ZUL	Shad	Midwest Cty

We regret the failure to renew by the following:

KI 5 OM      N 5 RIG

tremendous challenge with seemingly little effort! (Like leaping tall buildings or something like that!).

The answer is PASTA! That's right - PASTA! Taking great interest in Dale's advancement through his license exams, I suggested to him that he prepare himself for the test session the way I prep for a big contest, with a big plate of carbs...Pasta! Looks like it works pretty good, and I don't think we can keep something this big a secret for very much longer!

I hope this technical tip works well for everyone!

-----  
That's it for this month! Keep your guy wires tight!

73 de NJ1V ..... "victor"

July 25-26

'92

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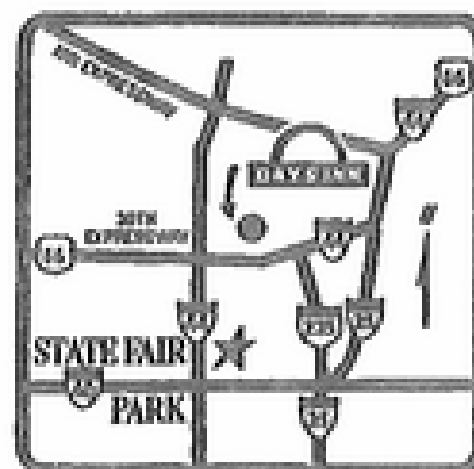
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CORA

## WHEATSTRAW

ill be Prouty street. Go north you will stop at a stop and go light. 1/2 block of that light is the city hall west side of road. Park any where around there but go in the large glass door on the east side. Go up the stairs then left to the glass door. Ride the stair lift if needed. Some of the locals will be there.

I read an advertisement I thought was good and just like some of we people. Headline .WARNING to non--subscribers: This was in the Stillwater News Press.

A man who didn't want to spend the time or money to subscribe to his local newspaper sent his son to borrow his neighbor's paper. In his haste the boy ran into an \$80.00 hive of bees and in 10 minutes he looked like a warty squash. His father ran to his assistance and, failing to notice the barbed wire fence cutting a hole in his leg as well as ruining a pair of \$25.00 jeans. An old cow standing in the pasture took advantage of the gap in the fence and killed herself eating green corn. Hearing the racket outside, the wife ran out and turned over a four-gallon churn of milk onto a basket of chicks, drowning the entire batch of chicks. In her haste she dropped her \$135 set of false teeth, which the family dog buried thinking it was a new type of bone. The baby, having been left alone, crawled through the spilled cream and into the parlor, ruining the family's \$250 carpet. During the excitement the oldest daughter ran away with the hired hand, a stray dog scattered eleven setting hens, the calves got out and chewed the tails off four fine shirts that were hanging on the clothes line, and the family cat had a litter kittens.

All this just to save 35¢.

There were twenty seven at the June 14th meeting. The meeting was called to order by vice president AB52 Ray Barnes at 3:05 pm due to the stormy weather. After going thru the storm every body was about ready to go home. After a brief discussion of having a field day. W05B made a motion we just have a hamburger fry on Saturday evening at 7:pm in the kingfisher park. The park is located east under the

underpass to the right if you come in from the south on 81 turn right at the 33 east highway. From the west go straight through the light follow the same route. From the north turn left at the same stop light. When you get in the park the shelter is southeast of the swimming pool. The club will furnish the meat. Those who attend bring, drinks or any kind of trimmings. Some of you may wish to bring a dessert. And there will be an evening of good fellowship, and good eating.

The American Legion is putting together a Fourth of July celebration again this year from four to seven P.M. music singing, games for all the youngsters, and a family and or friends group picnic at five thirty. I hope your C & E is delivered before then.

What ever your religion or politics are I am a strong believer in patriotism. Here is a poem written by a soldier Robert G.K. Olson USA July 4, 1975.

### SWEET LIBERTY

Here is another "chunk of my hide" and all of my pride in the words that follow..... Liberty, My country, it rings of Liberty God knowing our choice of home Holds grace of Spirit in the Land. A truth of light and life His power becomes our might: As bells of joy sound mellow in July. The echoes of old yesterdays Across green meadows, Colonial ways, They carry bugles calling "Arms"! And new stiched flags for charms To guide the eager Freeman's eye: As bells of joy sound mellow in July. The memories of Bunker Hill, Old Ironsides, Emmeshing tangles of foreign brawls A "Big Stick" threatens who "treads on me" Man's errors, ours to find a tear For justice to the common cause. As bells of joy sound mellow in July. The hour grows within our soul To know where wrong, our ego flies, Desending on a weaker foe, But we remian to grow anew With justice living The Lord: As bells of joy sound mellow in July. Now, to the peal of Liberty We seek the Truth within the Light Our generous God stands by our side To grant petitions for honest men Who seek the judgement of Heaven's hosts: As bells of joy sound mellow in July.

Drive safely, have a safe happy. Fourth of July,

WA5PFK Ralph

## ELMER and SAM (New Tech)

Elmer: Sam, I see you bought that used handi-talkie from Joe. Have you been on the repeater?

Sam (new tech): No, but I have been listening to the guys talk on the repeater, but needed to ask you about correct procedures first. To call someone, you say their call sign first and then yours?

Elmer: Yes, that's the best way.

Sam: Well, lots of hams are saying things that I don't remember in the FCC rule book that you loaned me.

Elmer: Oh, what's that?

Sam: I hear many hams call a guy then when they get no response, they key-up again and say things like 'negative contact, this is KB5--- clear'. Or some will say 'nothing heard' or 'station not heard' or 'no response' and then they sign off with their call sign again. Do I have to come back and say something like this every time if I get no response from a call?

Elmer: No! I don't know where these 'lids' come up with this kind of stuff, but it is a total waste of repeater time and not required by the FCC. Who are they talking to anyway? The FCC only requires you to give your call sign every 10 minutes and then again at the end of your conversation.

Sam: Is it just the new hams that are saying these things?

Elmer: No, I hate to admit this, but some of the worst are old timers with higher class tickets and even some of the repeater trustees.

Sam: At the end do I need to say the other stations' call then my call?

Elmer: No, you do not need to say the other ham's call sign, although many people do. It is not required by the FCC or the ham community.

Sam: What about adding portable or mobile to your call sign on the repeater?

Elmer: Years ago this was a requirement, but today the new FCC rules do not require them. But it is certainly acceptable if you sort of want to indicate to others that you are mobile or portable.

Sam: Looks like to me talking on the repeater should be easy. All you have to remember is to keep it simple.

Elmer: You got it right. Just speak clearly in plain language with no 'radio-ese' and you will be setting a good example.



VHF Club  
NEWS

W5LOW  
Elmer Gockler Memorial  
Station

#### Minutes of May Meeting

Meeting was called to order by President Jack, WB5ZKZ, at 12:00 p.m. with 14 members and guests present. Bob, W5HXL, related the story of Charlie, WA5JGU, and Marie's mishap on the way to Texhoma. They were unhurt but their van and trailer took a bad lick when they were forced off the road by a semi-trailer.

Ellard, W5KE, was not present at the main meeting to give his Treasurer's report, but since the main meeting was so short (a record!) it was re-opened afterward for his report. There was time, however to elect Fred, W5NL, as Turkey of the Month! The main meeting adjourned at 12:04 so Fred, W5NL, could proceed with his program relating to his literacy tutoring activities.

Joe, K5JB, Sec'y

#### Minutes of June Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 11:59 a.m. by President Jack, WB5ZKZ, with 16 members and guests present.

After I read the minutes, and Ellard, W5KE, gave his Treasurer's report, Bob, W5HXL, gave us an update on Charlie, WA5JGU, who is recovering from surgery. A card was passed around for Charlie's many friends to sign. (I didn't know he had so many friends, heh!)

Bob, W5HXL, advised us of the watermelon feed plans that had been made and asked that I run the announcement in both the July and August C&Es. ALL AMATEURS ARE INVITED -- IT IS FREEBIE!

Motion passed that the VHF Club procure a flea market table at Ham Holiday in order for the members to have a place to sell their stuff (and a place to rest a bit).

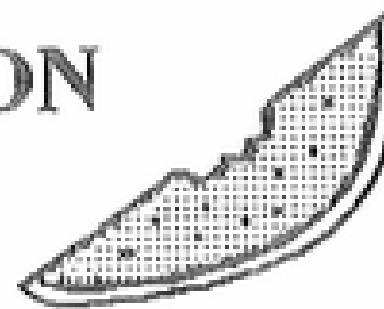
Meeting adjourned at 12:09 so Bill, WA5FWD, could give us a presentation about diabetes. Since Fred, W5NL, forgot to bring up the turkey award, he got it by default for another month!

Joe, K5JB, Sec'y

#### New Toy

I bought myself a new toy about a month ago -- another computer. But, this one is different, it has color! Heh!

## WATERMELON FEED!



## Y'All Come!

Friday, August 14, 6:00 p.m.

Bethany Lyon Park, West Shelter  
N.W. 36th, Between Rockwell and Council

### Everybody's Invited!

Sponsored by VHF and ACARC Clubs

I finally decided to get one with enough horsepower to handle the graphical user interface (GUI is pronounced "goeey") instead of the "looeey" (LUI, or "literate user's interface"), and still have enough stuff to do some useful work. Roger, AA5ER, at PC-Tech, fixed me up when I told him to pull out all the stops, and I got a 33 MHz 80486, Windows, a mouse, and all like that.

Before I got involved in Windows, I ran some tests of the new computer on my favorite C programming project, the TCP/IP networking code for MS-DOS. On the new computer the 90k lines of code compiled from scratch in 1 minute, 20 seconds, compared to maybe 7 1/2 minutes on the 20 MHz '386. Not bad!

Until I started this column, I had done almost nothing else useful with this machine but I have had a lot of fun playing with it and looking at the pretty pictures. When Bob, W5HXL, asked me to make a noticeable announcement about the watermelon feed, I thought it would be a good time to do the paint thing and make a watermelon slice with the computer. (I had Bob's cut from last year to use as a model so I didn't have to use much imagination about what a watermelon slice should look like.

Well, I got up at 5:00 a.m. this Saturday morning, started working on my watermelon slice, took time out to go to the club meeting, went home and back to work on my watermelon, took about an hour nap, and finally finished it about 9:00 p.m. Not bad for a device that is supposed to improve productivity, eh? I am glad we are going to run the cut two months because I can get more mileage out of it that way...

I have to admit that I am too cheap to buy one of the word processing pro-

grams for Windows, and am still using my \$9.95 copy of Wordstar 5.5 to do the Postscript output for the laser printer. Processing the image for the watermelon feed required the services of several programs before it was "clip art" for the printer. (It took maybe 10 minutes to make the graphic and add the text -- rest of the time was piddling with ways to make it fit the way I wanted and to make templates for later use.)

In any case, I am going to do a pen and ink version in case the results look too bad after the laser printer does its thing. I bet I can do the pen and ink version in less than 10 minutes... Joe, K5JB

#### Happenings on Packet

It looks like there is going to be some things happening to improve the ROSE network around here. Norm, N0ELS; Smitty, AC5C; Larry, WB5CQU, and others are busy putting ROSE routers, and switches up. A new one at Purcell is on the air and some tests on UHF will soon tell if it will become a full-fledged switch. Some equipment is being rounded up for Anadarko -- J, KB0QJ, is chief contributor on that one. A new switch at Velma is making it much easier for the Lawton folks to make it into Oklahoma City, and South into Texas.

Larry, WB5CQU, has not been successful in getting the ROSE to run 9600 bauds yet, and has had a steak of bad luck in the last month. A lightning hit took out a bunch of his gear, and a PacComm 9600 baud data radio had to go back to the factory to be fixed. I still haven't found any use for the 9600 baud terminal I put together, and haven't put together the TAPR 9600 baud modem I got at Dayton.

Let's check the mail... Joe, K5JB



### RF Pollution - Light Bulbs!

Just when I thought I was about swamped from RFI coming from power lines and neighbor's appliances, I read in the paper where someone had invented a light bulb that worked by exciting phosphors with a strong RF field. Wonderful! I can't think of a more stupid way to try and get light out of electricity when you consider the efficiency of RF devices, and the side effect of "incidental radiation".

For you who may not have thought of it, it used to be a popular stunt to tape a neon bulb, or even a fluorescent lamp to the mobile antenna and watch it go winky blinky when you transmit on single sideband. (I guess the constant signal from an FM transmitter would be kind of boring, eh?)

Well, a recent bulletin from ARRL contained some more information about the RF "light bulb" deal. Here it is:

Special Bulletin 23 ARLX023

From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT June 10, 1992

To all radio amateurs

A new RF-powered lightbulb design announced recently is not yet in production nor are engineering samples available. Although the manufacturer, Intersource Technologies Inc. of Sunnyvale, California, says the bulbs are expected to meet FCC Part 15 rules regarding incidental interference, many radio amateurs have expressed concern about the bulbs.

A spokesman for General Electric Company's lighting division, quoted in the Washington Post, said GE felt the idea was not marketable at this time, citing concerns about possible interference to radio receiving devices, among others.

Tom Moore, a spokesman for Intersource, said the company had received a number of calls from amateurs, mostly neighbors in Silicon Valley, many of them offering to "beta test" bulbs when they become available.

Moore said he expects that the bulbs will have to be FCC type accepted. When asked about the possibility of a nearby transmitter lighting up one of the bulbs, he said it was Intersource's belief that it would take a transmitter many times the power of an amateur radio set to be able to do so.

The bulbs as currently envisioned would operate at 13.56 MHz, within the

"Industrial, Scientific and Medical" band. 25 watts of rf power would produce the same amount of light that an ordinary 100 watt incandescent bulb does. The bulbs would use a crystal oscillator, power amplifier, and a coil-type antenna to "couple high frequency electrical energy into a mercury vapor plasma."

The ARRL technical department will conduct tests on sample bulbs as soon as they are available.

(Editorial comment: An ordinary fluorescent bulb performs just as efficiently. I have several 15W lamps that put out the light of 60W incandescent bulbs -- JB)

### Sleaze Cost Inflating

Here is another one that caught my eye. This fine should be big enough to grab this type by the wallet!

ARRL Bulletin 53  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT June 10, 1992

To all radio amateurs

The FCC has initiated a fine of 15 thousand dollars for an amateur accused of malicious interference using an unlicensed station. James Winstead Jr, KK6SM, of Redwood City, CA, is accused of using a mobile dual band transceiver to interfere with communications on commercial UHF channels, according to a June 8, 1992 FCC public notice.

According to the FCC, from October 1990 to July 1991 their San Francisco office was contacted by at least 15 public service agencies and others, including amateurs, complaining of harmful interference. The subsequent investigation, reported in October, 1991 QST, page 64, included the assistance of a number of local amateurs.

Winstead, who according to the FCC admitted what he was doing when he was apprehended, had not been identified by the Commission until the Notice of Apparent Liability was issued, on May 18.

### Winding Down

I couldn't resist, when I saw that I had a whole column left to fill out a page, to try a little box I worked out yesterday.

Bob, W5HXL, is to blame for all this frivolity. If he hadn't said anything I would have simply doctored the date of the cut he sent last year, and pasted it to the printed copy. Now that I have the

thirteen steps down pat, maybe I can remember them next year. (I had better get started on the Christmas greeting now if I am going to work at this rate.)

**DON'T  
FORGET!**

**Watermelon  
Feed...**

**Next Month!**

I am happy that I haven't had any lightning damage this year. Several of my friends have -- it seems to be endemic to packet operation because of the compulsion to keep the dang things on the air all the time. My practices are not typical of traditional thinking. Rather than "grounding" everything, I tie all the circuits together with MOVs, or whatever, and keep them as far away as "ground" as possible. By doing it that way I try and prevent lightning current that flows through "grounding" networks from dividing and doing a number on my stuff. The most vulnerable piece of equipment is the Unix computer which is not only connected to the power and antenna system, it is connected to the telephone line. The power and telephone connections are made through a box designed by AT&T for the Merlin phone system and must have two dozen MOVs and other devices in it. All of them lead to a common ground point which is tied to the power line "safety ground". I simply disconnect the cables to the radio equipment when I am not using them. (One radio remains -- a talkie connected to an indoor antenna.)

Like I said, so far, so good.

I guess you know how to estimate how close a lightning strike is? Since sound travels a little over 1000 feet per second at sea level, you can count seconds between the flash and the sound arrivals, divide by five, and have the answer in miles. When the flash and sound are a second apart, the strike was 2 or 3 blocks away, and that is close enough to put your "ground system" into orbit! When the flash and sound are simultaneous, you got off lucky!

You should know that the official end of the tornado season in Oklahoma is in the middle of June. No matter what, summer is coming! Joe, K5JB

