

Collector & Emitter

A CORA Publication

January 1997
Volume 23, Number 1
Issue 263
50¢

Postmaster See Page 2
For Postal Information

Periodical Mail

CORA Has Home Page

MIR Antenna Broken

Men and Boys



HF WAS Awards Manager

Collins Call Sign

AO-13 (SK)

Collector & Emitter

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Central Oklahoma Radio Amateurs, Inc.

President: Harold Miller, KB1ZQ

V Pres.: Brad Nelson, KJ0W

Secretary: Forrest Rush, N5VWF

Treasurer: Perry Jenkins, KB5TOT

Dear Subscriber:

PLEASE help us keep your information up to date. What time, where, when, who are your officers, editors, and their phone numbers. Check your entry, it can be changed. If there appears to be a mistake, check with your club officials. We can't do a thing about it if you don't let us know. Below is a sample label:

2	96/12	2
JOHN E. DOE, KA5ABC		
1234 SW 56th STREET		
RADIOVILLE, OK 74321-9876		

The "2" means VHF Club, "96/12" means the year/month C&E subscription expires. The "2" is for postal zones.

Dear Secretary / Treasurer:

When you want a change of any sort to your membership, you must completely fill out a subscription slip. Watch for the date you received their funds and the date the subscription expires. Have your slips, or list of deletions submitted by the Deadline of each month. If there is anything about C&E subscriptions you need to know, please contact us.

January 1997

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Collector and Emitter

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Collector and Emitter

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Oklahoma City, OK 73143-5942

<p>1. Aeronautical Center ARC Meets: 1930L, 1st Thursday, FAA, S. MacAuthur, OKC Pres.: Bob Kremer, WA9FCT 381-3182 VP: Chuck Bryant, KB5ZVZ 737-0423 Sec/Tr.: Brad Nelson, KJ0W 793-9470 Editor</p>	<p>11. Edmond Amateur Radio Society Meets: Odd Months, 1400L, 3rd Sunday, St. John's the Baptist, Even Months, Dinner, 3rd Friday Pres.: Jay Lytle KB5VDH 722-0981 VP: Joel Beasley, KB5FCF 359-6508 Sec: Sharon Thompson, KC5WLS 844-6245 Treas.: J. B. Bogner, K0JF 341-8735 Editor: John Thomason, WB5SYT 340-1796</p>
<p>2. Oklahoma Central VHF ARC Meets: 1100, 3d Saturday, Ashley's Country Kitchen I-40 & SE 15th St., Del City Pres.: Jackolyn Olsen, KA5ENU 842-2305 VP: Ken Eason, KF5JS 789-2200 Sec: John Dome, KB5WVE 842-3493 Treas.: Ellard Foster, W5KE 789-6702 Editor</p>	<p>14. Cimmaron Amateur Radio Assn. Meets: 1930L, 1st Thursday, WXSX Playhouse 827 S. 13th, Fairview Pres.: John Medley, N5WVU VP: Kenneth Monahan, KB5SOM Sec: Dennis Painton, WK5V 764-3599 Treas.: Nadine Painton, N5FMH 764-3599 Editor: Kenneth Monahan, KB5SOM</p>
<p>4. Oklahoma City Autopatch Assn. Meets: 1930L, 3rd Tuesday, Salvation Army Bldg NW 50th and Penn, OKC (Back Door) Pres.: John Brassfield, N5SAM 685-8070 VP: Loyd Hargrove, AB5I 391-5723 Sec: Sam Binkley, KL7V 942-2600 Treas.: Bob Kremer, WA9FCT 381-3182</p>	<p>15. South Canadian ARS Meets: 0930L, 2nd Saturday, Red Cross Bldg North OU Campus, Norman Pres.: Michael McEwen, KC5GJL 329-2615 VP: Mike Divilio Jr., KC5GRZ 360-3236 Sec: Randy Ridenour, WB5RWX 329-0967 Treas.: Sara Byer, KC5ABA 321-1673</p>
<p>6. Altus Area Amateur Radio Assn. Meets: 1900L 2nd Thursday, Southwest Technology Center, Altus, OK Pres.: Mike Brown, KK5ZB 481-6138 VP: John Mealer, AB5WQ 563-9252 Sec: Lil Town, KC5CNA 477-4027 Treas.: Editor: Dave Locke, KC5SII</p>	<p>17. Ada Amateur Radio Club Meets: 1000L, 1st Saturday, Basement Ada City Hall 231 South Townsend, Ada, OK Pres.: Roy Throne, KB5STV 436-1019 VP: Dwight Myers, N0RIW 436-4755 Sec: John Burchett, KC5EZX 332-1063 Treas.: O. J. Collins, KC5DYX 332-7878</p>
<p>8. Choctaw Amateur Radio Club Meets: 1900L 3rd Monday, Eastern Oklahoma Co. Vo Tech, 4601 N. Choctaw Rd, Choctaw, OK Pres.: Mike Mc Farland, N5WNT 799-0612 VP: Duane Angles, KA5WRG 670-6163 Sec: Marie Harris, KC5HKB 390-8851 Treas.: Bill Tarkington, KC5ICR 390-8751 Editor:</p>	<p>18. Lawton Fort Sill ARC Meets: 1900L 1st Tuesday, Great Plains Area Vo-Tech room 301, Worley Center. Pres.: Jim Arterberry, N5UJB 353-5722 VP: Kevin Johnson, N5WTS 357-2203 Sec/Tr.: Paul Goulet, KC5CYY 250-4247</p>
<p>9. Wheatstraw Amateur Radio Club Meets: 1430L, 2nd Sunday, Location Varies Pres.: Johnny Fish, K5GBN 893-2227 VP: Ray Barnes, AB5Z 274-3334 Sec/Tr.: Joe Garland, WA5FLT 893-2660 Editor: Ralph Wilder, WA5PFK 623-5421</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CORA is Growing!! Room For Another Club's Officers Here. Let US Know of any Clubs wanting Information On Joining CORA.</p>
<p>10. Oklahoma DX Association Meets: Hamfests and as announced in C&E. Pres.: Jim Hood, WV5S 405-732-6131 VP: Ross Hunt, K5RH 918-234-5050 Sec: Jeff Martin, K5WE 918-486-6493 Treas.: Mark Byard, N5OGP 405-762-1966 Editor: Mark Byard, N5OGP 405-762-1966</p>	<p>Central Oklahoma Radio Amateurs Meets: 1930L, 4th Tuesday, Salvation Army Bldg NW 50th and Penn, OKC (BackDoor) Pres.: Harold Miller, KB1ZQ 672-7735 VP: Brad Nelson, KJ0W 793-9470 Sec: Forrest Rush, N5VWF 842-8486 Treas.: Perry Jenkins, KB5TOT 354-5075 Editor: Harold Miller, KB1ZQ 672-7735</p>

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Central Oklahoma Radio Amateurs, Inc.

CORA VE SESSION

December 16, 1996

Yep, you guessed it the monthly round of testing was held, as scheduled, on the above date. A good round of those taking the test, giving the test, and significant others there to cheer on the effort of both groups was present. To a loyal Amateur Radio operator there is a great deal of excitement and energy at a VE test session. Excitement and plenty of energy existed in abundant proportions at the Salvation Army on the third Monday night of December. 13 individuals were successful in acquiring a total of 19 new Amateur Radio elements at this session of the CORA sponsored VE test session. Names and elements passed are as below:

Jerry Chancellor - Novice and Technician Theory
 Bill Dove- Technician Theory
 Wes Foote- 5 wpm Code
 Johnnie Ham- Technician Theory
 Shondreya Hamlin-Technician Theory
 Leilah Kyrk- Novice and Technician Theory
 Denise Kyrk- Novice and Technician Theory
 Chris Martin- 5 wpm Code and Technician Theory
 Gary Reinsch- 5 wpm Code
 Carl Short- Novice and Technician Theory
 Dwight Shrum - Novice and Technician Theory
 Frank Stevens- Technician Theory
 Sue Wilhite- 13 wpm Code

What a great job gang !! Congrats to all these individuals who gave the effort, time and study to pass these Amateur Radio tests. You are probably wondering about a feller's last name on the above list. He is the fourth person mentioned on the list and has a first name of Johnnie: yes, his last name is Ham ! Goodness what a foundation for pursuing Amateur Radio as

a hobby. He shared with us that on rare occasion someone has made slight mention of his last name and several potential situations wherein humor might be present. Can you imagine someone joking in such a manner ? No stretch for me either. He is quite good natured about this and would appear to be a credit to his name. Speaking of individuals and their last name, mention out of respect and remembrance for Chuck, K5NK, must be made about Sue Wilhite passing her 13 wpm Code and becoming a General Class Amateur Radio operator ! Sue we all feel a great deal of pride in your accomplishment and motivation: "I did it all for Chuck."

As was stated in last month's column, many thanks go to the CORA Volunteer Exam Team. They show up like clockwork ready to provide the structure for your licensing and upgrading. Their smiles and encouragement as elements are passed is enjoyable to observe. Just like those who prepare for their tests by studying, the VE team prepares for the testing process to make sure all the needed paperwork is in hand and all materials are in ship shape. They serve as a vital link between the individual testing and the FCC. CORA VE test team we salute you !!

Now it is time to get ready for the next round of CORA VE testing which will be on Monday, January 20th at 6:00 PM. Location is the Divisional Headquarters of the Salvation Army which is at the Southwest Corner of Northwest Expressway and Penn Ave in OKC. Entrance is on the southwest side of the building. So are you ready to upgrade ? Better get with the program the cold temps of January would be a wonderful time to prepare for your upgrade. See January QST and read the article "Never Say Never" (page 52) which discusses the topics of fear-of-failure and avoidance behavior and how to overcome these hurdles to becoming licensed. Good Luck ! See ya on January 20th .

Submitted by:
 John Thomason, WB5SYT
 e-mail: WB5SYT@AOL.COM

News Flash

Thanks to Jerry, KJ5KP C. O. R. A. has landed on the World Wide Web. Please check into our Home Page at:

<http://www.geocities.com/heartland/7332>

I checked it out and it is simple and has connections to the ARRL home page and QCWA. So check out the web site and leave Jerry your comments.

From the President,

Well another year has gone by and the New Year is upon us. CORA has come a long way since its meager beginnings back in the early 70's. We are working on the paperwork to make us a non profit organization with both the IRS and Postal Service.

Ham Holiday '97 is in the future and we need help planning and getting things going. We need a logo to be designed for this year's hamfest, the 24th annual.

Attendance at the CORA meetings has been sparse lately, is it that no one cares, or just too busy. If you don't come out to the meetings there is no reason to complain or find fault, all meetings are open to the public.

Also in the mail to all clubs will be renewal cards for your membership for the Collector and Emitter, please use these cards to forward your renewals, changes and corrections. Just have your treasurer put them in the envelope with any other correspondence and it will assist us in keeping the books up to date, not to mention a lot neater.

We should be coming up on our tri-annual postal inspection and as we are doing good, let's take an extra step to do better.

Praises and Promises are great but it's time to get on the move and take CORA and the C&E into the next century. If we don't stay involved we could lose a great bit of history.

73,

Hal, KB1ZQ

Chit-Chat

by Linda NILPN

Happy New Year!

Another year has come to an end. Looking back over this past year was not easy for me, filled with bitter sweet memories. We all faced challenges, achieved what we thought was impossible and said farewell to some very special people who left this world for a better one.

Back in the 60's when I was in grade school I had a friend that celebrated the holidays different from my family. Her name was Alice and her family did not put up their tree until Christmas Eve. A few days before the 24th of December, her mother would begin baking and cooking for an army.

Christmas Eve night they would open their house to friends and neighbors. Everyone was invited to bring a dish but it wasn't required. It was a time of sharing what we had been blessed with throughout the year.

The 31st of December, her family was up before dawn getting ready for the first light. I guess the best way to describe what they did is what our grandmothers would have called spring cleaning. The tree was not touched but everything inside and out of the house was cleaned and had to be completed before sunset that day. I asked why? The answer was, "Each year we gather things and dirt that is best left behind us. By getting rid of it before the year ends, it doesn't follow us into the new year. It was a cleansing of both home and soul that one just did." The tree was taken down on the 1st of January each year.

It was a Family Tradition that was brought over from the old country and kept alive by each new generation. Alice was a sweet and special person, I haven't seen her since high school. Maybe her family tradition has a ring of truth in it that we could each put to use in our own lives? What could it hurt? We would get a cleaner house and just maybe a feeling of renewal. May this year bring to you blessing beyond measure and may your dreams become reality. Until next time...



A. R. R. L. Bulletins

From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT

To all radio amateurs

ARRL Bulletin 86
December 2, 1996

WIAW Schedule change

Effective January 1, 1997, WIAW will discontinue its Tuesday and Wednesday morning code practice and bulletin schedules. Beginning this date, the Tuesday and Wednesday schedule will begin at 2100z, 4 PM ET. This change affects the Tuesday and Wednesday morning schedules only and is being initiated as part of a reallocation of resources for routine station maintenance. See January 1997 QST, page 104, for the WIAW Schedule.

ARRL Bulletin 85
November 27, 1996

Vanity program online

Happy Thanksgiving. The FCC has granted approximately 700 new vanity call signs after turning down several petitions for reconsideration that had held up the program for a few weeks. Several hams whose Gate 2 applications arrived too early and were dismissed had petitioned the FCC to reinstate their applications. The petitions were dismissed, according to an FCC spokesman. The latest call signs issued are from applications received by the FCC between September 24 and 27. An estimated 20 per cent ended up in the WIPS, or "works in process," stack for special handling--in some cases because the FCC was unable to grant any of the applicant's call sign choices, in others because there was a problem with the application.

Applicants can check for new call signs using the FCC Transaction Engine on the ARRLWeb page, <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/fccltd.html>.

The FCC now gives equal weight to all vanity applications from any of the vanity gates opened to date. This means that a Gate 1 applicant trying to regain a former call sign who applied after the September 23 opening day for Gate 2 could miss out if that call sign already has been issued to a Gate 2 applicant. The FCC considers all vanity applications from all open gates in order of day received.

Meanwhile, the FCC also has worked its way through the estimated 550 first-day Gate 2 applications that ended up in WIPS. Following the initial wave of Gate 2 vanity call signs on November 4 (released to the public the following day) and before the most recent wave, the FCC granted another 176 call signs in all vanity categories, most, if not all, among the estimated 550 Gate 2, day-one applications that ended up in the WIPS stack at the FCC.

Applications for vanity call signs continue to show up at the FCC. From October 21 through November 7, the FCC had received an additional 459 vanity program applications. The FCC reports that 210 were hard-copy applications, while the other 249 were filed electronically. A spokesman in Gettysburg advised hams filing new or modified applications to be extremely careful in completing their paperwork. "We are seeing a lot of errors," he said. Among the common ones are a name that does not agree with the FCC's database, call sign incorrect, or a license that expires within a year and the renewal box is not checked. "Please double check before you submit," he advised. "It creates a lot of extra work for us and delays the issuance of the license if you don't."

The FCC has not announced when it plans to open Gates 3 and 4 of the vanity program.



Lawton Ft Sill Amateur Radio Club

Notes from the W5KS President:

WA5ZOO Harold Herndon - a long time club member passed away quietly in his sleep during the holidays. He was active right up to the last day. He was a regular on 7290 Weather and Traffic Net. He was also a scheduled net control operator for that net. Our condolences go out to his friends and family, he will be missed.

What a Christmas Party! Everyone had a great time. The 2 meter mobile went to Becky KC5OPP. Other certificates and awards for bike races and JOTA support were also given out. KC5OPP was recognized for her outstanding efforts as the Training NET Coordinator. Without exception she has done an excellent job. Numerous small presents were presented to anyone that was there. All the children received a small gift. It's always nice to see so many spouses present and having a good time. I want to thank everyone for all the support in making this a great event for the club.

Congratulation to: KC5OPP Becky upgrade to General, KK5WV John, KC7ICM RJ, NL7CO Don, upgraded to extra class. If I missed you, please pass that information on to me. Congratulations to those that have tested over the past year. If you are still working to pass the test, hang in there, keep working at it and you will be successful.. A special acknowledgment must go out to KD5RQ Claude the VEC and his team for all the work they have been doing over the past year, getting people tested.

If the shoe fits -- wear it (with pride). I could easily fill a sheet of paper with all the names of all the active members that show up for function or events. With so much participation, it is hard to single

anyone person out. Make no mistake about it. I appreciate all the help that you give to the club.

From the EC:

Fortunately disasters don't happen every day. When they do, we need to be ready to respond. Most disasters can not be prevented. The amount of damage done and the length of time to recover can sometime be reduced when dedicated operators are properly prepared and trained. Training comes in all sizes, shapes and colors. The important thing to remember is that when the opportunity arises to do some training you are always welcome and encouraged to participate. All amateur should keep a few important items handy that are worth their weight in gold when they are needed, a flashlight, perhaps an extra (Army) blanket, good leather work gloves. Fill your vehicle with fuel BEFORE the severe weather arrives. There may not be any power for hours (days) after the desisted hits and without electricity, its real hard to get the fuel out of the storage tanks.

One of the greatest joys I have gotten over the past several months is the very positive recognition that we as amateur receive when we participate at civic functions. It doesn't matter if it is drug free alternatives week or providing communication support for one of the local organizations. After all, that's what we do, communicate information to the people that we support and let them make the decision. The comments received are always the same, great job, couldn't have done it without you, how did we do it before you guys came along? I can not express enough the amount of pride that I feel when they talk about the professionalism of the amateur community her in Lawton.

We try to roll out the Mobile Communications Center (MCC) for each of these events. The MCC was a generous gift that all amateur should be proud of. As many of you know, a real effort is made to let everyone see that it does in fact get used. We get enough training on the set up and take down so that enough people are getting training on the overall

"trailer ops". Remember, training is our friend, and I work to make sure that we have lots of friends. Take a few minutes to make a few notes to your self and I hope to see at one or two of the following events.

Look for in:

February 15 & 16 - Twelve Miles of Hell - Fort Sill
 April 5 - Hamfest
 April 19 - St Jude Bike Race
 May 31 - Tour de Meers
 June 21 - Tour of the Wichita's
 June 28 & 29 - Field Day
 November 29 - Boulevard of Lights
 Still not scheduled but planned is the Hospice Foot Race.

de W5KCB Bob Sims

From the Information and Bulletin Committee

* Field Day 1997 -- June 24th and 25th *

Greetings to all and Happy New Year!

We have just now moved into 1997 and that means that Field Day is just 6 months away! Field Day is always the fourth full weekend in June and this year is on June 24-25, 1997. For those who are new amateurs, the annual Field Day is one of our major club events and a wonderful time to meet your new colleagues. Not only do amateurs practice skills at setting up a temporary operating site, this also allows us to meet the public and demonstrate to the community our talents and abilities. We get to see many other amateurs in person (eyeball QSO's) and make audio contacts (QSO) with other amateurs in the U. S. and Canada. This is the perfect opportunity for junior operators to sit one-on-one with experienced club members and learn hands-on about contesting, operating modes and techniques, equipment set-up and much more. And then there is always the fellowship -- and don't forget the food! We had over 150 participants last year and we are going for more this year.

Field Day provides many wonderful opportunities for club members, their families and our guests. We can decide basically whatever we want to make out of Field Day! The ARRL publishes Field

Day Rules and Guidelines (see the ARRL Web Site, www.arrl.org, or back issues of QST) where the club can generate points for different activities and operating modes. In addition to standard operating modes, extra club points can be obtained for CW and satellite contacts, solar and wind power, public relations, media contacts, etc. Public relations is another major focus of Field Day. Last year we demonstrated our Emergency Trailer to the assistant City Manager and Lawton Fire Chief who brought along some assistant chiefs and firefighters. Proclamations from the Governor's and Mayor's Office were read recognizing the week as amateur radio week. We also had very nice media coverage of Field Day '96 with the 6 and 10 PM newscasts on KSWO-TV and articles with photographs in the Lawton Constitution on Field Day and Club activities. We also had several recently licensed amateurs where attending field day was their first contact with the club. Look at our web page, www.rli.net/np/ham/ham.html for pictures and comments on Field Day 1996.

Field Day is an important event to the club and amateur radio, but more than anything else it is tremendous fun and we want you to join us. Whatever talents you possess, interests or ideas that you have, please let me know and we will definitely find a place for you to participate and put them to use! The obvious need on Field Day is for equipment and operators, but there is also need for support personnel, food, manning the information booth, meeting the public, etc. If you would like to be part of the planning committee, or have any questions, I encourage you to please let me or any of the club officers know. I can be reached at email mgewell@ionet.net or my voice/fax at 536-2777.

A brief programming note - this year the Tour of the Wichitas bike race will be held one week earlier and this should allow more operators to participate in each event instead of the double bill we have had in the past.

Looking forward to the new year and seeing all of you at Field Day 1997.

73 DE KC5IZN Mark G Ewell, M.D.

P. S. Don't forget to invite a friend to each monthly club meeting or club event!

From the Secretary/Treasurer:

As always with the New Year, its time to once again renew your membership. Membership for the purpose of voting is limited to paid members and members MUST be licensed to operate on the amateur bands. We do offer an associate non-voting membership that allows non amateurs to participate financially. Membership is \$24.00 for the individual, \$35.00 for a family membership and \$7.00 for a non-voting associate membership.

You may mail your checks to LFSARC, P O B 892, Lawton OK 73502. Please do not send cash in the mail.

You can check out the club events page for 1997. Its set up to look like a calendar so you can just print it and schedule your life around amateur events.

Submission for the CORA can be sent via email to w5ks@rli.net. PLEASE use a file attachment and not just information as part of your mail. It makes the whole process easier and I don't have to figure out (guess) did they want that included or did they just mean for this part. We think that we have a club member that wants to start helping out with the club HOMEPAGE.

The club HOMEPAGE is maintained on the Internet. Server of Johnson Computer Service and is currently over 10 megs in size. If you have a bio-page that you want to include or have a link to a HOMEPAGE located else where you can contact them at w5ks@rli.net or call them at (405) 250-4247. They understand the importance of amateur radio and donate the space and some of the technical knowledge to make the web page happen.

**** Meeting for February ****

We will be meeting at Channel 7 for our February 4th Meeting. This will give us a chance to see their new facility and for us to get a briefing on severe weather. Because of conflicts with production of

the NEWS until 7pm. We are welcome immediately after the news broadcast. Please DO NOT plan to arrive early. Stay tuned for more details. This is one of those times when the invitations are limited to club members. They just can not open up their facility to the public in the same way that the vo-tech does.

And for those that bought items for Christmas that required assembly or other instructions we offer a little TF XXI humor. During the TF XXI Bde FTX I found these instructions inside the shipping case of one of the many initiatives installed in my TOC shipped from Bubba's in Louisiana. One of the charms getting "off the shelf" technology are the "off the cuff" documentation that comes with it.

IMPORTANT! READ THIS BEFORE USING YOUR NEW DEVICE
Congratulations! You have purchased an extremely fine device that would give you thousands of years of trouble-free service, except that you undoubtedly will destroy it via some typical bonehead consumer maneuver. Which is why we ask you to:

PLEASE FOR GOD'S SAKE READ THIS OWNER'S MANUAL CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU UNPACK THE DEVICE. YOU ALREADY UNPACKED IT, DIDN'T YOU? YOU UNPACKED IT AND PLUGGED IT IN AND TURNED IT ON AND FIDDLED WITH THE KNOBS, AND NOW YOUR CHILD, THE SAME CHILD WHO ONCE SHOVED A RAW HOTDOG INTO YOUR VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDER AND SET IT ON "FAST FORWARD", THIS CHILD ALSO IS FIDDLING WITH THE KNOBS, RIGHT? WE MIGHT AS WELL JUST BREAK THESE DEVICES RIGHT AT THE FACTORY BEFORE WE SHIP THEM OUT, YOU KNOW THAT?!

We're sorry. We just get a little crazy sometimes because we're always getting back "defective" merchandise where it turns out that the consumer inadvertently bathed the device in acid for six days. So, in writing these instructions, we naturally tend to assume that your skull is filled

with dead insects, but we mean nothing by it. OK? Now let's talk about:

1. UNPACKING THE DEVICE The device is encased in foam to protect it from the Shipping People, who like nothing more than to jab spears into outgoing boxes.

PLEASE INSPECT THE CONTENTS CAREFULLY FOR GASHES OR IDA MAE BARKER'S ENGAGEMENT RING, WHICH SHE LOST LAST WEEK, AND SHE THINKS MAYBE IT WAS WHILE SHE WAS PACKING DEVICES. Ida Mae really wants that ring back, because it is her only proof of engagement, and her fiancée, Stuart, is now seriously considering backing out on the whole thing in as much as he had consumed most of a bottle of Jim Beam in Quality Control when he decided to pop the question. It is not without irony that Ida Mae's last name is "Barker", if you get our drift.

WARNING: DO NOT EVER AS LONG AS YOU LIVE THROW AWAY THE BOX OR ANY OF THE PIECES OF STYROFOAM, EVEN THE LITTLE ONES SHAPED LIKE PEANUTS. If you attempt to return the device to the store, and you are missing one single peanut, the store personnel will laugh in the chilling manner exhibited by Joseph Stalin just after he enslaved Eastern Europe. Besides the device, the box should contain: * Eight little rectangular snippets of paper that say "WARNING" * A little plastic packet containing four 5/17 inch pilfer grommets and two club-ended 6/93 inch boxcar prawns.

YOU WILL NEED TO SUPPLY: a matrix wrench and 60,000 feet of tram double shielded coax cable.

IF ANYTHING IS DAMAGED OR MISSING: You IMMEDIATELY should turn to your spouse and say "Margaret, you know why this country can't make a car that can get all the way through the drive-through at Burger King without a major transmission overhaul? Because nobody cares, that's why."

WARNING: This is assuming your spouse's name is Margaret. And not Pete.

2. PLUGGING IN THE DEVICE The plug on this device represents the latest thinking of the electrical industry's Plug Mutation group, which, in a continuing effort to prevent consumers from causing hazardous electrical current to flow through their appliances, developed the Three-Pronged Plug, then the Plug Where One Prong is Bigger Than the Other. Your device is equipped with the revolutionary new Plug Whose Prongs Consist of Six Small Religious Figurines Made of Chocolate.

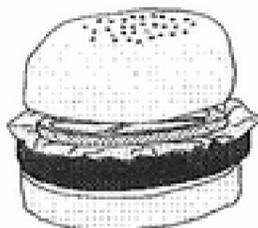
DO NOT TRY TO PLUG IT IN! Lay it gently on the floor near an outlet, but out of direct sunlight, and clean it weekly with a damp handkerchief.

WARNING: WHEN YOU ARE LAYING THE PLUG ON THE FLOOR, DO NOT HOLD A SHARP OBJECT IN YOUR OTHER HAND AND TRIP OVER THE CORD AND POKE YOUR EYE OUT, AS THIS COULD VOID THE WARRANTY.

3. OPERATION OF THE DEVICE WARNING: WE MANUFACTURE ONLY THE ATTRACTIVE DESIGNER CASE. THE ACTUAL WORKING CENTRAL PARTS OF THE DEVICE ARE MANUFACTURED IN JAPAN. THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW WERE TRANSLATED BY MRS. SHIRLEY PELTWATER OF ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE, WHO HAS NEVER ACTUALLY BEEN TO JAPAN BUT DOES HAVE MOST OF "SHOGUN" ON TAPE. INSTRUCTIONS: For results that can be the finest, it is our advising that: NEVER to hold these buttons two times!! Except the battery.

Next taking the (something) earth section may cause a large occurrence! However. If this is not a trouble, such rotation is a very maintenance action, as a kindly (something) viewpoint from Drawing B.

4. WARRANTY Be it hereby known that this device, together with but not excluding all those certain parts thereunto, shall be warranted against all defects, failures and malfunctions as shall occur between now and Thursday afternoon shortly before 2, during which time the Manufacturer will, at no charge to the Owner, send the device to our Service People, who will emerge from their caves and engage in rituals designed to cleanse it of evil spirits. This warranty does not cover the attractive designer case. WARNING: IT MAY BE A VIOLATION OF SOME LAW THAT MRS. SHIRLEY PELTWATER HAS "SHOGUN" ON TAPE.



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Sat: 8:30-2:00pm
Sun: Closed

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OCAPA Christmas Party

The OCAPA Christmas Party was held Monday evening December 16th. Yours truly was under the weather and unable to attend but from all reports it was a great party. Thanks to Sue, KC5SMJ for taking notes for me. A lot of effort went into making the event a success and those efforts are certainly appreciated. I don't have a list of who did what but it was a well coordinated effort. Thanks! There were 42 present to enjoy the good food and fellowship and there were lots of prizes handed out. Some valuable and some invaluable. Looking forward to next years party.

73 Sam, KL7V

MIR ANTENNA BROKEN

A special space walk to repair a broken Amateur Radio antenna on the Russian Mir Space Station may herald a new era in international ham radio cooperation.

Here's the message, as received:

To ::ALL

From ::ROMIR

We finished our second space walk. After the first one we had a problem with our antenna. Tonight we repaired it and now it's Ok. We back your pardon for such an occasion.

73 de Mir crew

Mir is back on 2 meters, and it's a remarkable example of the importance of amateur radio in the Russian Space Program. They conducted a space walk to repair the ham radio antenna. The Russians consider their amateur station as an essential element of communication aboard the MIR.

This is a prelude to what we can expect in the next few years. Manned space flight

programs today fly on American Space Shuttles and Russia's MIR Space Station, but they will come together in the International Space Station that will be assembled in orbit in the next few years. That station will provide a permanent presence in orbit for at least 8 participating nations and amateur radio representatives from those nations have formed ARISS, an acronym for Amateur Radio International Space Station, to build and operate a super ISS ham station.

There are several organizations. SAREX, the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment, handles the Space Shuttle Missions. MAREX, the Mir Amateur Radio Experiment, is in charge of MIR amateur radio operations. Germany's SAFEX, provides MAREX equipment and technical assistance. And, here in the United States, MIREX, or Mir International Radio EXperiment, has been formed and accepted by the Russians, the Germans and SAREX as a point of contact for MIR school contacts and experiments. The member organizations are preparing a release that will cover all of this in greater detail.

A major dedication of manned space flight by all nations is contacts with students in schools. Now that Mir is back on the air, the way is open for such contacts. John Blaha, a U.S. Astronaut, is with the two cosmonauts in space and recently was granted permission by the FCC to conduct third party traffic, meaning he can talk to students or friends through U.S. licensed and controlled stations.

Miles Mann, WF1F, speaking for Mirex, has said that "Applications for U.S. school MIR QSOs are approved by MIREX and SAREX before going to MAREX and SAFEX. The Mir crews have busy work schedules but our guidelines allow us to arrange, months in advance, school QSOs during crew off hours. The cosmonaut amateur radio department gives final approval for all QSOs and reserves the right to cancel at any time.

SAREX works with the International Space Station Office to clear schedules for John Blaha.

The good news, that Mir is now back on the air, means that some school contacts can be made. In the near future, SAREX and Mirex hope to schedule 4 to 6 Mir school contacts a month.

(Exclusive to Newsline)

AO-13 FALLS FROM ORBIT

The AMSAT OSCAR 13 ham satellite has fallen from orbit. As reported a few weeks ago, OSCAR 13 went silent in late November when its solar panels suffered severe heat damage. The satellite finally succumb to the forces of nature on Thursday, December 5th when it de-orbited and burned up on re-entering the Earth's atmosphere.

By way of background, AMSAT OSCAR-13, one of the most successful ham radio satellites ever to achieve orbit. It was launched on June 15th, 1988, into a highly elliptical orbit on board the first test flight of the new European Ariane 4 rocket. Over its eight years in space, AMSAT OSCAR-13 had the ability to permit direct radio contacts among the world-wide community of radio amateurs.

Its orbital decay was caused by the gravitational attraction of the Sun and the Moon. The elliptical orbit was stretched so that the satellite gradually approached the Earth which lies at one of the two focal points of the ellipse. This phenomenon motivated AMSAT to develop new analytical and computational methods to allow long term predictions for future satellites on similar, highly elliptical orbits. As a result, the orbit of the next satellite, AMSAT Phase 3D, has been calculated using these new methods and should be more stable over the long term.

Phase 3D is scheduled to be launched into space during the first half of 1997. As of this report it apparently the only satellite payload for the second test flight of the new European built ARIANE 5 launcher.

(Via Amsat-DL, Spacenews)

Altus Area Amateur Radio Association

The AAARA decided to enter a float in the local Christmas parade. The theme for the this year was "The gift of a lifetime". Initially, I thought "that's going to be tough to do". It did not take long for club members to remind me how much we do for the community.

I started out in amateur radio less than a year ago. I remember thinking how much I would enjoy having a technician license and messing around with radios. I never gave a moments thought to how I may use this privilege to help others.

I recall hearing some call it the Amateur Radio "Service". I didn't give that much thought either. I figured what others call it didn't matter to me as long as it didn't interfere with my new hobby.

Taking with those I'd listened to so long on the scanner was even more interesting than I thought. I could talk much further than I thought. The quality of the signal and the people made me wonder how I spent all those hours listening to "11 Meter" or as I like to call it "Children's Band".

I began to participate in club activities as I became involved with over the year. Some of the activities we were involved with include;

I thought the storm spotting thing was a hoot. I can't imagine a better way to spend a stormy summer afternoon. I love helping Dale, AB5VX, track potentially killer storms across the Southwestern Oklahoma landscape.

I also remember wishing the Granite Bicycle Race was a four day event. We provided communications for them. They gave each of us these really nice tee shirts. We were able to call aid for a bicyclist severely injured in a multiple racer pile-up. I had no idea how fast those bikes

went. I thought you would need a motor to get hurt like that.

We also worked communications and security for the Mangum Rattle Snake Derby. That day, we helped reunite a lost child with frantic parents literally in a crowd of thousands.

The club also enabled the local area Boy Scouts to be on the air for the international Jamboree on the Air Day last year.

On top of that, we've been able to assist the authorities in several accidents as a part of our daily lives.

Slowly, I began to see the new "toy" as a rather useful tool. Usually when something goes from toy to tool, the fun part goes with it. Not so with this hobby. It intensifies the satisfaction for me. Given the choice of "rag chewing" and using the hobby to serve the community, I'd choose the latter any day. Serving the community is something amateur radio is well suited to. Other communications mediums lack the capabilities for organizing and communicating as a group.

Participating in a lifetime of learning, sharing, and experimentation is a wonderful gift. Oh, don't get me wrong, there's plenty of gratification there. That's not the real reward. It's how amateur radio gives back to the community that counts. I've discovered that the real gift is of being able to do something I REALLY love doing while giving to the community. That's where we find the true Christmas spirit, when there's as much satisfaction in giving as there is in receiving.

I think the theme for the Christmas Parade must have been custom designed to underscore the highest calling of amateur radio... the gift of a lifetime.

Here's to wishing you the most joyous of holidays. Peace be with you and yours this season.

WRC-99 COMMITTEE SUPPORTS MORSE CODE TREATY REQUIREMENT FOR HF

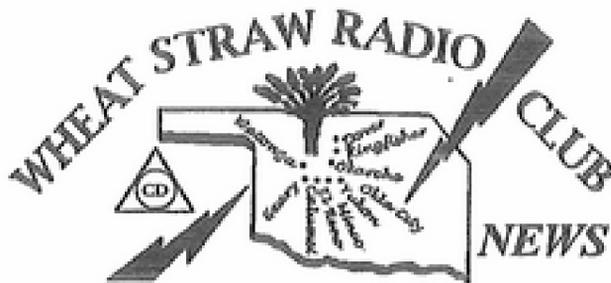
The special committee created by the ARRL to study issues relating to the 1999 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-99) has recommended that the ARRL Board of Directors not support changing the treaty requirement for Morse code testing to operate below 30 MHz. The committee submitted its final report to the ARRL Board this week.

The committee report contains recommended ARRL positions regarding possible changes in Article S25 of the international radio regulations. Consistent with the results of a survey of ARRL members, the committee recommended no change in the existing treaty obligation that administrations test prospective amateur licensees on their Morse code ability before authorizing them to operate below 30 MHz. The committee did support changes to Article S25 that would:

- * Eliminate the so-called "banned countries" list
- * Establish that providing communications in the event of natural disasters is a normal and desirable part of the international service provided by radio amateurs
- * Reduce restrictions on international communications on behalf of third parties
- * Aid in the establishment of an "International Amateur Permit."

The committee report also responded to the Board's request that it study possible changes to the amateur licensing structure in the United States. The committee offered some proposals for change, but recommended that the Board take no action on this part of its report until the committee's proposals are shared with the membership and there is an opportunity for member comment.

The Board will consider the committee's report and recommendations at its next regular meeting, January 17-18, 1997. If the Board accepts the report, it will be available for public release. An article giving the results of the survey will appear in February 1997 QST.



Wheatstraw Amateur Radio Club

December 1996

We started going through the buffet line at one thirty. A large variety of salads, dill pickles, green olives, and other raw vegetables were set out, along with corn, green beans and mashed potatoes. Meats there included sliced turkey breast, ham, and roast beef. Of course there was dressing and hot sour dough buns to go along with the rest. Coffee and tea went well with the desserts.

After the dinner was enjoyed by the 24 amateurs and six visitors, the meeting was called to order by Johnny, K5GBN, our club president. Self introductions were made by all, and the visitors welcomed.

The minutes were read by Joe, WA5FLT and were approved as read. Joe also read the financial report. The first item on the agenda was, how was the repeater improved so much? It seems everyone was reading full scale. Johnny cleaned some coax fittings, and moved the transmitter coax to a higher antenna. We all are happy with it now.

Elections for 1997

After the business portion was over it was time for the elections for 1997. Elections started with votes for President. Johnny, K5GBN and Neal, N5KCO were nominated at the November meeting. When the floor was opened for any other nominations none were made. Tom, N5IKN made a motion for the nominations to cease, seconded by Ray, AB5Z. Johnny, K5GBN was reelected for 1997.

For Vice president in November Alice nominated Neal, N5KCO. Neal in turn nominated Jim, N5VDY; and Jim declined the nomination. Jim did nominate Ray, AB5Z. When brought to the floor December 8th Ray, AB5Z nominated Bob, N5KNK, Bob declined. Margaret WA5RLP moved the

nominations cease, Ray, AB5Z was elected vice president.

In November Sue, KB5TNE nominated Ralph WA5PFK for Secretary / Treasurer. Margaret, WA5RLP nominated Joe, WA5FLT. When nominees were brought up from the floor, Ralph declined the nomination. Joe was elected by acclamation.

In November Alice, WA5UEW nominated Wanda, KC5GTW for club reporter. Margaret, WA5RLP nominated Ralph, WA5PFK. No further nominations were made at the December meeting. Wanda said, she really rather help Ralph when he was out of pocket than to be elected. Ralph was reelected.

After the elections were over, Ralph, WA5PFK talked to the club about his type of knowledge and the type of reporting he enjoyed the most.

I enjoy most of all when I would interview a member and their family. Write about some of their ups and downs, the happy times and some of their hardships. Mostly the goodness and kindness they have in their hearts. In the past 25 years as a member of the Wheatstraw Club, I have met the most down to earth people I have ever associated with. I also like to make people laugh when I can.

Ralph, WA5PFK

I have noticed several new calls around the state of Oklahoma. Maybe most are upgrades, but I think some are the vanity calls being issued. Any congratulations to all on your new calls.

Last September I had a back operation and could not get to my radios, causing me to miss some Wednesday night net check ins. Anyway what I have done this week is to start with 12/1/95 to 12/1/96.

I have the records on 47 Wednesday night Wheatstraw nets. The first 6 months or the first 24 Wednesday night check ins there were 461 amateurs checked in.

The last 6 months or 23 Wednesday night check ins, we dropped to 370 check ins. For the 47 weeks the total was 831, dividing 831 by 47 weeks makes an average of 17.68 amateurs checking into

the Wheatstraw net. From the first 6 months check ins to the last makes about a 20% drop. But I lost those weeks unable to get to the radio.

What we need is some more young members....



Monday, December 16th, Goldie and I went out for breakfast. When I ordered my breakfast I asked for an order of real crisp bacon. I knew I had a weak tooth, and it was where I usually chew my food. I bit down on a strip of lean bacon, sure enough I busted the tooth about half way off to the gum. I got up and went to the men's room to get rid of the pieces. I had to wait until 11:30 the next day to get to the dentist. It was tuff and it was pulled a little after noon.

I have been trying to figure out if the bacon came from one of those Arkansas Razorbacks or one of those old boars with the skin so thick and tough you have to use a five foot, two man cross cut saw to cut. Now you can laugh. The rest of the story is true.

May the Holidays bring all of us closer together, and to care more for each other.

Ralph, WA5PFK

SECTION LEADER NEWS QRT

The League has also announced that it is suspending publication of its Section Leader newsletter, effective immediately. Its replacement will be a separate quarterly newsletter for affiliated clubs, to be called the ARRL Club Companion.

The League says that it will continue to publish its Field Forum newsletter for the entire Field Organization on a quarterly basis. It will probably include articles that would have formerly appeared in Section Leader.

(Via TWIAR)

Men and Boys

by Lee Pitts

To avoid boring you I attempt use words that are different, yet mean the same thing. I am aided in this task by a word finder on my computer. Recently I had cause to question the artificial intelligence of my machine. When I punched in the word "cowBOY" and asked for a synonym my computer suggested the word "cowMAN". Everyone knows (except those who live in Silicon Valley evidently) that a cowBOY and a cattleMAN are about as opposite as both ends of a cow.

One cusses cows for a living and the other cusses bureaucrats. One is broke and the other has a banker. The cattleMAN gets paid once a year, the cowBOY once a month, if they're lucky. There is no duct tape holding the lizard boots of the cattleMAN together.

The cowBOY's work is largely physical, the cattleMAN's mostly mental. The cattleMAN runs the branding iron whereas the cowBOY flanks the calves. A cowBOY has a pickup full of dogs, none of which has a name longer than one syllable. The cattleMAN has a pedigreed lap dog that sleeps in the house. A cowBOY is never late and a cattleMAN is never on time.

The cattleMAN drives a late model Lincoln and the cowBOY rides a horse. Put either one afoot and they don't know a thing. A real cowBOY is as bow legged as a barrel hoop and has never worn a tie or had his boots polished. His hat band is sweat stained and dirty. There is no feather in his hat either. A cattleMAN keeps his snuff can in the back pocket of

his "cattleMAN Cut Jeans." The cowBOY keeps his in the front pocket of his shirt so he won't sit on it in the saddle.

The life expectancy of a cattleMAN and cowBOY are the same although the cause of death differs. CowBOYs are murdered by bucking bulls, whiskey and rank horses. CattleMEN succumb to bourbon, young women and heart attacks. They'd both be rich if they had the change passed back to them by bartenders over the years.

A cattleMAN sits astride a \$5,000 saddle on a \$500 horse. A cowBOY rides a horse worth \$5,000 and is making payments on a \$200 saddle. To a cowBOY, personal property is a real handicap. He doesn't own enough clothes to pad a crutch and what he does own would fit in his bedroll. A cowBOY doesn't sleep in pajamas and his shirts aren't starched. They do have fake pearl buttons however.

CattleMEN are much more social than cowBOYs. Put two cattleMEN who don't know each other in the same room and pretty soon they'll be bumming a chew from each other and trying to loan each other money they don't have. CattleMEN go to lots of meetings. A cowBOY doesn't socialize, attend \$250 a plate fund-raisers or belong to any group that requires a person to pay dues. He figures he's already paid his.

A cattleMAN has an accountant, a gooseneck trailer and a bunch of cowBOYS expecting a check once a month. His poverty is measured by the number of cows he possesses. The cattleMAN subscribes to all livestock magazines, but the only time the cowBOY reads is when he's in the bathroom.

Although he has more hair on the back of his hands than the top of his head, the cattleMAN looks distinguished in his \$350 felt hat. The cowBOY looks extinguished in his \$3.50 baseball cap.

A cowBOY has to catch and saddle his own horse and has never played golf.

A cattleMAN has been married four times and currently has a five mile marriage license. A cowBOY has been married so long his pickup truck and marriage license are of the same year. The cowBOY is married all right, to a good woman, too. He just can't remember where he left her.

SATELLITE ENTHUSIASTS MEET IN TUCSON

More than 300 amateur satellite operators gathered at the Holiday Inn City Center in Tucson, Arizona, November 8th through the 10th, for the 1996 AMSAT North America Space Symposium. Forums included an update on the SEDSAT project, the PICOSAT system and plans for Amateur Radio aboard the upcoming International Space Station. Phil Karn, KA9Q, offered a spread-spectrum tutorial and Assi Friedman, 4Z7ABA, updated everyone on the status of TechSat. Attendees were also treated to a Phase 3D progress report.

A highlight of the banquet was dedication of the Phase 3D spaceframe to the ARRL in recognition of contributions totaling more than \$530,000. ARRL Vice President Joel Harrison, WB5IGF, accepted the dedication plaque from AMSAT North America President Bill Tynan, W3XO.

(Via AMSAT News Service)

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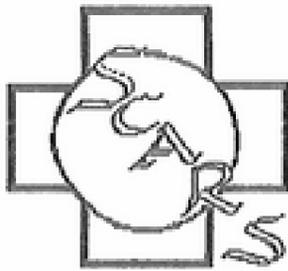
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South Canadian Amateur Radio Society

Minutes for the SCARS December meeting:

The December Meeting of the South Canadian Amateur Radio Society was held on December 14, 1996. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM. We began with the usual introductions, then proceeded with an extremely short meeting.

The first item of business was a reminder about the annual club Christmas party on the 17th. By the time you read this, the festivities will have already passed. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable time.

The club will once again sponsor an Amateur Radio license course, in cooperation with the OU Amateur Radio Club. The course will meet on Monday nights, January 13 through March 3, from 7 to 9 PM. It will be held in the University of Oklahoma Energy Center, 100 E. Boyd St., in Norman. There is no charge for the course, but the materials cost \$20, and a parking permit will cost \$5. For more information, contact Jud Ahern, KC5RI, at 325-4480, or by e-mail: jahern@ou.edu. A morse code course will also be given concurrently if anyone is interested.

Louis Kennedy, KC5ABI, presented our report from CORA. Everyone needs to give their full street address including ZIP+4 on their membership updates. This information will greatly aid in mailing the monthly C&E. We voted to again authorize a three month grace period for members who are a little late in their dues.

Speaking of dues, they are (as the term implies) due. Ed Berkowitz, N3US, served as temporary treasurer in Sara's absence, giving us all the opportunity to stay in the

club's good graces. The three month grace period is ticking away, so remember to renew your membership if you have not already done so.

Jud then reported that the request for a club call has been resubmitted. We're awaiting a response from the FCC, but it shouldn't be much longer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45. Next month is the time to elect officers. Everyone better attend. If you're not there, you might find that you're the new secretary or (even worse) treasurer.

Randy Ridenour, WB5RWN
Secretary

Up - Coming Swapmeets

March 8, 1997 - Midwest City Swap Meet sponsored by Choctaw Amateur Radio Club. From 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Location Midwest City Community Center. For more information contact Bill, N9SQV at 390-1514.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VE exams on 3rd Monday of each month sponsored by C.O.R.A. 1800 @ Salvation Army HQ at NW 50th and N. Penn, Oklahoma City.

VE exams on 3rd Saturday of each month are held at 0900 in Math Science building at Rose State College in Midwest City.

VE exams by appointment only on 4th Tuesday of each month at 1800 in the Shawnee Public Library, 101 N. Philadelphia. Call J. W. Drummond at 275-3935 for more information.

VE exams on 2nd Saturday of each month sponsored by SCARS are held at 1000 at the American Red Cross in on Westheimer Airport in Norman. Contact Jim Copeland, NW0K at 329-1681 for more information.

VE exams on 4th Saturday of each month are held at 1830 at the Altus Vo-Tech in Altus, OK. Contact Rick Alderete, AA5UU for details.

VE exams on the 2nd Sunday of odd numbered months sponsored by the Stillwater ARC at 1500 in the OSU Engineering North Building, Room 316. Contact Ken, K5KC (405) 377-7586 for details.

VE exams on the 1st Saturday of each month at 1430 in the Vinita City Hall sponsored by Northeast Oklahoma Radio Assn.

VE exams on the 1st Sunday of each month at the American Red Cross 6th and Lincoln for more information call Jim at 232-2299.

Hams from around the central Oklahoma area meet Fridays at 7:00 for supper, coffee, friendship and overall story telling at the Skyline Restaurant on 15th and Eastern in Oklahoma City.

On the Air

Listings of Nets on local repeaters or sponsored by CORA members:

ARES - Oklahoma County Thursdays @ 8:00 p.m. on 146.22/82.

6 meter check in 52.525 Mhz simplex
Packet check-in on 145.07

Salvation Army - Second Saturday of the month @ 8:00 a.m. on 146.22/82.

HF 3900kHz; Packet 145.07

AMTOR @ 8:30 a.m. 14.064mHz

Night Owl - Daily @ 10:30 p.m. on 146.07/67 with alternate 146.325/925.

OKC Swap-n-Shop - Saturdays @ 10:00 a.m. on 146.22/82.

Geritol - Daily @ 8:00 a.m. on 145.41 minus input.

Edmond Info - Mondays @ 8:00 p.m. on 147.135/735.

QCWA Chp 63 VHF - Thursdays @ 7:00 p.m. on 145.41 minus input.

QCWA Chp 63 HF - Sundays @ 8:00 on 3856.5kHz .

Wheatstraw - Wednesdays @ 9:00 p.m. on 146.01/61.

Purcell - Mondays @ 8:00 on 145.19 minus input.

Cimmaron - Tuesdays @ 9:00 p.m. on 145.45 minus input.

YL Net - Tuesdays @ 8:00 p.m. on 147.09 plus input.



Edmond Amateur Radio Society

January 1997

Happy New Year ! Here is hoping your 1997 is underway in super style with a festive holiday season just behind us. We will summarize recent EARS activities for you and give the upcoming events for you to jot down on your little calendar. Our hope is for you and yours to have the best year possible with plenty of good health, good contacts while enjoying your time with EARS to a maximum. Give your most to the club and the board !

New Members

We salute these 38 new members for 1996. Some of these "new members" came back during 1996 after being gone for a while.

J.B. Bogner-K0JF
 Harold Hall-KA5AGM
 Judy Johnson-KC5SMI
 Patricia Kuper-KC5YBP
 Curtis Foote-KC5GEP
 John Nelson-KC5SRH
 Don Ayers-KC5BRO
 Carole Ayers-KC5EXR
 Steve Cornman, Sr.-KB5CDF
 Terry Deas-KC5GDC
 Pete Holcombe-KC5SXX
 David Storey-K0TYC
 Eric Coxsey-KC5TCZ
 Keith Morrison-KC5TPC
 Clifford Jim-KC5SFH
 Jennie Jim-KC5UIN
 James Dawson-WA5PHJ
 David Hartman-KC5UNO
 Jay Lytle-KB5VDH
 Shannon Lytle-KB5VQM
 John Kuper-KC5RYS
 Garland Holmes-KC5SMM
 Troy Dykes-KC5QQH
 Bob Thomason-KA0CVK
 Amber Thomason-KA5VEK

Mike Miller-N1XSF
 Philip Price-KC5SMG
 Brad Thomson-AC5CQ
 Sharon Thompson-KC5WLS
 Carl Franklin-KC5RTM
 Gary Reinsch-KC5WSR
 Mark Welch-KC5SMH
 Claudia Welch- call sign on the way
 Jennifer Welch- call sign on the way
 Brad Boyington-KC5VPE
 Mike Nguyen-KC5VKJ
 Gary Ummel-KC5UWA
 C. Weilbrenner - KD6FNY

HF Committee

December 4

Predictably we met at Curby's in Edmond for a good round of barbecue, laughter and discussions about EARS HF activities. Had 13 folk in attendance for a 45 minute go-over of members thoughts and ideas of how to have the most HF fun while still being legal, for the most part. Dave, K0TYC, chairs this group and mentioned the importance of having our activities open to the licensing class members and new hams. It was mentioned by everyone that accessibility to the club station on a regular reliable basis is vital. Concern was expressed that non-participation at the club station will happen if club members cannot rely on the station being open on a frequent basis. Finding the door locked, when it is scheduled to be open, is not exactly a way to gain participation.

The importance of training on the equipment and being comfortable with equipment operation was discussed. Others mentioned interest in the club obtaining Worked-All-States and being a regular participant in HF operating contests. Seems reasonable. Packet operation on VHF and HF was mentioned as being a fun activity for the club to pursue. Others related the value of public service and community service being based out of the club station. Day time, during the week access to the club station was offered as a way to boost activity and speed WAS obtainment. Thanks to all in attendance and their commitment to EARS HF !!

Board Meeting

December 4

The final board meeting of the year was held at the club station with 1996 board members present except Jim Rynearson and Kevin Means. The 1997 board was also present excusing Jay Lytle. Guests included Earnest Wolf- K5YKD, A. C. Adams- KA5WGV, Jim Richardson-N5OHL, Mike McShan-N5JKY, and David Storey-K0TYC.

EARS helping a needy family via the Hope Center was approved. Dee mentioned that the new VHF antenna has arrived with installation expected "within-a-few days." Test equipment is trying to be located to help isolate the continuing repeater problems. Other discussion was held regarding the need to review the club constitution and by-laws, the desire for display of club photos and QSL cards at the club station and interest in HF activity. The latter symbolized by the superb turnout for the club's 16 November Special Event Station.

The necessity of the 1997 Board understanding its role in running the club and taking action wherein needed to operate the club consistent with Board desires and by-laws was reviewed. Board members were brought up to date on the licensing class with discussion held regarding the anticipated January General licensing class. All committee heads will be contacted regarding their interest in remaining in their position for 1997 with confirmation to be conducted by the 1997 Board. Dee agreed to request additional club station keys with action to be taken by the Board, as needed. Jim, N5OHL, mentioned that he has been named an HF Awards Manager by the ARRL and is available to confirm WAS and other operating awards. Congrats Jim. Meeting opened at 7:15 and adjourned at 9:10.

Christmas Dinner

December 14

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church was the scene for yet another EARS festive Yuletide gathering. This was a very special evening with cold wind and the

darkest of nights which seemed to help propel our Christmas feelings of gathering with our EARS family. The quality of visiting and sharing which occurs at this event seems unparalleled. The good holiday food, expertly prepared, sure was special and consumed in quantities adding to the enjoyment of the evening. Many of our family worked very hard in preparation for the dinner by lining up the food, getting the word spread, and being part of the event. Some put in several hours at home cooking then showed up hours before start time to finish cooking, helping set-up the tables, decorate, then take it all down, clean up all the while extending Holiday greetings with a smile. Well done !

Attendance was about 80 at the Christmas Dinner which helped support the EARS scholarship and the Edmond HOPE Center to assist a needy family. Thanks ! Clarence-KB5RR, presented Edith-KA5YPX, a certificate of recognition for her intense effort in doing a wide variety of projects for EARS for many years. The certificate, designed and prepared by Clarence, is most professional and is signed by ex-Presidents of EARS who remain club members. Kudos to Clarence and Edith !

St. Nick? Did he make it ? Sure did and in the best spirit of being there for kiddos of all ages. Was enjoyable visiting with the Santa Claus man. Tnx Santa for including EARS on your itinerary.

1997 EARS Board

President: Jay Lytle-KB5VDH

Vice-President: Joel Beasley-KB5FCF

Secretary: Sharon Thompson-KC5WLS

Treasurer-J.B. Bogner-K0JF

Emergency Coordinator: Kevin Means-N5USQ

Trustee- Dee Mize- WD5FHR

Board Member: David Wolf-KC5KJE

Board Member: Sam Sitton-W5CU

Past President: Edith Vaughn-KA5YPX

January Birthdays

Kindly wish these folk Happy Birthday !

1st - Gary Moore-KB5UKS

2nd- Hal Miller-KB1ZQ

5th- George Mastena-N5GFG

14th- Harold Wells-WA5ZKX

14th- Dale Johnson-AB5MP

15th- Stephen Kuper- KC5RYT

16th- Gary Reinsch-KC5WSR

18th- John Thomason-WB5SYT

23rd- Al Jenkins-KI5CW

23rd - Tommie Guinn-KA5WAV

24th- Tim Bethke-KB5GXH

28th- Rick Tasetano-N5KLM

28th - Shannon Lytle-KB5VQM

29th- Teresita Purpura-KC5IDB

Some closing thoughts

1996 was a very productive year for EARS. Membership growth, club activity and public service were at record levels. You should be quite proud of your club and your membership in EARS. At a time when Amateur Radio activity seems down in many locations and propagation is as poor as it gets your club is doing quite well. How does this happen? What is our tonic for success ? Don't know the full answer, but it seems the consistent teamwork, planning our functions and so many people showing and doing event after event be it bone chilling cold or brutally hot. Giving of their time, resources and themselves as only Amateur

Radio operators can do: very special ! Thanks to all who have given so much during the year . Let us roll us our sleeves and go make 1997 better than 1996 !!

A Look Ahead

January 8th-Wednesday, Board Meeting-7:00 PM Club Station

January 19th- Sunday, Club Meeting-2:00 PM Club Meeting @ St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

February 1st- Saturday, 12 noon Siren Test



HF WAS Awards Manager

HF WAS awards can now be checked and verified locally. The Edmond Amateur Radio Society (an ARRL special service club) has elected Jim, N5OHL to the position of HF Worked All States (WAS) awards manager. You no longer need mail those QSL cards to the ARRL because Jim can now check them here locally. You may apply for the basic award, any single band, CW, SSB RTTY, or any of the various endorsements. Jim can also do the 5-Band WAS award. For more information contact Jim at 524-0456.

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**OKlahoma
DX Association**

----- FROM THE PREZ -----

Hello everyone. I hope you had a wonderful and joyful holiday season.

As we begin a new year, I want to encourage everyone to reflect on the hobby of amateur radio and what it means to you. There are several questions to ponder - What am I getting from the hobby? What would the hobby be without the clubs and organizations that bond it together? What am I contributing to the hobby?

We all benefit from the contributions of others. We use the repeaters and packet clusters. We read the C&E. We attend the club activities and hamfests. We get to use our bands that are threatened to be taken away. We can not depend on individual such as N5OK, KB1ZQ, N5OGP, AB5I, and N5SAM to do everything for us.

What did you contribute to amateur radio last year? What are you going to contribute this year?

73, Jim, K5TT

-- SEC/TREAS REPORT --

OKDXA numbers

We are currently sitting at 86 as of press time (23 December). Thanks for the great "re-up" and the new memberships as well.

OKDXA Treasurer's reports

Since the C&E is not a private newsletter we cannot publish a treasurer's report. I'm a bit uncomfortable with this so I'm going to occasionally send a spreadsheet attachment to the officers and directors for the sake of fiscal accountability. Printed treasurer's reports will be available at any OKDXA meeting and as always, you can have one by mail at any time by request.

----- THE CONTEST -----

CONTINUUM

by Coy Day, N5OK

(Editor's note: The following is Part 2 in a three-part series by Coy Day detailing his and Dave Horn's recent ordeal to Belau. We left our intrepid travelers last month just having arrived in Belau, sans luggage, sans tools and sans patience! Read on ...)

Murphy goes on DXpedition!

Part 2

When we arrived *(at the Belau airport)* we got involved in the procedures to get to Koror *(Koror is the capital of The Republic of Belau, and is on a different island than the airport ... and remember, the KB bridge between the two islands is out!)* We had to take a bus to the bay and then take a boat across the bay and then take a bus to the hotel. When we arrived at the crossing, the hotel manager met us and asked about our luggage. This is when it hit me that I didn't pick up the hand tools from the pilot when we arrived! Now we were stuck and the busses were one way. No one was going back to the airport. Finally we flagged down a pickup and asked if we could have a ride to the airport. Dave and I had to ride in the back. Ouch! I was in a great deal of pain when we reached the airport. The hand tools were waiting for me and we caught the last bus to the bay for the crossing. It was close!

On the way across the bay we could see the damage to the KB bridge and we were amazed at the destruction. Seven people had been killed in its collapse. Dave lost his OKDXA cap crossing the bay; another bad omen! ha

I was sure glad to see that hotel. The first thing I did was get flat on my back. But more bad news awaited us! Two different JA groups were still planning on coming! We didn't even know about these. They weren't on the Internet but they had reservations at the hotel. Rats!

The following list is what we found when we arrived at the hotel. No water except in buckets. The hotel power was fluctuating when it was on. We had a note from Father Felix telling us that he was

off island and that he had not been able to get our licenses. Our favorite beetle nut tree to which we tied our 160 meter antenna to had been cut down. The hotel restaurant and grocery store were closed. The hotel and adjacent facilities were mourning the loss of the hotel owner's oldest son and an employee that were lost on the bridge. And it was raining, with LOTS of thunder and lightning, half the time and when the sun did come out the temperature soared into the mid-90's ... quite hot for Belau!

I sat in a chair and put antennas together and Dave would carry them up on the roof and put them up with the help of some of the locals. The second day they called and said that our baggage was in and that we would have to come to the airport to claim it because it had to go through customs. We left on Sunday afternoon and five hours later we got back to the hotel with the equipment. Dave's bags which contained his TS-930 was still missing. Our luggage was beaten and the equipment looked like someone had taken 12 lb. hammers to it. The top of my TS-940 was caved in and the feet were broken off the bottom. Two days later when Dave's finally arrived his TS-930 had the power supply fan caved in so that the blade wasn't able to turn. I was surprised that my TS-940 worked when I plugged it in. The 3-500Z for the linear was broken and the spare that Dave brought turned out to be a 4-400. The linear didn't work so it really didn't matter. Dave's key line wasn't wired for the Dentron Clipperton L that we had left there, so I had to rewire it.

The next day was really hot and the air conditioners were kicking off with high head pressure. This caused the already "bad" voltage to really be bad. I was considering unplugging my 940 when we had a real brown out. The 940 blew and wasn't fixable. The Isobar voltage regulator that I had it plugged into exploded with black smoke filling the room. It was a good thing that Father Felix left us a DC power supply and his IC-731. Dave went to the Ben Franklin store down town and bought a fan to blow on his 930 and it worked fine then I was monitoring the voltages in the outlets.

One leg was reading from 55 volts to 120 volts and the other leg was reading from 120 volts to 170 volts. It didn't take me long to figure out that they had a floating neutral. I begged the hotel manager to call an electrician. Most of the locals thought that we were causing the power to fluctuate in the hotel. They would stand in the courtyard chewing beetle nut and pointing at our antennas.

I was doing my best to work some folks on 80 and 160 but the tropical storms in the area made it very difficult. One night while I was trying to get the last ounce of power out of the linear, everything blew. Fire and a big cloud of smoke even came out of the antenna tuner that I was using on the G5RV! It was toast! And by the way, the G5RV also quit working. Can't imagine why!

While cutting open the balun I broke the blade out of my favorite knife that I have carried for years. Inside I found two wires had arced through the insulation. I separated them, taped up the balun and was back in business. The 160 meter antenna fell while Dave was watching it. It fell right across the high lines. We had ran it across the high lines because they had cut the other beetle nut tree. We were in a panic for a while but Dave got some help and got it put back up.

Still in PAIN, I spent a lot of time helping the local licensing authority get on board with their T8 prefix change, but I still couldn't get a T8 license. Finally, he admitted that he didn't have any of the forms on which they issue the licenses. I was very patient and helped them in developing regulations for their amateur radio program. They were very pleased with that effort and appreciated the fact that we weren't there bugging them for a license all the time but were willing to help. Finally I asked the director if he would give me verbal permission to use the call sign T88T. He said no problem. (Finally some good news!)

The good news was canceled out by an accident. We had been driving Father Felix' car and it wouldn't start. In the process of getting a jump for the battery Dave came around the car and fell over

an air conditioning unit that had been left in the parking lot. He landed on his thumb. We thought he had broken it. It swelled to about twice its normal size and he was having real difficulty operating the keyboard.

(... and so our dynamic duo, having somehow survived baggage handlers, fluctuating power, roasted gear and bodies, tropical thunderstorms, and overdoses of Motrin, embark on the final assault of their trip ... the CQWW SSB contest. Stay tuned for next month's finale!)

----- OKDXA STUFF -----

** Please check membership roster on OKDXA Web site*

For those of you who have Internet capability, please review the OKDXA membership roster on our web site for accuracy regarding your entry ... especially your call sign and email listings. With all the call sign and email changes I know I've failed to get some updated. Please send me an email with the corrections. Thanks!

** Kudos column*

Hearty congratulations are extended to Clif Sikes, AB5UA, who recently worked #101 in his CW DXCC effort! Clif is now hoping for those airmail envelopes in the mailbox and researching the safest method of transport to the ARRL! ha ha Congratulation Clif!

** New call signs*

Feigel, Don N5JK (ex-WD5EHU)

** Welcome new members!*

We welcome this month Mr. Paul Harrop, W5DX, of Gig Harbor, WA. Paul is formerly from the Lawton area and served as the first president of the Oklahoma DX Association ... back when it was called the Sooner DX Association. I believe that was about 1988. We certainly welcome Paul back into the ranks. Paul sends his greetings to the OKDXA membership and especially to the Lawton-area members. Paul's former call is WB5NDN.

----- MISCELLANY -----

We may be into Cycle 23

Alan Braun MD, NS0B/V31EV (albraun@socketis.net), a sun-watcher from Jefferson City, MO, put this message out on the Internet DX Reflector a few weeks ago. Alan says, "I've been looking at accumulated solar data for the last few months, and it appears that we may have finally passed sunspot minimum. The smoothed (365 day running average) solar flux bottomed out at 71.0 between May 15 and 23, and has been climbing slowly but steadily since then.

A similar average using sunspot numbers instead of flux yields a very similar picture. The smoothed SSN hit bottom at 11.9 on 5/19 and has also been climbing since.

Since the current cycle began in September 1996, this means that cycle 22 has been one of the shorter ones, lasting only 9 years and 8 months.

These numbers are calculated in the following way: for July 1, 1996, for example, the smoothed number is actually the average of all the numbers from January 1 to December 30, 1996 inclusively. Thus it takes a substantial amount of time after the minimum (or maximum) has passed before you can be sure it has actually happened. It has now been just over a month since the last data went into the numbers I've quoted above, so it is at least moderately certain that they are the real McCoy. Let's keep our fingers crossed!"

New QSL Info reflector

For our on-line members here is a new reflector service for QSL info and QSLing techniques. QSL requests are either forbidden or unwelcome on most DX reflectors so Jim Moore has assuaged the masses and come up with this dedicated reflector. Here is his email announcement from the DX Reflector.

"I have set up a QSL discussion list-server for exchanging information regarding QSL information and to help the newcomer in the techniques of getting that card! Registration info is:

e-mail to:
Majordomo@larry.wu3v.net

No Subject

subscribe qsl [email address here]
in body of the message.

No signature line (the robot will complain
hi)."

73 and Happy Holidays de Jim WU3V
jcm7181@bp.usl.edu

More QSL route info via email

For those of you with email only online services there is still a source for QSL info. Here are instructions on checking on routes using a new email QSL Info Server maintained by Lothar, DL1SBF.

QSL Info Server Instructions

• Send e-mail to qsl-info@datasync.com with DX call signs in the message body. Include only call signs for best performance.

• Additions and corrections should go to the database maintainer Lothar, DL1SBF, email: k9pes_ms@siiks.a1.bosch.de

• Other comments, etc. to Ray, WQ5L, email: rocker@datasync.com

There used to be an email QSL info server based at Augsburg University in Augsburg, Germany. To my knowledge this is not defunct. I've tried it several times lately and all attempts bounce.

----- The End -----
73 de N5OGP sk

DX NEWS

Heard Is. Beacon!

Upon arrival on Heard Island, the NCDXF beacon will be installed. VK0IR/B will be transmitting on 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930 and 28.200 MHz. The beacon will transmit for ten seconds on each band, every three minutes. Because the beacon will be operational 2 or 3 days prior to radio operations beginning, your reports (through the pilot stations: ON4UN, N1DG (WB2DND),

K0EU, W0EK (WD0AEK), W2FJ/6 (WA2FIJ/6), W4WW (N4PYD) and JH1ROJ) will be helpful in setting the operating plan for the first days of operation. Also, a special beacon will be operational on 1826.5 MHz.

Heard Is. Web site

The Heard Is. web site is at the following address and there is tons of info! Check it out!

<http://www.ccnet.com/~cordell/Hi>

QSLing D44

It is advisable to mail your letters "via Portugal", otherwise they are routed through Senegal where they are more likely to get "lost". D44BC's address therefore should be as follows: Julio Vera-Cruz, P.O.Box 36, Mindelo, Republic of Cape Verde, Via Portugal.

The 59(9) DX Report acquires The DX Bulletin

"THE 59(9) DX REPORT" has expanded by acquiring the subscriber base of "THE DX BULLETIN" and "THE DX REPORTER" from Paul & Nancy Smith of DX PUBLICATIONS. Paul has decided to concentrate his efforts on "THE DX MAGAZINE". All subscribers will now receive "THE 59(9) DX REPORT" as their weekly DX bulletin. Along with the 50 week full year subscription, a 25 week half-year subscription is available. Stateside subscribers can also select a less expensive full year Second Class (Periodical) rate. Besides checks, MasterCard and Visa are now available as a payment choice.

"THE 59(9) DX REPORT" also has a Web Page for everyone to enjoy. Check it out at:

<http://members.aol.com/the599rpt/x.htm>

For a sample issue and subscription information send a large SASE to: THE 59(9) DX REPORT, POB 73, Spring Brook, NY 14140. (opdx)

DXCC News Release

A release by Bill Kennamer, K5FUV, titled "XY0RR Status Update", in short

states that the DXCC Desk's accreditation of the XY0RR operation "was based on evidence that the operators had made legal entry into the country, and possessed operating permission from the government of Myanmar." But, "recently obtained information has called this evidence into question."

"If the accreditation decision regarding XY0RR were to be made today, the operation would not be accredited based on presently available information. However, technical difficulties prevent removal of DXCC credits for this operation. DXCC participants whose credit for Myanmar is based on a contact with XY0RR are encouraged to make a replacement contact for their own personal satisfaction."

R1FJZ QSLs

Many folks have worked this station on Franz Josef (including your's truly) but few have received cards from his German manager who is acting only as a mail drop. Here is the latest from the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin

According to DF7RX, "there is a very problematic situation about R1FJZ. The operator is still on the island, but the support-situation is very difficult. So the problem to get the logs is difficult, too." Bernhard, DF7RX, met R1FJZ's XYL some time ago passing all direct letters about QSL-requests since July, 1996, that Bernhard has received in the past. The latest information he got (a few days ago from R1FJZ) is 'the cards are on the way ... or will be sent/answered soon ..., but PLEASE be patient!' All cards will be answered!"

• Future significant DX operations

3Y/Bouvet - The planned trip to Bouvet, organized by the South Sandwich DX Group, will leave Cape Town, South Africa, in December 97. They will use four stations simultaneously, 24 hours a day, with SSB, CW, RTTY and satellite operations. Operators are, at the moment: WA4JQS, AH9B, HB9AHL, W6KNB, W7KNT, XE1L and ZS1FJ.

6W/Senegal - Starting from July 96, for two years, Didier, F5OGL will be active from Dakar, Senegal. Didier plans to

work on all bands from 10 to 160m on CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via F6KEQ.

6Y/Jamaica - Until Nov 98, JE3MAS (ex 5H1HK) will be active from Jamaica as 6Y5XX. QSL via bureau. (425dxn)

9G/Ghana - 9G - In 1997 Steve, PA3GBQ will be again active from Ghana. His call will be 9G5BQ and Steve hopes to have a license for 160m. Also ... Marcia, 9G1TM is again active (until about Dec 99) from Ghana. Marcia is active in SSB only, mainly from 10 to 20 m, WARC bands included QSL via G4XTA. (425dxn)

7O/Yemen - Zorro, JH1AJT, announced at 12:00z on 17 Dec 96, 21.295 kHz, that he has already received an invitation from the Yemen authorities to come back next year, and it would be at the end of April-1997. Xavier, EA3BHK

9Q/Zaire - For about one year, starting in September 96, Fernando, EA4BB will be again QRV from Zaire (all bands SSB and CW) as 9Q5BB. QSL via EA4BB, also via the EA bureau. (425dxn)

A9/Bahrain - A92C, the club station of ARAB (Amateur Radio Association of Bahrain), is again active after moving their QTH. They can now be heard from 17 UTC on the second and last Tuesday of each month. (425dxn)

BV9P/Pratus Is. - Bolon, BV5AF (President of CTARL & TAMSAT) reports that if propagation improves, Pratus Island might be activated at the end of March 97. (425dxn)

CY9/St. Paul I. - Mike, VE9AA is organizing a DXpedition to CY9. Preliminary dates will be 10-15 June (subject to slight change) and it will be an all band effort (2-160 m). (425dxn)

EK/Armenia - Victor, RV6HKB/EK will be active for about one year from Armenia on 20, 15 and 40m CW. 100 watts and a dipole. QSL via home call. (425DXN)

FR/Reunion I. - F6AFJ will be active as FR5GM until February 15th. He will be on SSB on 20 and 15 meters from 1100-1200z and again from 1600-1800z. (opdxn)

FT8Z/Amsterdam Is. - Eric, F5ICB/FT5ZG is already on Amsterdam, but he will not be active before February. He has no mike but just a CW keyer. His QSL manager (F5RQQ) has moved,

therefore the previously published address is no longer valid. (425dxn)

HP/Panama -Gerard, F2JD is in Panama where he will stay for at least six months. He will be active as soon as possible. (425dxn)

J5/Guinea-Bissau - Dave, KC9IM, will be active for two years as J52IM. He has installed antennas for 80 and 15m. QSL via KB9XN. (425dxn)

JW/Svalbard - Ula, LA8GV will be active until Oct 97 as JW8GV. QSL via home call. (425dxn)

KC4/Antarctica - Nikolai, UA3YH/KC4, is active (also as KC4AAA) from Amundsen-Scott Antarctic Base is often QRV (14.020 and 14.180 MHz) for the Americas between 00 and 03 UTC. For the contacts made with UA3YH/KC4 the QSL manager is RW3XA (ex UA3XBY), either direct (Box 461, Obninsk, Kaluga region, 249020, Russia) or through the bureau. (425dxn)

P4/Aruba - Between late January and early February Andy, P4/K2LE will be active from Aruba (SA-036). QSL via home call. (425dxn)

PJ9/Netherlands Antilles - From 8 January to the end of March John, W1BIH will be again active from Curacao (SA-009) as PJ9JT. QSL via W1AX. (425dxn)

PY0/St. Peter & Paul Rocks - The DXNL reports PS7KM and friends are planning to be active from here in the same time frame as the VK0IR (Heard Island) activity in 1997. (opdxn)

S7/Seychelles - S79MAD will remain active from Seychelles until August 1997. Paddy works mainly on 20m SSB, CW and RTTY and on 40m SSB and CW. (425dxn)

T32/Eastern Kiribati - From 14 to 21 Jan, Andy, VE7AHA will spend his vacation on Christmas Island, (OC-024), from where he will be active as T32HA. QSL via home call. (425dxn)

TZ/Mali - Larry, TZ6VV, is now active mainly in CW, on 40, 17 and, mainly, on 30 m. Find him between 10.109-10.115 MHz, around 22 UTC during weekends. QSL via TZ6VV (BP 2786, Bamako, Mali). (425dxn)

V4/St. Kitts - From 3 to 17 Feb, Joe, VE3BW will be active as V47CA from St. Kitts (NA-104). Operations will take

place on all bands (6-160m) mainly on CW. QSL via home call. (425dxn)

V5/Namibia - Gary (ex-C53HG) is active as V5/WA1JBB. Gary will be staying in V5 for four years and he is waiting for his own V51 call. QSL via W3HCW. Also ... Charlie, KY0A (V5/ZS6YG) is organizing an activity from V5 with W8UVZ. Operations are scheduled for Feb and will include participation in the ARRL CW Contest as V59T (QSL via KY0A). Outside the contest V5/ZS6YG (QSL via KY0A) and V5/W8UVZ (QSL via W8UVZ) will be active mainly on the low bands and on 10-12 m. (425dxn)

VK0/Heard Is. - Ghis, ON5NT has joined the VK0IR team. Bob, KK6EK expects the team to be put ashore on Heard Island around 12 Jan and come on the air a day or so later. Baring catastrophe, they should be QRV for a little more than two weeks. Contributions are still most welcome at Bob Allphin (K4UEE: 4235 Blackland Dr., Marietta, GA 30067, USA) or the Northern California DX Foundation (P.O. Box 2368, Stanford, CA 94309, USA). (425dxn)

VP8/Falkland Is. - Until about Nov 98, Brian, ZD7BJ will be active on SSB from the Falklands as VP8CWN. Look for him on 14.240 MHz at about 20 UTC when he is often in QSO with his wife (ZD7XY). (425dxn)

VP8/South Shetland Is. - Starting in December 96 and for all 1997 Mark, SP3GVX will be active from the station HF0POL located at the Antarctic Polish Base Henryk Arctowski (WABA SP-01) on King George Is. (62.10S 58.32W). Operations will take place mainly on the low bands. QSL via SP3FYM. Also ... Until Feb 97 ZX0ECF will be active from the Brazilian Antarctic base Comandante Ferraz located on King George Island, South Shetlands. He is usually QRV at 23 UTC ion 14.140-150 MHz. (425dxn)

VQ9/Chagos Is. -Pres, N6SS is again active (until later Mar 97) as VQ9SS from Diego Garcia (AF-006). Pres is active also on 160 meters. QSL via N6SS. (425dxn)

VU7/Andaman Is. - Jim, VK9NS, has received his Indian license (VU2JBS), but there has been no further word!

Z3/Macedonia - Jan, OH3MIG, will be here for the next 6-8 months as Z38/OH3MIG. His activity will be on all bands CW/SSB. QSL via OH3GZ. Meanwhile, Venco, Z31JA, has been active on 40 meters CW (around 7009 kHz between 2315 and 0130z). QSL via WA4JTK. Z32XA has been active on 80 m CW (within 10 kHz from bottom of band edge) between 0000 and 0515z. QSL via KM6ON.

ZK1/South Cook Is. - For at least five months starting from 2 November Gun, DF4DI will be active on all the bands from South Cook Islands using the ZK1DI call. Gun plans also to go for one week to Manihiki (OC-014, North Cook). QSL via DK1RV.

ZS8/Marion Is. - Until June-July 1997 Chris, ZS5IR/ZS6RI will be active from Marion Island as ZS8IR. Chris has joined the 53th scientific expedition to Marion, as the official doctor and will work from base camp on all the bands, also on 6 and 160 meters, in SSB, CW and RTTY hoping to join major contests. The station will be equipped with an IC-735, a FL-2100Z, PK-232 and antennas will mainly be wire due to high winds. QSL via ZS6EZ (ex-ZS6BCR).

NORTHEAST SNOW STORM

Amateur radio operators throughout the Northeast are being credited with being at the right place at the right time when a major snow storm hit the area. According to news and wire service reports, hams were quick to respond when electricity and telephone service was cut in several areas of Massachusetts and parts of Connecticut. No names of individual hams were given, but the service itself got some positive public exposure because New England hams were ready to go when the "the big one" moved in.

(Newline via various sources)

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Last falls' California wildfires tested the emergency communications capabilities

of ham radio operators in northern San Diego County. This, as Northern District ARES members responded to a brush fire in the Harmony Grove area of Carlsbad on the afternoon of October 21st.

Frank Littlebury, KE6WOE is the Northern District assistant emergency coordinator in the San Diego Section. He reports that over the next 40 hours, ARES personnel backed up by other volunteers stood by to support four separate Red Cross shelter and evacuation centers. They were also ready to provide supplementary communication support to the Red Cross, local fire departments, sheriff's office and county and city emergency operation centers in Northern San Diego County.

(Via ARRL Letter)

COLLINS CALL SIGN

A famous call sign has returned to the airwaves as part of the vanity call reassignment program underway with the FCC.

The Collins-Rockwell factory club station at Cedar Rapids, IA, now has the late founders callsign, W0CXX. Before he passed away, Art Collins was living in Dallas, TX. His license was to have expired a year ago this month. But the Collins Group, with the blessing of his widow, Mary Collins saw to it the a vital piece of ham radio heritage was preserved. Helping bring the call letters back to life in recent days the Collins Collector Association who hosted on the air visits with the new W0CXX.

"Anybody else want to check into the Collins Collector Association informal get together and make contact with the special events station W0CXX in Cedar Rapids, please come now with your callsign."

Yes there was a pile-up as more than three dozen stations lined up early with CCA net control W8RO.

"I'm sorry, there are people doubling and tripling. Just stand by just and let me.

Stand by for just a second and we will get everybody in here."

Finally there was forum and decorum as the Art Collins Special Event Station began working the list. For many it was a thrill as club operator and Rockwell worker Tom Vintin gave out reports.

"Whiskey Foxtrot Zero Juliet in Tampa, FL and our 559 over."

Quite a treat and the band conditions cooperated on 75 meters so that Cedar Rapids could work coast to coast. The special event brought many people out of the wood work to reflect on their favorite Collins equipment, express the fine quality Art Collins brought to such gear and to take a nostalgic look back at what has become a collectors market for just about all models produced at Cedar Rapids in the years that have past.

Thanks to the Collins-Rockwell Amateur Radio Club, Art Collins call, W0CXX will live on.

(Via Newline)

SANTA MARIA PIRATE

A probable FM bootleg station on 88.9 MHz is on the air in the Santa Maria California area. The only audio seems to be music from a CD changer, with the expected level variations.

According to writer Bob Gonsett, W6VR, this transmitter operates just on weekends and has been on with some interruption for about 6 months. According to a monitor station it can be heard for miles around the Santa Maria area on a typical car radio.

Another bootleg station calling itself "Excellent Radio" is not as clandestine. This Grover Beach FM bootlegger, has been on the air for over a year with a storefront location, bumper stickers and ads on a local Low Power TV station.

(Via CGC Communicator)

January 5 to February 8, 1997 Schedule of Events:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7 6:30 p.m. LFSARC	8	9 7:00 p.m. Altus Area ARC	10	11 09:30 a.m. SCARS
12 1:30 p.m. Wheatstraw	13	14	15	16	17	18 9:00 a.m. VE Exams (RSC) 11:00 a.m. VHF Club
19 2:00 p.m. EARS	20	21 7:30 p.m. OCAPA	22	23	24	25
26	27 6:00 p.m. CORA VE Exams	28 7:00 p.m. Shawnee VE Exams 7:30 p.m. CORA	29	30	31 C&E Deadline 	1
2	3	4 6:30 p.m. LFSARC	5	6 7:00 p.m. Aeronautical Center 7:30 p.m. CARA	7	8 10:00 a.m. Ada ARC



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