

Altus News

Altus Area Amateur Radio Club: Best thing going in SW Oklahoma!

The monthly meeting of the AAARC was held on Thursday evening, the 14th of April starting at 1930 hrs in the basement of the North Main Fire Station, Altus, OK. Duty Calls kept Jim, AB5SI, and Mike, KC5AWB, from filling their regular roles as Club President and Secretary, but two eager volunteers stepped up to cover the vacancies and so the show went on. Thanks to George, AA1IJ, and Dale, KJ5WP, for running the meeting while Jim and Mike were away.

Looking through the attendance roster, there were several Calls that were new to these eyeballs so I thought it only fitting to recognize the new calls or new faces to the club meeting. After many Thursday nights of introducing himself as SWL, Milton Chorn is now the proud new owner of KC5FRM (Finally received mine!).

Congratulations Milt on the new call. Another new call on the sign-in sheet was KC4RP, Tony Quarles. Good to have you in attendance at Altus Tony and come back anytime. Other new calls belonging to old faces within the club were KJ5WP, Dale formerly known as KC5CYU, and KJ5WR now assigned to John who graduated from KB5ZCK. Congratulations guys on your advancement through amateur radio, now try and learn those calls before your Extra Class ones get here!

On to the topics that were covered at the nights meeting.

ARRL Testing -- James AB5NT announced that there will be another testing session on the 30th of April that will be held in Altus. It will be held at the Wilson Center, which is handicap accessible, starting at 1830 for the code testing and 1900 for the theory segment.

Jim, N5UJB, inquired about a current listing of all the paid up club members belonging to the Altus Area Amateur Radio Club. The delay in getting this list out falls squarely on the new bookkeeper and I accept the blame entirely. The present list that I have put together includes the spouses' names, members' spouses' names, members' addresses, phone numbers, etc. contained together and I have been holding up distribution of this list because of my military upbringing. That means that some folks don't like all their personal information given out on a club roster or listing and I can respect their views on that matter. My hold-up is checking with each member to see if he or she minds having this information released so as not to offend anyone by my actions. I speak from experience when I say that years of friendship and good faith can be dumped in a heartbeat when someone publishes an unlisted phone number or exact listing of a house num-

ber or location. Rather than trash my current listing and go with just names and call signs, within the near future I will have approval from all persons listed and feel 100% better in publishing the current members' listing. And folks today think that the military doesn't teach you anything anymore, better safe than sorry is always a good lesson in my book.

Moving right along, James, AB5NT, inquired to the membership about the possibility of holding this year's Field Day event in adjoining Harmon County versus within the local city limits of Altus. James stated that Harmon county is pretty rare for those folks who are county hunters and the different location might bring in numerous contacts for our Field Day total point tallies. This issue will be announced over the nightly round table net and see what the local membership wants to decide for this year's non-stop event.

George, AA1IJ, announced that dates and times for this year's Quartz Mountain bike race have not been set yet by the cycling participants. When they are, he will be looking for volunteers to staff the different stations and check points that ensure a smoother and more efficient operation for the entire event. Our club get-together meal this month will be a breakfast function and will be held on Saturday morning the 16th of April at the Quartz Mountain Lodge starting at 0900. May will be a luncheon month with the date and time to be announced later.

John, KB5RDH, brought up the subject of passing on congratulations to any and all amateurs that do any upgrading. An advancement from Novice to Technician deserves recognition just as rightly as

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someone who jumps from Advance Class to Extra.

When you hear those new calls out there, be sure to pass on your appreciation that someone's hard work and dedication has paid off for him or her by progressing upward through the ranks of Amateur Radio.

Oh by the way, did I tell you about my Uncle who works in the butcher shop? He runs the meat grinder at the store and yesterday he backed into the machine and got a little behind in his work! Just checking to see if your still with me or not.

Have you thanked one of your Elmers lately?

Nothing further to come before the membership, the April meeting was dismissed and twice as much fellowship took place after the meeting as was conducted during the meeting. Still waiting to check into that 40 meter net Bob. What's the hold up?

Anyone with the weekday breakfast blues? Try checking into the breakfast net on the 146.79 machine with Dotty, KC5EEO. She's got corn flakes and cold toast beat all to heck. That's all for now-folks. Hope to see everyone at the next monthly meeting on Thursday night, 12 May at 1930, (you know, 7:30 PM) downstairs at the North Main Fire Station in Altus! Support your local repeaters, we couldn't get by without 'em.

73, Mike, KC5AWB

I haven't written here for a while. I've left that up to you. There has been plenty of activity and people willing to help so that there really was no need for me to add any of my own comments to the pages of our newsletter. There was no need for me to write anything, until now.

Before, I was writting to answer questions about the C&E. Now, I am writing to inform you that I can't continue editing the C&E and mailing it each month. I have had some family problems that have eaten up all of the time to do this with and I know these problems may not be rectified for several months.

I would like to thank everyone that has made an effort to help with the C&E. I would especially like to thank Joe Busswell. He is the perfect example of what a club editor should be. Look at the VHF club articles. They are printed just as I received them. I had to use "no brains" on my part.

I wish the C&E well. I know that there are many capable hands ready to go to work at it and mold it into a newletter that we can all be proud of.

73,
Scott, N5NYS

**PreRegister for Ham
Holiday on Page 14!**

EDITOR-Scott Walsh, N5NYS

**Editor Emeritus
Joe Harding, WA5ZNF**

Dear Subscriber,

PLEASE help up keep your information up do date. Check your entry on the back page. If there appears to be a mistake, check with your club officials and have it changed

Dear Secretary/Treasurer,

When you need a change of any sort to your membership, your must fill out completely a membership slip. Watch for the date you received their money and the date the subscription expires. Have your slips, or a list of deletions submitted by the 22nd of each month. If there is anything about the C&E subscriptions you need to know, please contact Tom Mangham, K5LDI at (405) 677-5291.

Story information, as well as letters to the Editor should be sent to:

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Yukon, OK 73099-2008

or left in their entirety on the BBS at (405) 354-3241, N81,1200-14.4k. You can also leave your article with K5JB on 145.01 packet.

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THE OCAPA SEMI-ANNUAL HAMNIC

The Semi-annual HAMNIC was Saturday April 23rd at the ranch of Don KC5BRO and Carol KC5EXR. What a great time that was had by all. This year there was around 75 people who attended this advent. The party started around noon with the setting up of the ham stations and antennas. There was fishing, volley ball, horseshoes, football, and eating, lots of eating and great fellowship. Don KC5BRO entertained with his radio control airplane, until Newton's law visited (the go up come down part). A bonfire ended the evening with smores and marshmallow roasting with nobody wanting to leave until long after dark. The Hamnic provide a opportunity for hams and non hams to get together. Thanks to Keith KI5XA and Mary KB5VNP for coordinating the hamnic and providing the special awards. We appreciate all of those who helped make this a happening.

A GREAT BIG THANK-YOU GOES OUT TO DON AND CAROL FOR THE USE OF THERE PLACE.

Chit Chat by K5SWQR CHERYL
KB5VNP MARY

"Does anyone make a purely satellite rig and which one is best?"

This is the most commonly asked question by folks wanting to get into amateur satellite operations. Until this month, the primary answer was the Yaesu FT-736. However, hold on to your collective hats, the 'big three', Icom, Kenwood and Yaesu, are about to introduce no less than three new dedicated satellite rigs.

Let's begin with well founded rumor. The Yaesu FT-736, the most popular OSCAR rig in use will be replaced by the "FT-746". No words on what features it would have but, a direct access plug for

1200/9600 baud packet is a sure bet. Hopefully, many of the unnecessary 'bells & whistles' will be deleted and the cabinet size will be reduced.

Kenwood's offering into space communications is the TM-255; an all-mode unit with 1200/9600 baud TNC ONBOARD! Yes, finally a manufacturer has built the TNC into the rig. No words if the unit is dual band but, it's being advertised as a satellite rig. The '255' will use the same cabinet as the popular TS-50 thus, it will be small and great for mountain-topping or DX-peditions. Power output will be around 40 watts. As with speculation on the '746', it will be a basic rig with minimal 'boiler plating'. The 255 will probably replace the TS-790 which was not a screaming success due to 'strange and awkward' operating characteristics.

Icom's new entry is the IC-820. Like the TM-255, the 820 is small; roughly the same size as the IC-275/475 twins. The 820 will most likely replace the IC-970 which was expensive (\$2,400) and big (same cabinet as the IC-781). The 820 will have the main band transmit, sub band receive operation like the 970 but, once again, without the seldom used features. The rig will also have a rear panel 1200/9600 baud port. Three power level models are available (10, 25 and 75 watts). Current thinking has only the 25 watt model available in the U.S. market. Price is estimated around \$1,500; comparable to the FT-736.

All three 'newbies' will probably not have an onboard powersupply, i.e. 12VDC only.

What about U.S. manufacturers? Ten-Tec produced one of the earliest pure satellite rigs back in 1983, the 2510A. However, it bombed; the dial read out the uplink frequency no the down link which is the most critical, you had to do

some fancy math to determine your downlink frequency, and the ALC board was prone to giving up the ghost. It's real strength was simplicity. The follow-on unit, the 2510B, solved all of these problems and even included a Doppler tracking feature. However, Ten-Tec was too late, Yaesu's FT-726 (the FT-736's predecessor) had captured the market. Word has it, Ten-Tec has hundreds of 2510B's stacked in a warehouse.

In short, we'll see more satellite rigs hit the market than ever before. My suggestion...hang in there and see what features each one has and make your choice.

Memorial to W5MEL established by OCAPA

In march of this year, the Oklahoma City amateur radio community lost one of its stellar members, Leonard Hanstein, W5MEL. A long time member of OCAPA, there was hardly a member of the local amateur community who was not influenced by this gentleman.

Leonard spent thirty-plus years as an educator and considered it his greatest vocation. He was a mentor to an entire generation of business, civic and community leaders.

Considering Leonard's love of the teaching profession and education, OCAPA has decided to establish the "Leonard Hanstein Memorial Scholarship", a grant-in-aid to a graduation high school senior who intends to continue their education. The amount is tentatively set at \$500 and will be presented at Ham Holiday '94.

Larry Divis, KF5JN, and Tom Killian, N5TCG, have been tasked to develop selection criteria for the grant.

(Continued on page 4)

OCAPA continued...

(Continued from page 3)

Sustaining funds will be raised by OCAPA primarily through club raffles and individual donations. Anyone wishing to honor Leonard's memory is welcome to make a donation through the OCAPA treasurer.

OCAPA DEMONSTRATES AMATEUR RADIO FOR YOUNG INVENTORS

On February 9, 1994, the annual Oklahoma Student Inventors Exposition was held at the Oklahoma State Capitol Building. Bill Enter, KB5NUA was the driving force behind the exposition. The organization encouraged elementary, junior high and high school students to test their limits of innovation by creating original inventions. Student inventors displayed their level at "Inventor Fairs".

An active ham, Bill wanted to expose student inventors to amateur radio. In mid-fall of 1993, he invited members of various radio clubs in the Oklahoma City area to establish a demonstration ama-

teur radio station at the February 1994 exposition to be held in the state capitol building.

Sadly, in November 1993, Bill became a Silent Key. However, his idea did not pass with him. The members of the Oklahoma City Autopatch Association (OCAPA) took up the challenge and concluded arrangements for a station.

The day of the exposition dawned the coldest day of the year. Chill factors of -30 degrees and winds of 15 to 30 knots would have discouraged a less dedicated group. OCAPA members arrived at 7:30 AM; assignments were made; antennas erected and stations setup. By 8:30AM, "N5KXI" was on the air. Over two dozen OCAPA members assisted in the setup, remained at the station for the day, or provided equipment.

Over 150 young inventors, and several members of the Oklahoma State Legislature, has an opportunity to discover the hobby of amateur radio.

Bill would have been very pleased.

Amateur Radio
Society

EARS

Alton Sage - how do we understand?...
How do we go on?...

We lost a great chief warrior, soothsayer and friend when KB5LIC went to be with the Lord. For his few years as an amateur radio operator he gave more, cared more, laughed more and appreciated more than most who have been hams many times longer. He was always part of the solution and was never part for the problem. Alton did not just talk the talk, he walked the walk.

What an inspiration! What a role model to those of us, unlike Alton, who trip over toothpicks. How do we understand, how do we go...

Alton always greeted with warmth, a ready handshake and a bit of twinkle in his eye. He was always, without doubt, tickled to see club members and their families. He touched with his heart, not just his hand.

73, WB5SYT-John



Alton Sage, KB5LIC, on vacation... and having a good time.

MORI

About a month ago at a meeting of the various amateur weather groups, it was decided that there needed to be more communication between the amateur wx groups and the National Weather Service. At that time, it was agreed upon each of the spotting groups (Autopatch, Ears, Scars, Ect...) would relay severe wx information to the National Weather Service via 145.21. During severe wx, .21 may be heavily used. We ask that during severe wx events, you NOT use 145.21 because of the vital link it provides. Around 6:30am and noon every day, the thunderstorm outlook will be broadcast by an amateur that works at NWS on 145.21. Martin, KN6UG is pleased to report that .21 no longer requires a subaudible tone! The autopatch on .925 has had a few problems because of the controller, but after taking a shotgun to it, the phone patch now works!

At the April meeting, it was agreed that MORI will start a drive to collect ARRL books for donation to the Metropolitan Library System. After calling the online Card Catalog Service, I was suprised to discover that there are very few books related to amateur radio available for checkout. Between now and field day, Earl KJ5HN and myself will collect any ARRL Handbooks, license manuals, ect. that are not very old and are in good shape. And they will be donated to the Metropolitan Library System. There will be tremendous benefits by making more publications available to potential hams.

WELCOME BACK!!!

I'm sure many of you already know that the Night Owl Net is back on .67 @ 10:30 every night. Since its move, I've listened to the net numerous times and

am amazed at the number of check-ins it sometimes has. Everyone is more than welcome to check in, (Im sure having too many people couldn't hurt.)

At Ham Holiday, MORI will again have about 3 tables for the purpose of telling surplus club equipment. The tables are also available for members to sell any of their own equipment...The only thing we ask is that if you place an item to sell on the table, you spend at least an hour watching the table...

73 de N5QKI, Robert

SO YOU WANT TO BE A LID?

Lid...a term used in amateur radio to denote a poor operator; one who is inept at the practice of the art.

A monumental problem facing amateur radio today is the alarming amount of poor operators filling the air waves. It is the opinion of many that one of the reasons for this is the fact that many of the new operators really have not been advised about proper operating procedures. Too many of the "amateur radio classes" produced today spend very little, if any, time correcting operating procedures. Their major thrust is to teach the code, cram the theory, and fill out a 610 form!

It is easy to be a lid, it must be, there are so many of them. If you are already a lid, read on. you may find some new "lid-isms." If you are not yet a full-fledged lid, you may learn some new material for your next transmissions.

Probably the most popular is "QRZ the frequency." Nobody can be quite sure what the exact meaning of this is. The ARRL Handbook lists QRZ as a CW "shorthand" signal meaning "Who is calling me?" On phone it may mean something else, although I can't imagine a frequency calling someone! I

even heard a W5 utter "QRZ the channel!" Now this guy is a chief lid. The frequency was silent for a while (Probably as most good operators were in a state of shock) and then a signal from afar responded, "This is the channel and I wasn't calling you!"

I think "QRZ the channel" and "QRZ the frequency" are real winners. Use them a lot. You'll chase the good, experienced hams out of their gourds.

Actually, the use of "Q" signals on phone is in itself a true "lid-ism." The "Q" signals were devised by high speed CW operators as a form of "shorthand" in order to speed up their transmissions. What use they have on phone is questionable, as in many ases you can say the actual meaning just as fast. In many cases they cause more confusion than if you would have said the actual meaning. Then you get the real lid who comes off with "QRM-Mary or QRN-Nancy?" Good heavens, why didn't he just say he had interference?

Now, you must be ready with this one at a moment's notice: "HI."

Never, ever, laugh if you find something funny. Say "HI" or even better "HI-HI." It doesn't really take the place of laughter, but it tells the other operators that you know how to laugh on CW.

Another one. Always give your callsign phonetically when operating on phone, especially when conditions are good and signals are clear. It's another small way to take up valuable air time without really adding any intelligence to a conversation. To cut a fine line, it is not legal to identify your station by saying "Whiskey Five Victor Sierra Romeo." If your call is issued W5VSR, the identification is "This is W5VSR." If copy is difficult and for clarification, then, "This is W5VSR. Whiskey Five Victor Sierra Romeo." So

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continue your lid-ism and show how clever you can be with ridiculous phonetics. A good friend of mine is W5BS; he has a lot of self-restraint!!

Are you interested in DX? Put these on your DX lid list, "CQ Dog X-Ray." jazz it up a little by saying, impressively "CQ Dog X-Ray, beaming Asia." Not only does that improve your antenna's directionality, but it lets everyone hearing you think you have a beam, whether you do or not.

The number one, all time lid award of the century goes to those great DX operators who listen down on one frequency in the foreign part of the band and transmit up in the American phone band without ever listening on the transmitting frequency to see if it was clear. Of course, you must use two processors, in tandem, mike gain wide open, and drive your three 8877 final tubes with an SB-220 while bellowing forth, "CQ Dog X-Ray" for five continuous minutes, before listening. This is the way to attract lots of attention. Lots of it!

Next on the list is the subject of "Break." I do believe that we inherited that one from the CBers. Just find a comfortable roundtable in progress, and say "Break" or better "Break-Break" or best "Breaker-Breaker." Don't give any calls; neither the station you hear nor your own. Don't listen for a few minutes first to find out if you can hear all of the stations in the roundtable. Just break in and disrupt everything. If that doesn't work, start tuning up your rig on that frequency. After all, aren't the frequencies there for all to enjoy?

Here are some quickies: Say "Go" or "Come back" or "C'mon, Good Buddy," instead of "Over" if you think you must say anything at all to let the other operator know you are ready to listen to him. Don't forget the all time Broderick

Crawford "10-4" or better "That's a big 10-4."

It is a shame the F.C.C. no longer requires us to indicate portable operation. They have taken away another opportunity for the lid-ism--- "This is Whiskey Five Very Strong Radio, Port Five." I just typed this on my port typewriter!

RESULTS GUARANTEED

Did you ever hear a phone operator who sounds like he's operating from a dungeon? Maybe he is, but even without a dungeon you can get the same effect by turning up your mike gain and holding your Golden Eagle D-104 at least one foot, better at two, from your face. Never close talk a mike. Disc Jockeys never do and they are "cool." When you are on the air, you are "cool" too, so you do the same. Communications microphones are designed to be close talked. Keep that mike gain at a minimum level. That way you won't be transmitting the voices of your wife and kids screaming five rooms away. Of course, to be a super lid in the audio department, do use a "power mike" driving a processor.

Everybody knows that the engineers who designed your transmitter purposely made it short on mike gain.

Lastly, when giving your name, refer to it as your "Handle." It's folksy. And be sure to say, "The handle here is Beaver." That's liddier than just plain, "My name is Beaver." It also helps to punctuate your remarks with "By golly" whenever possible and remember whenever in a large roundtable, especially on a VHF repeater, give each and every call sign in the group complete with phonetics when IDing. Also don't forget to add "For ID" after your callsign.

There are many other ways to be a lid,

but I feel confident that if more operators were to take a look at this disaster from the lighter side, perhaps we'll all see just how ridiculous most of the phone operation on the ham bands is today.

Phone conversation should really not take on a much different atmosphere from talking to your friends on the telephone. Do you say "Over" or "Break" or the worst "Come back" when you are on the telephone? Well then, why do so many do it on the amateur bands? All of that is ever so redundant on a repeater system where most have "End-of-transmission" beep tones; and of course, there is usually a squelch burst ahead of that, so you actually ended up with a fellow ending his sentence with "Come back".... followed by a squelch burst followed by the repeater's beep and in many cases the repeater carrier dropping. You have just four indications that it's your turn! QSL?

Let's all pay more attention to this problem and see if we can help "Clean up" our operations and put amateur radio operations back up to the more professional nature that it enjoyed before many poor habits of the CB band crept up on us.

This article appeared in the September, 1978, Ham Radio Horizons, entitled "So You Want To Be a Lid!," by A.J. "Buddy" Massa, W5VSR.

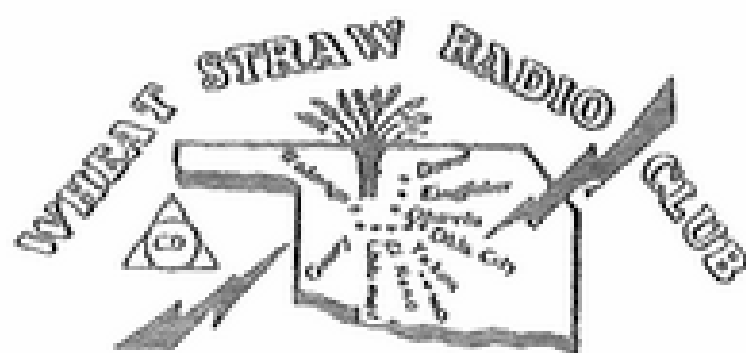
Edited for and submitted to packet radio by KN4KB, Randy.

Ham Holiday 1994



You can preregister today by turning to page 14!!

Central Oklahoma Radio Amateurs



Wheat Straw April Meeting

As planned, a group of the members met at McBee's Steak House, leaving at eight O'clock for Moreland to the Eye-Ball QSO. Leaving out was Joe, WA5GHK; Mary Ann, WA5VNF; Ray, K5LLX with Verlina; Tom, N5IKN; Bertha, N5ING; Ralph, WA5PFK with Goldie; and Johnny, K5GBN, with Margaret, WA5RLP, in the last car.

The conversation started. The farther along we travelled, the more interesting was the conversation. We learned things we did not know about each other. Yes, if you had been along you would have heard,

Well, anyway, we picked up Ray, AB5Z with Sue, KB5TNE; and, Leo, WZ5H and Ann, at the Highway 51 junction into Highway 270.

We did not have a meeting. It seems plans are about to be made for the next two months. Several other Wheat Straw members were up at Moreland for the hamfest with the covered dish dinner.

There was food left; I am sure everyone had all he or she wanted to eat. There are a lot of good cooks around!

I didn't spend very much money but I found everything I wanted at the Rad-Comm dealer from out in the Texas pan-handle. They had quite an assortment of goodies. I got a 1994 U.S. Callbook and another log book. I also bought some coax fittings from Ellard, W5KE.

From the looks of how bare some of the swap tables were, quite a bit of used parts and equipment must have been sold.

I got my C&E Friday and was glad to get it. It was a larger paper with good news and articles in it. There were club news

from clubs I had not seen for a while. Keep up the good work, and thank you!

Ralph, WA5PFK

Why Worry?

There are only two reasons for *worry*: Either you are *successful*, or you are *not successful*. If you are *successful*, there is nothing to worry about. If you are *not successful* there are only two things to worry about: Your health is *good*, or you are *sick*. If your health is *good*, there is nothing to worry about. If you are *sick*, there are only two things to worry about: You are going to *get well*, or you are going to *die*. If you are going to *get well*, there is nothing to worry about. If you are going to *die*, there are only two things to worry about: You are either going to *heaven* or you are *not going to heaven*. If you are going to *heaven*, there is nothing to worry about. If you are going to the *other place*, you will be so busy shaking hands with your friends, you won't have time to *worry* -- so why *worry*?

From the ARRL Newsletter

FCC Surveys Telephone Interference

The FCC has released the results of a telephone interference survey and concluded that since some telephones are "bullet proof", all of them could be.

Thirty five FCC field officers each selected three random cases of telephone interference on record and then visited the scenes. The transmitting stations included 47 citizen band, 27 amateur, 23 AM broadcast, 10 FM broadcast, and one international broadcast band.

The FCC Field Operations Bureau personnel first tested the telephones on site, then tested their own "bullet proof" telephones as well as several commercially available filters. Altogether, 241 different telephones were tested.

The FCC concluded that the manufacturers can design telephones to be interference free. The Commission said, "Citing its bulletproof telephones, which were immune from interference virtually all of the time.

The FCC hopes that the survey will encourage affected parties to address and resolve this problem.

The FCC said this survey is not to construed as FCC endorsement or criticism of any particular manufacturer's product.

ARRL Volunteers help head off NY plate fees

New York state amateurs will soon be able to obtain distinctive call sign plates, according to ARRL Public Information Coordinator, Stephan Anderman, WA3RKB. The original bill in the New York State Assembly was flawed, in that it would have included a \$15.00 annual surcharge. When ARRL Government Liaison Phil Bradway, KB2HQ, learned of the problem with the bill he contacted the Tryon Amateur Radio Club, of Gloversville, which had been behind the design of the plates.

The New York Department of Motor Vehicles was alerted to the problem and the bill was withdrawn, removing the threat of increased cost to amateurs.

The new plates will carry the same \$5.00 annual surcharge as the old; an initial fee of \$18.00 will pay for the plates.

Inclined to Disagree

The instructor concluded: "So even though the sun is about 93 million miles away, its light reaches us in a little over eight minutes. Isn't that amazing?"

"Not really," one student shrugged, "It's down hill all the way."

Examples of Ineffective Writing

The following are actual quotes from accident reports submitted to various insurance companies by hapless policy holders.

1. Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have.
2. The other car collided with mine without giving warning or its intentions.

3. The guy was all over the road; I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.

4. I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law, and headed over the embankment.

5. To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front, I struck the pedestrian.

6. An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my vehicle, and vanished.

7. I was sure the old fellow would never make it to the other side of the road when I struck him.

8. The pedestrian had no idea which direction to run, so I ran over him.

9. I was unable to stop in time and my car crashed into the other vehicle. The driver and passengers left immediately for vacation with injuries.

Celebrity Amateur Radio Operator

Melvin E. Miller, K5KXL, of Shawnee OK had questions about how a handicapped person could become a licensed ham. After inquiring through ARRL and getting no answers, he was lead to the Courage Center Handi Ham program in Minneapolis Minnesota.

Mel, as all his friends call him, is quite handicapped himself and knows what it means to be confined. He was invited to be a volunteer at the Handi Hams radio camp that is held annually at Lake George MN. It is one of Handi Hams' large rehabilitation camps.

Mel said, "The first year was a great experience, seeing people of all ages come in; some blind, deaf, of speechless." There were many other kinds of handicaps. Some came on gurneys, others with their seeing eye dogs. That summer his heart was very saddened and heavy laden. As the camp came to close for the summer, there were many smiles on faces, a sign of the amazing progress that had been made. Melvin loves the people and he loves going back every year to

work as an instructor. He has been going back at his own expense -- there is no pay.

The Courage Center Hospital is a non profit organization for the handicapped.

With the modern technology of this age they were able to work with these persons and get them on the air in some manner. Some by voice, others by CW, Packet, RTTY, or talking computers. They have to type in what they wish to say.

Miss Sherry Kelly, KB5YLM, living in Del City, is totally disabled. She has to use a typing wand attached to her head but she can type about 25 words per minute on CW. She is known in many states on packet radio. If some of you operate CW or packet, contact her and have a QSO with her. I am sure you both will enjoy it.

In Shawnee, Tecumseh, and Seminole, there are nine more handicapped persons with whom Mel has worked and now they are licensed and on the air. One young man went to the Courage Center training camp with Mel where he earned his no-code Technician license.

Mel communicates with approximately 38 handicapped folks throughout the USA and assists them at the training camps, and by mail were practical. He keeps in contact with his students over the International Handicap Net and the International Council for the Blind Net.

Mel doesn't hardly go to Ham Holiday in Oklahoma City. It is so hard for him to walk, has the crippling arthritis and must use a cane. He does enjoy going to Ham-com in Arlington TX. He and his friend W5GYX attended, along with their wives. The ladies like to go on the bus tours. The men stay in their motel room rooms a lot, relaxing and taking it easy.

I have a copy of the article written last ham session at Courage Center, Lake George MN. The large picture of the group showed such smiles on their faces! There were 32 students, plus counselors, teachers, and instructors. It looked like

about 50% of them were in wheel chairs.

If you know of any handicapped person wishing to earn a license see that they get in contact with,

Melvin E. Miller, K5KXL

11 Seneca Drive

Shawnee OK 74801

or call him.

When I learned just a bit of Mel working with handicapped, I had to contact him for more information. I admire him for this fine work. When we were studying, we learned that in amateur radio we were to help others without pay. Mel is certainly doing just that. There is a handicap net daily on 20 Meters. For those who are retired, or have the time, contact Mel for the exact frequency. You will thrill any of them that you work with your QSL card.

I admire Mel very much for what he is doing for the handicapped persons. May God bless him and everyone he reaches out to.

Ralph, WA5PFK

Humor -- Snipped From a Bulletin

Do you understand our economic system? Ponder This:

A community built a new satellite receiving station. After much vandalism, residents said, "Since we have this problem, we'd better have a watchman to keep an eye on things." Then someone said a watchman needed a salary, so they hired an accountant. He in turn pointed out the need for a treasurer. With a watchman, accountant and treasurer, they had to have an administrator to direct them. Naturally one was appointed.

After a cut in funding, personnel had to be cut back. So they fired the watchman.

Working late at the repeater site one night, I thought I was alone in the building and so was surprised when the interoffice landline rang. I picked it up, but before I could speak, the cleaning woman's voice came through loud and clear: "Dusting...dusting..."



VHF Club
NEWS

W5LOW
*The Elmer Guekler Memorial
Station*

Minutes of April Meeting

Since President J, KB0QJ, was unable to attend the meeting, I called it to order at 11:55 a.m. with 14 members and guests present. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the C&E, but Charlie, WA5JGU; and Fred, W5NL, wanted them read. I told them that their desires would be reflected in the minutes, so here they are! Treasurer Ellard, W5KE, gave his report which was accepted by formal motion.

Charlie, WA5JGU, assisted by Bob, W5HXL, gave the CORA report. At 11:59 a.m. meeting was adjourned so Fred, W5NL, could tell the group about his trip aboard the freighter, Sea Breeze.

Joe, K5JB, Sec'y

BBS Packet Racket

Only have one significant thing to report. Ken, N5BEW, in Norman, has been kind enough to leave his very substantial station on the air on .05 to act as a digipeater to help those south of Oklahoma City reach the K2GKK BBS. For the present anyway, you can use N5BEW-5 as a digipeater to reach K2GKK-4. I certainly appreciate Ken's willingness to do something to help out

Joe, K5JB

Oklahoma Repeater Society Meeting

ORSI is going to have a meeting at the Green Country Hamfest, Saturday May 21, 1994, at the Tulsa Convention Center, 7th and Houston.

The ORSI has two "regular" meetings per year, one in the winter at various places, and one in the summer at Ham Holiday. This meeting is "special", meaning only that it is held to make ORSI more accessible to interested amateurs. Talk in frequency is 146.88, and there is a free autopatch on 145.27.

Joe, K5JB

Information Superhighway

By now you surely have heard of Algor's "Information Superhighway". This term is commonly associated with the Internet, a world wide linking of computers mostly in universities and defense related organizations. There is not sufficient room here (and probably not sufficient general interest) to go into more detail about what the Internet is and what it provides, but in a nutshell it provides electronic mail and computer file storage and transfer capability. The Internet (note capitalization) is intended for educational and research information exchange and not for commercial uses. (Some details that I edited from this article will be posted on my Unix computer for those who may be interested. Call me for details on how to download it.)

Last month I discovered that there was a full-service Internet provider here in Oklahoma City.

In the March 24 1993 Daily Oklahoman Business Section there was an article about an Oklahoma City company, Questar Network Services, which started providing local Internet access last December. This article piqued my curiosity because I have been shopping for a more permanent Internet "home" ever since I retired a year and a half ago.

I am a pretty low time user of Internet, racking up maybe an hour a month, except when doing extensive file replacement of the Unix TCP/IP suite (the original KA9Q "NET" that I maintain). Most of my time on the Internet is used sending and receiving electronic mail to other amateur radio operators, some who are running NET, and have questions about it. Since my monthly use time is so low, the comparative costs between Internet providers that I have used are pretty much the same. Many Internet users spend several hours per month connected so the rates have to be examined carefully to determine what is the best deal for the intended amount of use. I won't go beyond generalities here so if you are interested in picking an Internet

provider you should make your own contacts, calculations, and decisions.

The three commercial accounts I have experienced are Delphi, Holonet, and Questar. The difference between these services is not so much the cost -- depending on how they are used, their costs are similar. The more significant difference is the amount of expertise required to use them. I will try and describe my impressions of them to perhaps help you decide which one might most closely fit your expertise and needs.

Delphi, has done a lot to make the Internet easier to understand and search. It is perhaps the fifth or sixth largest of the national on-line services and since adding the Internet connection has been increasing in popularity. Most of the mail that I get from amateur radio operators who are using commercial Internet providers comes from Delphi. Delphi is very easy to use. Holonet, on the other end of the spectrum is not so easy to use. It uses Unix type commands, and the standard Unix Internet utilities, so those who have been using TCP/IP on amateur radio would have no problem with it. It uses a very cheap telephone network for general access at keyboard speed, but when you are ready to download a binary file it is best to connect with one of the more expensive circuits for more cost effective performance. Delphi has excellent help facilities and gobs of help files while Holonet has almost none. If you know the right questions to ask you can call up a "talk" session with a local operator and get excellent help. I had to do that when I first subscribed because I was having some communications difficulty with their Oklahoma City terminal server. Most people might not have known the questions to ask to solve this kind of problem, but the operator at Holonet certainly gave me the right answers. With these two services available, you wouldn't think I would be interested in another provider would you?

What attracted me to Questar was that it was a local company that provided several optional levels of Internet access,

and with 14.4 kbps local dialup lines. When I phoned to enquire about it, I was greeted very pleasantly by the owner, Walt Conner, one of the guys pictured in the newspaper article. He was very patient with me, answering all kinds of questions. Some of my questions were strange because I wanted to take advantage of a peculiar domain name mapping that is popular with amateur radio operators who use packet radio. Walt was very accomodating, and with help from his Gee Whiz Assistant, Quentin Conner, we set up the addressing that I wanted. What it boils down to is this. People can mail messages on the Internet to k5jb@k5jb.ampr.org (easily confused with a packet radio host name) and it will automagically appear at my Questar (k5jb@qns.com) mail bin.

I suppose I could have set up the same kind of thing at Holonet, but it would have been much more difficult because of the long distance involved. Also, I sensed that Walt was trying hard to please me as a new customer. He quite candidly told me that Questar must sign up enough subscribers to make the Internet project a paying proposition. He was willing to do about anything that I wanted to do to make his company serve my needs.

Questar's stated purpose (from the newspaper article) is to provide and "on ramp" to the "information superhighway". This is no small task because of the wide range of expertise that customers might have. Questar has several optional plans for Internet access. The first two levels provide this "on ramp" capability, being menu driven, and provide the user with constant reminder of the commands needed to use the underlying Internet tools. There is a file reader (pager) that is used to display some useful Internet information files, but a knowledgeable user can go directly to the library of files and download them directly. Thus both inexperienced and moderately experienced users can use the system in the way that is most comfortable to them. I kind of skipped over the tutorial part because I was anxious to test functionality. The part I saw

in passing though looked adequate to get a new user started.

The higher levels available from Questar provide connectivity between the customer's home computer, running the TCP/IP software suite (FTP, Telnet, SMTP, etc), connecting his computer directly to the Internet and the other hosts. I currently have no need for these levels, but it is nice to have them available in case I want to use them later.

I hope Questar gets sufficient business to become successful because Oklahoma City could use a first class Internet provider. If you are interested in checking it out, try the guest login by dialing 843-9395 with your modem, any speed up to 14.4 kbps. You will get instructions shortly after you connect.

If you get an account there, send me a message by addressing it to k5jb. Send me mail from any other Internet site by addressing it to either k5jb@qns.com, or to k5jb@k5jb.ampr.org.

Joe, K5JB

NTS Traffic by Packet Radio

I was asked by a couple of folks to round up some instructions on how to handle National Traffic System (NTS) traffic correctly on packet radio, and when I ran into the following I thought it would fit the bill nicely. It was written by a fellow a lot of you know well, Steve Wolf, NO8M, who used to live in Norman. He wrote the user manual for the MSYS bulletin board program, and included an explanation of how to send NTS radiograms over packet radio. I extracted part of Steve's article and will follow it with some suggestions on how to retrieve NTS messages off of your BBS and properly deliver and dispose of them. First, here is how to post NTS traffic:

Posting NTS Traffic

By Steve Wolf, NO8M

Why the goofy format?

Your message may not stay on the packet network. It may be forwarded by nets

using RTTY, CW, phone or whatever. These other modes are NOT error free. The preamble and format of your message will help standardize and check your message for better handling.

NTS standards are Picky!

Danged right, they are! NTS operators want to insure that the system works now, before the disaster. If they can get you using the standard now, you will not be a problem later.

Right now you are handling messages that might not mean much if they don't get to their destination. After a disaster, your message content may have much more meaning. You may be transferring messages about critical supply needs, about medical supplies that will save someone's life. Information to a family who's relatives assume they are dead.

If you do something wrong while handling NTS traffic, expect to get corrected. You will be one heck of an asset in a disaster if you know what you are doing, but you'll be one heck of a liability if you don't.

A Typical Message

Here is a typical message you might post on a packet bulletin board. First as a complete message, then in parts with explanations:

(Some of the lines were broken to fit these C&E columns.)

```
|ST 44070@NTSOH
|TITLE: North Olmsted, OH (216)777-1777
|Enter message--End with /EX or Ctrl-Z
|NR 15 R HXGN8GNJ 5 Seattle WA
|0045Z 9-18-89
|To: Steve Wolf
|North Olmsted, OH
|216-777-1177
|-BT-
|Request home PBBS call X
|-BT-
|Steve N8GNJ, Seattle, WA
|Operator's note: Reply to N8GNJ@
```

N8GNJ.WA.USA Seattle, WA

Let's examine this message line by line:

|ST 44070@NTSOH

When you send a piece of NTS traffic, it has a special send command. The traffic indicator will help it on its way. It will also sometimes cause the PBBS from which the message was retrieved to generate a message back to you telling you who took it off the packet system. ALWAYS use a ST zip @NTSxx command as all the forwarding PBBSs will recognize that without interpretation.

|North Olmsted OH(216)777-1177

This title line tells that there is one message in the packet message and that it is destined for Ohio. If NOT disaster related, there may be many messages in the packet message, as long as they are destined for the same location. The inclusion of an area code (216) is sometimes used but does not mean diddley in many areas. If the precedence (explained below) is EMERGENCY or P, then that could be added to the title line. Limit the title to 37 characters!

|NR 15 R HXGN8GNJ 5 Seattle, WA
0045Z 9/18/89

This is the preamble. NR 15 is the number of the message at the sender's station. On January 1, you start with message one. You assign each message going out of your station a number. "R" is ROUTINE. Other precedents are "W"elfare, "P"riority and "EMERGENCY". EMERGENCY is always spelled out! Any precedents other than routine should appear in the title line. "EMERGENCY" deals with information related to the safety of life and property. "Priority" is everything that is almost an emergency. It includes messages having a time limit, notices of death and injury in a disaster area and press dispatches. "Welfare" is for health and welfare inquiries and responses that indicate all is well. If all is not well, the message should be sent as Priority. "Routine" is everything else.

The HX- is the handling instruction (if any). Handling instructions are rarely used.

HXA# -- Collect call within # miles (or unlimited if no #).

HXB# -- Cancel in # hours/notify originator.

HXC -- Report time and date of delivery.

HXD -- Report time, date, method and call delivering.

HXE -- Obtain and send reply.

HXF# -- Hold message until # (date).

HXG -- Mail or toll call delivery not required.

The number five is the check of the message. It is how many words you are sending. The stop character, the "x", is counted. The rest of the line is self-explanatory. For gosh sakes, use UTC! There are other people in the world and they don't all use EDT! (Ed: Messages often don't have the time, but they normally have the date in this last field.)

|To: Steve Wolf
|North Olmsted, OH
|216-777-1177

This is the message's address. The phone number is almost always mandatory. It will probably not be delivered without it.

| -BT-
| Request home PBBS call X
| -BT-

The body of the message, preceded and followed by a -BT- to set it off, the message should be no longer than 19 words. Rambling messages do not make it! (Ed: "BT", meaning, "break in text" is optional. There is more on this in the ARRL Bulletin that follows this article.)

|Steve N8GNJ, Seattle, WA
|Operator's note: Reply to
|N8GNJ@N8GNJ.WA.USA.NA Seattle, WA

This is the signature, to whom a response is to be forwarded. It is a real good idea to add your packet address to the end.

Checks -- Counting the Words

If you are going to run into trouble, this is where it will be. Probably the best available advice is to not banter on the air about disagreements over the check. If they know more than you, they are right. If they know less, they are wrong.

Here is a quick list of some sticky check situations:

Alfred E. Neumann 3 words
Grand Cayman 2 words
NY 1 word
New York City 3 words
ARL SIXTY THREE 3 words
Fifty Six 2 words
6146B 1 word

You can change an improper check. *Don't change the wording!*

If you do change the check, use a slant bar between the old and new values. For example, if you received a check of five and the check should be seven, note it 5/7.

ARRL Numbered Radiograms

These are "standard" messages. The text of the message is simply ARL followed by the number spelled out: ARL SIXTY EIGHT. It allows the operator to quickly make up standard "are you OK" and the like type messages. There should be a file on your local packet BBS describing all the different ARL numbers.

One often seen in a disaster situation is ARL NINETEEN. Here is an example:

|NR 132 W NO8M ARL 2 N. OLM-
STED, OH AUG 5
|JANE DOE
|1234 WEST 5TH
|GARY, IN
|PHONE 123-456-7890
|ARL NINETEEN
|JOHN SMITH 987-654-3210
|ORREPLY NO8M@NO8M OH.USA

(Note that this message could be sent either to Jane Doe, a person in the disaster area, or to an agency who could follow it

up. For example, it could be addressed to the American Red Cross agency in the area with the text requesting a check on the person.)

Do not Book Disaster Traffic!

Booking traffic is sending a number of messages with the same information in one message. The stations in a disaster area do not have the time to separate them.

Steve Wolf, NO8M
27132 Butternut Ridge Road
North OLMSTED, OH 44070-4417
NO8M@NO8M.#NEOH.OH.USA.NA

Delivering NTS Traffic

There are a couple of things you must know to effectively deliver National Traffic System (NTS) traffic that comes into your area over the packet radio BBS network.

Most packet radio bulletin board programs make special provisions for handling NTS messages. The command, LT (list traffic) lists those messages that are in the NTS format. When you find a message is of the type "T", for "traffic" you can read it no matter how it is addressed. After you read it, if you intend to deliver it, you should kill it with the KT (message number) command. If you don't kill it, somebody else can come along, read it, and try and deliver it too. The recipient probably won't appreciate the second and third phone call as much as the first, right?

The second thing you must know is how to interpret the message contents. Nothing would be more meaningless than to call someone on the phone, introduce yourself as an amateur radio operator, and then read off a message such as, "Your Aunt Hilda sent this message. It says ARL Fifty Seven." Wonderful, eh?

It is important to get some exposure on one of the traffic nets before trying to send or receive NTS traffic over packet radio. I suppose you could do with the information contained here, but it would be

much better if you received some experience, or at least exposure, by participating in one of the nets. Even if you are not licensed to operate on HF you can tune to a net such as the Oklahoma Phone Emergency Net on Sunday morning, 3900 kHz, 8:00 am. and listen to some of the traffic being handled.

I usually have to take the NTS traffic from my BBS and deliver it myself because it sits there for days ignored by BBS users. If you notice an NTS traffic message sitting on one of the BBSs and would like the pleasure of delivering it but are unsure of yourself, call me on the phone and I will coach you if there is anything unusual about the message.

I would certainly like to see more packet operators deliver these "dead ended" messages. Joe, K5JB

ARRL Numbered Radiograms

This is a bulletin that was distributed via packet BBS recently, and will be kept for reference on the local BBSs. At the risk of wildly overrunning my C&E allotment this month I will include it. Note that in the example "=" is used instead of "BT" to offset the text. This is a telegrapher's shorthand and is a suitable substitute. Actually, in a packet message, a blank line is a suitable substitute for BT. (When handled by telegraphy, this BT sounds like DA DI DI DI DA. When handled by phone, the operator says what sounds like "Break and the text" for the first BT, and "Break and the signature", for the second BT.) Also note the "AR" at the end of the example message. On telegraphy this sounds like DI DA DI DA DIT, and on phone it is sounds something like, "End of message".

Follows the text of the bulletin:

These are the abbreviations used within NTS. If sending messages overseas, or into the MARS system, please use plain english, unabbreviated. If using packet, SPELL the numbers out. <Ex: ARL Sixty One vice ARL 61> The letters ARL are inserted in the check and in the text before the spelled-out numbers.

<Example>

Nr 1 R WIAW ARL 8 Newington CT
DEC 1

To Donald R Smith
164 East Sixth Ave
Bangor ME 04601
(207)733-3968

=

ARL Fifty One Hartford fair
ARL Sixty One

=

Diana
AR

*Group One -- For Possible "Relief
Emergency" Use*

ONE -- Everyone safe here. Please don't worry.

TWO -- Coming home as soon as possible.

THREE -- Am in ----- Hospital. Receiving excellent care and recovering fine.

FOUR -- Only slight property damage here. Do not be concerned about disaster reports.

FIVE -- Am moving to new location. Send no further mail or communication. Will inform you of new address when relocated.

SIX -- Will contact you as soon as possible.

SEVEN -- Please reply by Amateur Radio through the amateur delivering this message. This is a free public service.

EIGHT -- Need additional ----- mobile or portable equipment for immediate emergency use.

NINE -- Additional ----- radio operators needed to assist with emergency at this location.

TEN -- Please contact -----, Advise to standby and provide further emergency information, instructions or assistance.

ELEVEN -- Establish Amateur Radio emergency communications with ----- on ----- MHz.

TWELVE -- Anxious to hear from you. No word in some time. Please contact me as soon as possible.

THIRTEEN -- Medical emergency situation exists here.

FOURTEEN -- Situation here becoming critical. Losses and damage from ----- increasing.

FIFTEEN -- Please advise your condition and what help is needed.

SIXTEEN -- Property damage very severe in this area.

SEVENTEEN -- REACT communications services also available. Establish REACT communications with ----- on channel -----.

EIGHTEEN -- Please contact me as soon as possible at -----.

NINETEEN -- Request health and welfare report on ----- (State name, address and telephone number.)

TWENTY -- Temporarily stranded. Will need some assistance. Please contact me at -----.

TWENTY ONE -- Search and Rescue assistance is needed by local authorities here. Advise availability.

TWENTY TWO -- Need accurate information on the extent and type of conditions now existing at your location. Please furnish this information and reply without delay.

TWENTY THREE -- Report at once the accessibility and best way to reach your location.

TWENTY FOUR -- Evacuation of residents from this area urgently needed. Advise plans for help.

TWENTY FIVE -- Furnish as soon as possible the weather conditions at your location.

TWENTY SIX -- Help and care for evacuation of sick and injured from this location needed at once.

Emergency/Priority messages originating from official sources must carry the signature of the originating official.

Group Two -- Routine Messages

FORTY SIX -- Greetings on your birthday and best wishes for many more to come.

FIFTY -- Greetings by Amateur Radio.

FIFTY ONE -- Greetings by Amateur Radio. This message is sent as a free public service by ham radio operators here at ----- Am having a wonderful time.

FIFTY TWO -- Really enjoyed being with you. Looking forward to getting together again.

FIFTY THREE -- Received your ----- It's appreciated; many thanks.

FIFTY FOUR -- Many thanks for your good wishes.

FIFTY FIVE -- Good news is always welcome. Very delighted to hear about yours.

FIFTY SIX -- Congratulations on your ---, a most worthy and deserved achievement.

FIFTY SEVEN -- Wish we could be together.

FIFTY EIGHT -- Have a wonderful time. Let us know when you return.

FIFTY NINE -- Congratulations on the new arrival. Hope mother and child are well.

SIXTY -- Wishing you the best of everything on -----.

SIXTY ONE -- Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

SIXTY TWO -- Greetings and best wishes to you for a pleasant ----- holiday season.

SIXTY THREE -- Victory or defeat, our best wishes are with you. Hope you win.

SIXTY FOUR -- Arrived safely at -----.

SIXTY FIVE -- Arriving ----- on ----- Please arrange to meet me there.

SIXTY SIX -- DX QSL's are on hand for you at the ----- QSL Bureau. Send ---- self addressed envelopes.

SIXTY SEVEN -- Your message number ----- undeliverable because of ----- Please advise.

SIXTY EIGHT -- Sorry to hear you are ill. Best wishes for a speedy recovery.

SIXTY NINE -- Welcome to the ----- We are glad to have you with us and hope you will enjoy the fun and fellowship of the organization.

That is sure to be more than you wanted to know about NTS traffic handling over packet radio BBS networks, but it needed to be published. As I find time, I will condense this information further and make it available as a set of downloadable files that the unfortunate C&E nonsubscribers can have.

I apologize for making this month's submission so long, but I lack the time and ambition to make it shorter. You see, I am coming down with an annual affliction that is associated with the Dayton Hamvention at the end of April. I think it is called Hamvention fever. I have actually cut almost two pages out of my original draft so far, and will have to make it available by some other medium.

While closing, I must report that there are *two* bird nests in my yard this spring, one robin, and one cardinal. I have to keep eyes on *both* of 'em. Joe, K5JB



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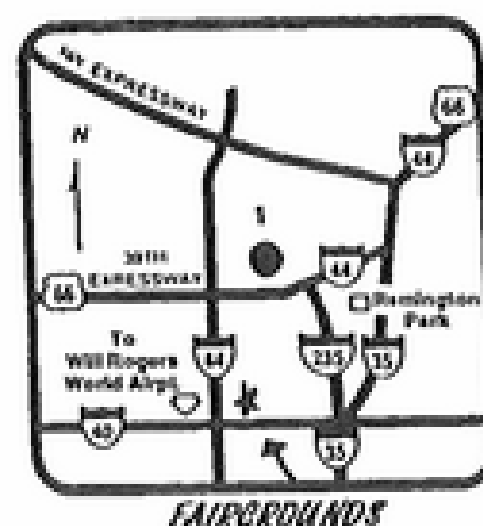
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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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(NAME & CALLSIGN) _____

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Reserve _____ Saturday Evening Dinner @ \$8.50 each \$ _____

Reserve _____ Scholarship Fund Award Tkts @ \$2.00 each \$ _____

Must be postmarked by Monday July 25, 1994 or 3 for \$5.00 \$ _____

Tickets will be mailed to you if received by _____

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with check or money order to: _____

CORA P.O. Box 95942, OKC, OK 73143-5942

Total \$ _____

National Weather Service



S.A.R.A.

National Weather Service Severe Weather Network

A new group has formed to assist the National Weather Service in the collection and distribution of severe weather information. The group, to be called the Skywarn Amateur Radio Association, (SARA), is made up mostly of employees of the various agencies affiliated with weather forecasting, research, education and support of these functions, in the Norman area and other interested individuals. These agencies, commonly called the Norman Weather center, consist of the National Severe Storms Laboratory, National Weather Service Forecast Office, Nexrad Operational Support Facility and the University of Oklahoma School of Meteorology.

With the ongoing move toward modernization of the National Weather Service, responsibility for issuing severe weather warnings for various areas of Oklahoma and north Texas have been realigned. This has led to the need for improved communication with emergency managers and storm spotters in the western two thirds of Oklahoma and the eight counties in north Texas around Wichita Falls.

Many localities in this warning area gave their own storm spotting networks and interface with their own local emergency management officials. Some groups are highly organized and others are more casual. The purpose of SARA is to help coordinate the flow of important weather information between these local groups and the NWS office in Norman. SARA will also assist in manning the net control station at the NWS. A number of the meteorologists in the Norman

office now have their amateur license and they will be heard from time to time on the NWS station.

Several groups have made repeaters available to SARA through the NWS to assist in communications in their areas. These repeaters will be used to move urgent storm information from liaison operators in local spotter groups and to relay warnings issued by the NWS office to the affected areas. Also, the daily Thunderstorm Outlook will be read on these repeaters to assist local spotter groups in making their plans.

Currently plans call for the 147.045 repeater in Cyril and the 145.21 repeater in Oklahoma City to be used. Other repeaters may be used if offered and equipment becomes available at the NWS office.

In past years a packet radio system was in use making weather watches, warnings and radar maps from the NWS office available. Recently, the computer running this system failed. A replacement is planned and being configured but may not be ready for use for a month or two. Future plans for packet include a more direct interface to the NWS computer system which will allow greater flexibility in sending and receiving emergency information.

No one can predict how active the weather will be this spring but interest in working with the amateur community is high among the members of SARA and the personnel of the National Weather Service office.

de Ken, N5KUK

1. Aeronautical Center ARC Meets: First Thursday, Flight Standards Building, FAA, S. MacArthur, 7:00PM Pres: Dick Russell, KE4DCL Sec/TR: Brad Nelson, KJ0W 793-9470 VP: Harold Todd, WA5JGU 943-5631 Ast/VP: Charlie Green, WA5VAQ Editor:	6. Altus Association Meets: 7:30 P.M. Second Thursday, North Main Fire Station (CD), Altus Pres: Jim Romines, K15YY VP: NONE Sec/Tr: Bob Heron, KE4BN Editor: Jim Romines, K15YY	14. Cimmaron Amateur Radio Society Meets: 7:30 P.M. second Thurs. WX5Y Playhouse 827 S. 13, Fairview Pres: Terry McColl, N5MLT 227-361 VP: John Medley, N5WVU 227-3534 Sec: Dennis Painton, WK5V 764-3599 Treas: Nadine Painton, N5FMH 764-3599
2. Oklahoma Central VHF ARC Meets: 11:00 A.M. 3rd Sat., Golden Skillet 3401 N. Classen Blvd, OKC Pres: J. Frank Feilds, KB0QJ 789-8469 VP: Bill Noland, WA5FWD 354-5018 Sec: Joe Buswell, K5JB 732-0676 Treas: Ellard Foster, W5KE 789-6702 Editor: Joe Buswell, K5JB 732-0676	9. Wheatstraw Amateur Radio Club Meets: 2:30 P.M. 2nd Sunday Location Varies Pres: Joe Hyatt, WA5GILK 375-3783 VP: Leo Peil, WZ5H 886-2998 Sec/Tr: Joe Garland, WA5FLT 893-2660 Editor: Ralph Wilder, WA5PFK 623-5421	15. South Canadian ARS Meets: 9:30 A.M. Second Saturday, Red Cross Bldg. North OU Campus, Norman Pres: Don, K15KB VP: Mike Winkel, N5SOF 366-8639 Treas: Bill, N5UMH Sec: Keith, KB5FC1 Editor:
3. Mid-Oklahoma Repeater, Inc. Meets: 1st Tuesday, 7:00P.M., Favorite's Cafe, 36th and S. Western, OKC Pres: Scott Walsh, N5NYS 787-3804 VP: Larry Benedict, N5VYC 728-7824 Sec: Earl Draper, KJ5HN 787-1207 Treas: Robert Moose, N5QK1 720-0073 Editor: Dean Ward, N0PAD 681-4606	11. Edmond Amateur Radio Society Meets: Odd months, 3rd Sun, 2pm Edmond EOC; Dinner Even Months, 3rd Fri. Pres: Lee Vaughn, KA5WIS 348-2961 VP: John Thomason, WB5SYT 340-1798 Sec: Kay Sage, KB5LDO 341-8978 Treas: Sue Snyder, N5VWI 341-8753 Editor: John Thomason, WB5SYT 340-1789	16. Edmond AR Club Meets: 7:00 P.M. Second Monday Various Locations Pres: Mark Northcutt, WD5DY1 755-4672 VP: Wendell Cochran, WB5ISO 943-4308 Sec/Tr: Kay Northcutt, WD5DYJ 755-4672 Trustee: Dennis Orcutt, WB5ISN 340-0034
4. Oklahoma City Autopatch Assn. Meets: 7:30 P.M. Third Tuesday, Salvation Army Bldg. N.W. 50 & Penn. Pres: Brad Nelson, KJ0W 793-9470 VP: Tom Webb, WA9AFM 737-6716 Sec: John Brassfield, N5SAM 685-8070 Treas: Mike Begley, N5VIT 732-2827 Editor: Tom Webb, WA9AFM 737-6716	Central Oklahoma Radio Amateurs Meets: 7:30 p.m. 4th Tuesday, Salvation Army Bldg 50th & Penn, OKC (back door) Pres: Rick Masters, N5WNR VP: Kathy DeGraffenreid, AA5RU Sec: Jim Buswell, N5BEQ Treas: Tom Mangham, K5LDI 677-5291 Editor: Scott Walsh, N5NYS wk. 787-3555	18. Great Plains ARC Meets: 2:15P.M. First Sunday, Home of N5LRR 2914 Osage Dr, Woodward Pres: Bob Bayles, WB0GAX 254-3561 VP: Andy Taylor, N5LRR 256-4017 Sec/Tr: Rod Ford, WB5OVT 923-7683 TR: Freida Patterson, N5EOX 256-2111 Editor: Phillip Perry, N5QCN 938-2453

May 22 - July 02, 1994

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 22	May 23	May 24 CORA	May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28
May 29	May 30	May 31	Jun 1	Jun 2 AeroCenter	Jun 3	Jun 4
Jun 5 Great Plains	Jun 6	Jun 7 MORI	Jun 8	Jun 9	Jun 10	Jun 11 SCARS
Jun 12 Wheatstraw	Jun 13	Jun 14	Jun 15 EARS Board Meeting	Jun 16 Altus	Jun 17	Jun 18 VHF Club
Jun 19	Jun 20	Jun 21 OCAPA	Jun 22	Jun 23	Jun 24	Jun 25
Jun 26 Field Day	Jun 27	Jun 28 CORA	Jun 29	Jun 30	Jul 1	Jul 2