

# Collector & Emitter

A CORA Publication

**July 1997**

Volume 23, Number 7

Issue 269

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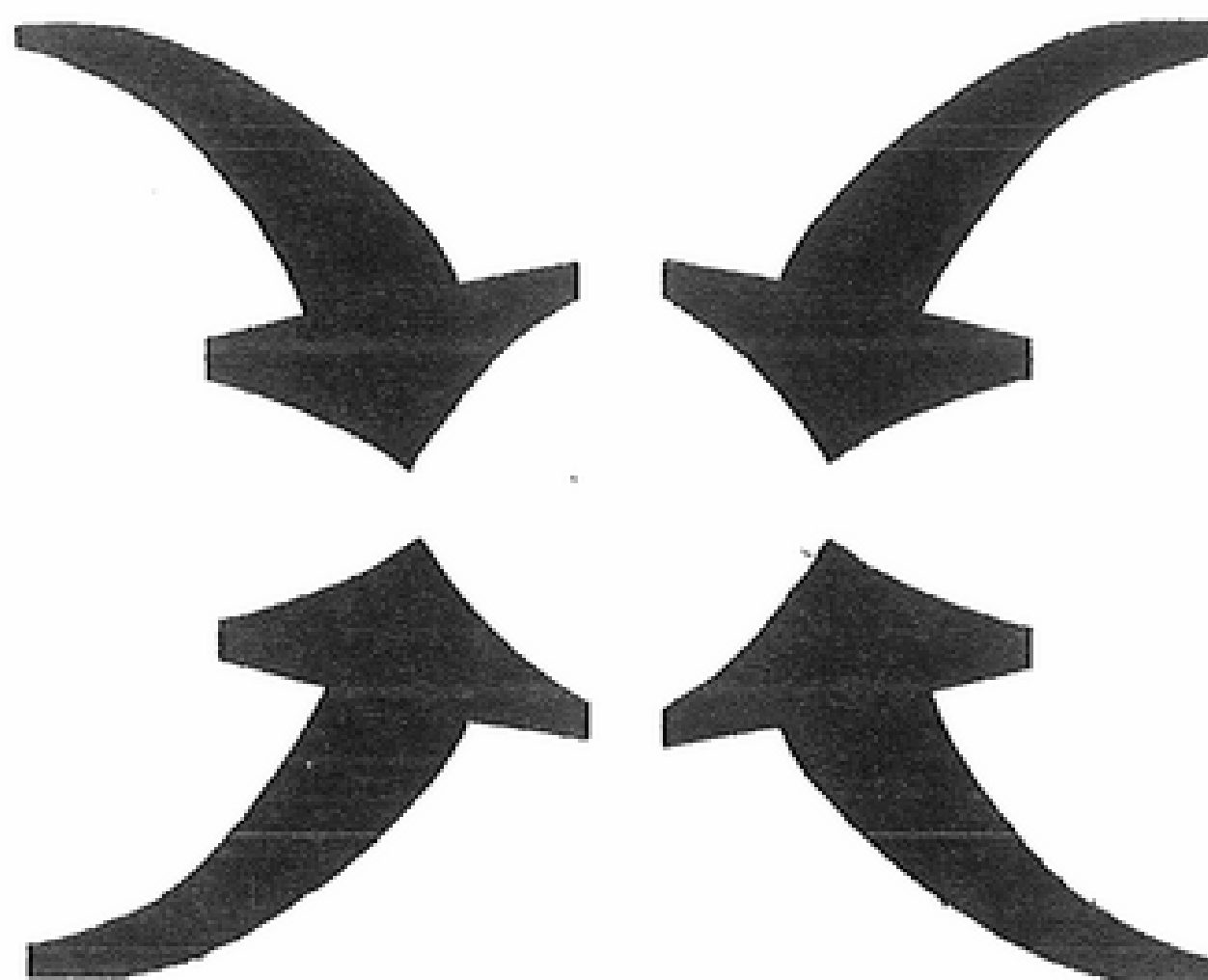
Postmaster See Page 2  
For Postal Information

Periodical Mail

**Bad Day??**

**Attitude is Everything!**

**Belt and HT Save Tower Worker**



**Getting Connected**

New Ham Explores Packet Radio

**Astronaut to Visit FD**

John Blaha goes to W5KS FD

**Register Now For Ham Holiday '97**

Registration Form Inside

**Collector & Emitter****Harold C. Miller, KB1ZQ****Editor****Linda G. Miller, N1LPN****Circulation Manager****Central Oklahoma Radio  
Amateurs, Inc.****President: Harold Miller, KB1ZQ****V Pres.: Brad Nelson, KJ0W****Secretary: Forrest Rush, N5VWF****Treasurer: Perry Jenkins, N5PJ**

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97/12

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RADIOVILLE, OK 74321-9876

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<b>2. Oklahoma Central VHF ARC</b> Meets: 1730L, 3d Thursday, Neighbor's Country Kitchen, 33 <sup>rd</sup> & N Classen, Oklahoma City Pres.: Jackelyn Olsen, KA5ENU 842-2305 VP: Ken Eason, KF5JS 789-2200 Sec: John Dome, KB5WVE 842-3493 Treas.: Jim Speck, W5AI Editor:	<b>14. Cimmaron Amateur Radio Assn.</b> Meets: 1930L, 1st Thursday, WXSY 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
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<b>6. Altus Area Amateur Radio Assn.</b> Meets: 1900L 2nd Thursday, Southwest Technology Center, Altus, OK Pres.: George Mayteyko, N1GM 266-3357 VP: John Mealer, AB5WQ 563-9252 Sec: Lil Town, KC5CNA 477-4027 Treas.: Travis Houska, KC5SRK 679-3816 Editor: Dave Locke, KC5SII 482-8625	<b>17. Ada Amateur Radio Club</b> Meets: 1000L, 1st Saturday, Salvation Army Bldg 115 N. Oak St., Ada, OK Pres.: Roy Throne, KB5STV 436-1019 VP: Dwight Myers, N0RIW 436-4755 Sec/Tr.: Sam Jewell, KM5IY 436-2224
<b>8. Choctaw Amateur Radio Club</b> Meets: 1900L 3rd Monday, Eastern Oklahoma Co. Vo Tech, 4601 N. Choctaw Rd, Choctaw, OK Pres.: Mike McFarland, N5WNT 799-0612 VP: Duane Angles, KA5WRG 670-6163 Sec: Marie Harris, KC5HKB 390-8851 Treas.: Bill Tarkington, KC5ICR 390-8751 Editor:	<b>18. Lawton Fort Sill ARC</b> Meets: 1900L 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday, Great Plains Area Vo-Tech room 301, Worley Center. Pres.: Paul Wardell, N5PYD VP: Marl Ewell, KC5IZN Sec/Tr.: Paul Goulet, KC5CYY 250-4247 E-mail: w5ks@rli.net
<b>9. Wheatstraw Amateur Radio Club</b> Meets: 1430L, 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	<b>CORA is Growing!! Room For Another Club's Officers Here. Let US Know of any Clubs wanting Information On Joining CORA.</b>
<b>10. Oklahoma DX Association</b> Meets: Hamfests and as announced in C&E. Pres.: Jim Hood, WV5S 405-732-6131 VP: Ross Hunt, K5RH 918-234-5050 VP: Craig Boyer, AH9B 405-771-5929 Sec/Tr.: Mark Byard, N5OGP 405-762-1966 Editor: Mark Byard, N5OGP 405-762-1966	<b>Central Oklahoma Radio Amateurs</b> 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, N5PJ 354-5075 Editor: Harold Miller, KB1ZQ 672-7735 E-mail: n1lpn@aol.com n1lpn@swbell.net

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# Central Oklahoma Radio Amateurs, Inc.

Minutes of the CORA meeting for June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1997.

The meeting was called to order by the president of CORA, Hal Miller, KB1ZQ. There were four clubs represented with thirteen directors present and two visitors. The meeting place was rescheduled and moved to Coits at N. Penn and I-44.

The secretary's report was accepted as printed in the C&E with one correction. The treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

The vice-president was absent from tonight's meeting.

**Presidents report.** The tax returns for CORA have been mailed; we did not have to pay anything this year.

The application for non-profit 501-c status has been completed by CORA's accountants and is in the mail.

The C&E is doing good; however, due to Ham Holiday 1997 the August issue of the C & E will be one week late. Once we have federal 501-c status we will look into getting tax exempt status from the state of Oklahoma.

## Ham Holiday 1997.

**Prizes.** The Grand Prize will be a gift certificate of \$800.00 to be spent at any of our Ham Holiday vendors. You pick it, CORA pays for it.

There will be **TWO** pre-registration prizes given away. The prizes are MFJ antenna analyzers.

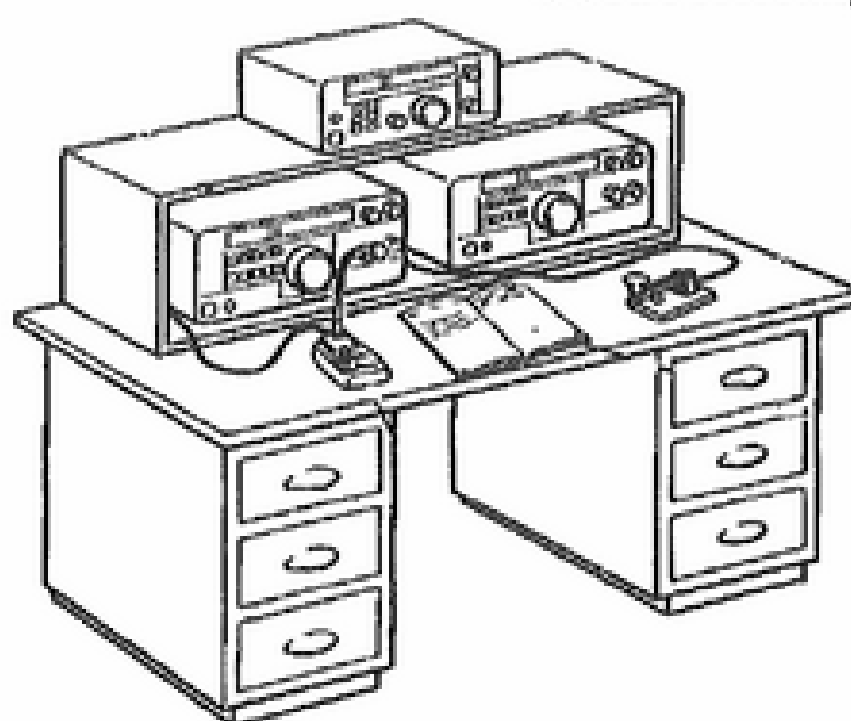
There will be some choice doorprizes this year. More I can't say, you have to come to the hamfest to find out.

The talk-in frequency will be 146.820, the OCAPA repeater.

**Last minute details.** The upcoming CORA meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1997 is very important. All clubs involved in any way with Ham Holiday are urged to attend. This will be the last meeting before Ham Holiday 1997. The meeting will be on Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1997 at 7:30 PM at the Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters at NW 50<sup>th</sup> and N. Pennsylvania Ave. **Be There!**

Respectfully submitted,

Forrest Rush, N5VWF  
CORA secretary



*CORA VE SESSION  
June 16, 1997*

On the above noted date, which was the third Monday of June, the CORA VE test session was held at 6:00 PM. The applicants and Volunteer Examiners were all set for the six PM start time. 6:00 o'clock is when the little hand is pointing straight down and the big hand is pointing straight up in case one might need reminding. The CORA test sessions are held each month on the third Monday (I know you remember the time) at the Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters in OKC at the Northwest corner of Penn and Northwest Highway. Results from the June 1997 session are as follows:

Test Elements Passed - 7  
Total Applicants -5  
Applicants Upgrading -4

Individuals passing indicated elements:

James Hale, 2 & 3A, \*  
Ed Kelsay, 2 & 3A, \*  
Bill Parsons, 3B, \*\*\*  
Larry M. Whitely, 2 & 3A \*

1A - 5 wpm code, 1B - 13 wpm code, 1C - 20 wpm

2-Novice Theory

3A - Technician Theory

3B - General Theory

4A - Advanced Theory

4B - Extra Theory

Upgraded to: \* Technician, \*\* Tech Plus, \*\*\* General, \*\*\*\* Advanced, # Extra

Yes, it is time to extend congratulations to these successes! Each is owed a hearty handshake. To each of these Amateur Radio operators an Elmer and/or family members are also to be thanked for their support. It is not long until the next test session at the Salvation Army for upgrading or entry level licensing. So, keep up the study schedule, and realize that upgrade ticket could be just a few weeks away. You will be quite proud for reaching your goal: either you own ticket or helping a friend pass their test. The time until the next VE session go by anyway so why not go for it! Remember that by planning your study time, maintaining your schedule and taking the test you risk **PASSING!**

So now you are pumped to go for "victory-lane" and want to know when that next test is don't you? Monday, July 21st-location and time, as above. The always on schedule CORA VE team will be there to courteously fulfill their role. Thanks to that group for their a job well done.

73 de John Thomason  
WB5SYT@AOL.COM



The Amateur Radio community mourns the passing of a friend and neighbor,

**Dale Johnson, AB5MP**

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Johnson family.

## Chit - Chat

by Linda Miller, NILPN

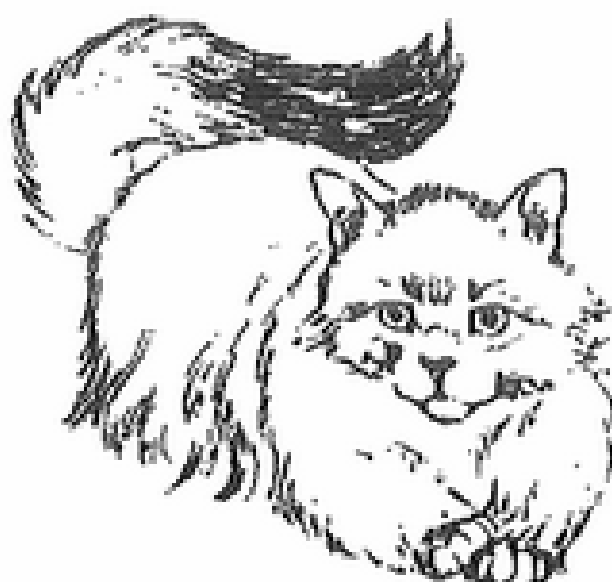
Simple blessings, life's challenges and facing tomorrow ...

I was sitting in the rocker reading a novel and Little One decided to sit on the end table and watch me. He sat there for some time without making a sound. He is very quiet and seems happy just to watch me read silently. A little later, he reaches over and starts biting the edge of the book. I reach over and pick him up and holding him in my arms, gently begin rocking him while I continue to read my book. He settles down and begins to purr to the rhythm of the rocking motion. The warmth and deep contentment I experience is beyond words.

It is early morning and not even 7:00 am yet and I have just fixed myself a cup of coffee. I open up the curtains to the sliding doors which look out onto our backyard. A beautiful male Blue Jay lands on our home-made bird feeder. While his mate, she has the dull muted coloring, is on the ground under the feeder eating the seeds that have fallen to the ground. The early morning sun shines off the males' feathers making his colors almost blinding. A sight I would not have missed for the world. I wonder how many people take the time to really see the world right under their noses?

Have you ever had a restless feeling and wondered why? I was taught that when I felt penned in and restless that there was only one true cure. Tune out the noises of the world and walk outside in the moonlight. Look up at the stars in the sky

and really see what you are looking at. Taking time to see the night sky can put things into perspective and calm you when you least expect it. I find that my problems and restlessness are very small compared to the whole picture surrounding me. Once more I am ready to face the challenges placed before each day.



Cherish life and walk through it with the eyes of a child as if you are seeing the world for the very first time. Sometimes, we tend to allow everyday frustrations and disappointments to cloud and overwhelm us. Make every day count, see beauty where you never thought to find it before. Take time to see the good in your life and all you have been blessed with instead of counting all the negative things going wrong. I believe strongly that we must learn from our mistakes but also we must not allow them to overshadow our lives. Try to see tomorrow as a new day and each single day is a fresh start, leaving today's mistakes behind you. Our time here on this earth is limited and none of us knows when it will end. Make the best of that time in whatever you do in this life and make it something you can be proud of.

Until next month....



## VHF Club NEWS

W5LOW  
Elmer Goekler Memorial  
Station

Club minutes of the June 19th, 1997 meeting.

The Oklahoma Central VHF ARC held the regular meeting at Neighbors Country Kitchen, Classen Blvd. at N. 33rd St. President Jackolyn, KA5ENU, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM with 12 members and guests in attendance.

Minutes for last months meeting as published in the C&E were approved.

The treasurers report was given by Jim, W5AI, and approved.

There was no subject brought up under old business, nor under new business.

Bob, W5HXL, gave a report on the CORA meeting. There were discussions about how preparations for Ham Holiday were coming along and it seems all the hard work will result in a great hamfest so plan to be there early and stay late.

The meeting was then adjourned, and although it was short, the food was nevertheless delicious and everyone enjoyed the time together.

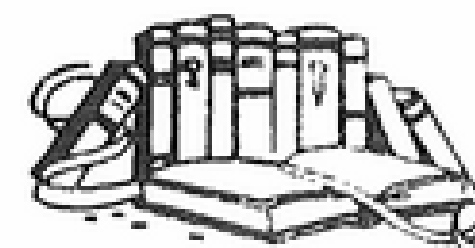
73, de J.R., KB5WVE

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## Ada Amateur Radio Club

The Ada ARC convenes at 10:15 am, 14 June 1997, for the regular monthly meeting. The meeting is normally held the first Saturday of each month, however the meeting date was moved back one week to accommodate the "Arlington Hamfest" schedule. The Arlington Hamfest was good, but we hear that Oklahoma City's Ham Holiday 1997, interspersed with unique attractions will be superb.

The treasurer's report was accepted as given and was passed without objection.

Field Day will take place on June 28, 1997 at the Ada Airport adjacent to the National Guard Armory. Set - up will begin at 8:00 am, with Field Day starting at 1:00 pm. Members are advised to mark their gear for identification. John, KC5EZC will provide generator power while other members provide radios, antennas and other necessary items.

The Ada ARC will provide communications for the "Great American Car Race" coming through Ada on June 27. Communications will consist of emergency and other volunteer services as the cars near their interim destination at downtown Ada.

Sam, KM5IY agreed to fill the duties of Secretary / Treasurer for the remainder of the 1997 term, carrying the title of "Acting Interim Secretary / Treasurer".

A list of volunteer hams will be provided to local authorities. The volunteers will help provide emergency and other necessary communications at the City Park during 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities.

The scheduled July meeting for Ada ARC will be Saturday, 12 July. This change was made to allow members to celebrate Independence Day.

The Ada ARC is expanding. Club Headquarters will remain in the EEOC office, located in the basement of Ada City Hall. This location is ideal because of

direct liaison with EEOC and Ada ARC storm spotters. The auxiliary communications and club meeting center will be located at Salvation Army Headquarters, 115 N. Oak Street. the auxiliary center has VHF / UHF capabilities at this time, HF capabilities will be added in the near future. This location will facilitate easier access to all club members. Remember next meeting July 12 at the Salvation Army.

The club is open for donations to help complete the auxiliary center radio desk. One anonymous donor has already made a generous gift, so let us all contribute to this worthy cause. Call Sam, KM5IY @ 436-2224 for your receipt.

The Ada ARC VE team assembled for one test session each month for April, May and June, with the results as follows:

Sam Jewell - Upgrade to Advanced  
John Renes - Technician  
Dennis Whipple - General Theory  
Edward Ellis - Technician  
Finis Hallmark - Upgrade to Tech Plus  
Nancy Myers - Technician  
Alan Gilliam - Technician  
Mark Craddock - Technician  
Levona Etier - Technician  
Weldon Hudson - Technician  
James Stevens - Technician

Congratulations to all on a job well done.

Sam Jewell, KM5IY  
ADA ARC Secretary

## Bad Day ??

So you think you're having a bad day!  
The following is taken from a Florida newspaper:

A man was working on his motorcycle on his patio and his wife was in the house in the kitchen. The man was racing the engine on the motorcycle and somehow, the motorcycle slipped into gear. The man, still holding the handlebars, was dragged through a glass patio door and the motorcycle dumped onto the floor inside the house. The wife, hearing the crash, ran into the dining room, and found her husband laying on the floor, cut and

bleeding, the motorcycle laying next to him and the patio door shattered. The wife ran to the phone and summoned an ambulance.

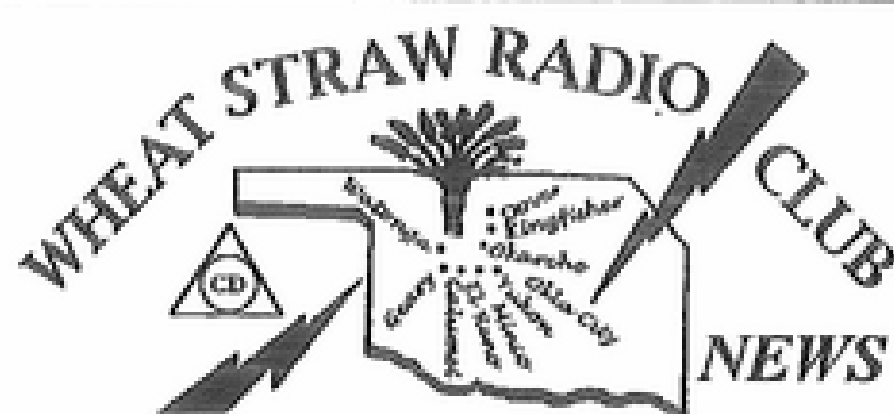
Because they lived on a fairly large hill, the wife went down the several flights of long steps to the street to direct the paramedics to her husband. After the ambulance arrived and transported the husband to the hospital, the wife up righted the motorcycle and pushed it outside. Seeing that gas had spilled on the floor, the wife obtained some papers towels, blotted up the gasoline, and threw the towels in the toilet.

The husband was treated at the hospital and was released to come home. After arriving home, he looked at the shattered patio door and the damage done to his motorcycle. He became despondent, went into the bathroom, sat on the toilet and smoked a cigarette. After finishing the cigarette, he flipped it between his legs into the toilet bowl while still seated.

The wife, who was in the kitchen, heard a loud explosion and her husband screaming. She ran into the bathroom and found her husband laying on the floor. His trousers had been blown away and he was suffering burns on the buttocks, the back of his legs and his groin. The wife again ran to the phone and called for an ambulance.

The same ambulance crew was dispatched and the wife met them at the street. The paramedics loaded the husband on the stretcher and began carrying him to the street. While they were going down the stairs to the street accompanied by the wife, one of the paramedics asked the wife how the husband had burned himself. She told them and the paramedics started laughing so hard, one of them tipped the stretcher and dumped the husband out. He fell down the remaining steps and broke his ankle.





## Wheat Straw Amateur Radio Club

The June eighth meeting was held in the Watonga State Bank community room with 22 people present. Meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by President Johnny, K5GBn. Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Joe, WA5FLT, with no corrections.

Field Day was discussed, but nothing became of it for this time. Since the club reserved a shelter for our annual covered dish dinner in Red Rock Park in May 1998. A motion was made after discussion by Leo, WZ5H about the policy at the Canton Lake shelters. A motion was made to reserve a shelter now for the August covered dish dinner 1997. Seconded by Alice, WA5EUW. Motion Carried.

Joe, WA5FLT had already gotten confirmation of the reservations for the shelter for the 1998 May meeting. The shelter is down at the south end, we will know a little more about it in time.

Some one questioned what was the talk about raising Wheatstraw dues at the May meeting. Ralph, WA5PFFK restated his thoughts he proposed at the May meeting. He did not make a motion at that time, he asked for the members to be thinking about it for a meeting about November. The proposal is, to the raise the cost for the first licensed member of the family from \$10.00 a year to \$12.00. The second or more licensed member of the home leave the dues at \$5.00. Raise the dues of an unlicensed spouse from \$2.00 to \$3.00 with no voting privileges.

The July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in Calumet, OK at the city hall. The City Hall from the stop light in the middle of town is one block south, then ½ block

west, the white building on the north side of the road. Stop and come on in. If the sun is not out and you don't know which way is west; if you are going south, one block from the stop light turn to your right. If you are coming from the south going toward the light one block south turn left.

After having a good meeting, some one made a motion we adjourn, the line was formed to the refreshments. I think just about everyone brought refreshments. We visited and ate until, I don't think anyone could eat any supper. Johnny said that he would be net control for the month, I will help him as needed.

I received the last issue of the Collector and Emitter and quickly found out there was not a Chit - Chat article. This is usually the first article I read.

I have been off the air for about a month, I got back on the air this afternoon and it felt good to be back.

Doing some reading this afternoon in QST, I read a few letters from the correspondence section page 24 in the June and July issues. In the July, QST revisiting Heard Island. Update your address, I find a lot of hams do not, thus QSLs don't get to them. In the July issue, page 24; Phonetically Speaking A European Reflection. Here is a goodie, If you are having Stop it! Another one Off Line - and loving it.

If you do not receive the QST or an ARRL member, you should be.

When God created humans he gave us two ears and only one mouth, expecting us to listen twice as much as we talk.

Memorial Day 1997, we had a good program and a large crowd. I would say it was the largest crowd we have ever had. It was estimated the crowd to be as much as one hundred fifty. The speaker was Congressman Frank Lucas.

I talked to some of the local people who were not there and the answer I got was "Oh! I am not a veteran" I do not understand why people think that way.

We advertised on the radio and in the local newspaper for all our loved ones who had gone on before us.

We have quite a group of entertainment lined up for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Hoping things go well and we have a large crowd.

Ralph, WA5PFFK

## SHORT FINAL...

The beguiling ideas about science quoted here were supposedly gleaned from essays, exams, and classroom discussions. Most were from 5th and 6th graders. Some seem to apply to the art of flight...

- The law of gravity says no fair jumping up without coming back down.
- Clouds are high flying fogs.
- I am not sure how clouds get formed. But the clouds know how to do it, and that is the important thing.
- Water vapor gets together in a cloud. When it is big enough to be called a drop, it does.
- Humidity is the experience of looking for air and finding water.
- Rain is often known as soft water, oppositely known as hail.
- Rain is saved up in cloud banks.
- A blizzard is when it snows sideways.
- A hurricane is a breeze of a bigly size.
- Isotherms and isobars are even more important than their names sound.

And our favorite...

- Rainbows are just to look at, not to really understand



## Lawton / Ft Sill Amateur Radio Club

### *Notes from the out going President:*

June was a busy and exciting month for the Lawton/Fort Sill Amateur Radio Club. The election of new officers went well. The new President is N5PYD Paul Wardell; new Vice President KC5IZN Dr. Mark Ewell; Secretary-Treasurer KC5CYY Paul Goulet. The new officers took office on July 1, 1997. I wish to thank the many members of the Lawton/Fort Sill Amateur Radio Club who worked so very hard during the past year to enable us to provide public service to our community and other club functions. A special thanks to my fellow officers and committee chairpersons. I also wish to thank each and every club member for their support and cooperation. THANKS TO ALL!

As you know by now, we had a great Field Day. The visit with Astronaut John Blaha, KC5TZQ and his wife Brenda was cut short because of the MIR emergency. Amateurs certainly understand the importance of his experience and ability to provide support to the MIR crew. We were indeed fortunate that he had time to spend with many community leaders and organizations for that I am personally thankful. We wish to thank them tremendously for taking time from their busy schedule to visit our Field Day and our great city.

I look forward to working with the newly elected officers. As my term comes to an end I would ask that each member continue to provide the same support to them as you did to me. Serving as

President is nothing but a pleasure when there are so many capable, talented members as we have. This past year has been an exciting experience that I have enjoyed. I say to everyone in the amateur radio community being your fearless leader over the past 12 months has been an experience that will last a lifetime.

73 de Jim, N5UJB

### ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

*By Francie Baltazar-Schwartz*

Jerry was the kind of guy you love to hate. He was always in a good mood and always had something positive to say. When someone ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

He was a unique manager because he had several waiters who had followed him around from restaurant to restaurant. The reason the waiters followed Jerry was because of his attitude. He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Jerry was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation. Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Jerry and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?"

Jerry replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, Jerry, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life."

"Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested.

"Yes it is," Jerry said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to be in a good or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life."

I reflected on what Jerry said. Soon thereafter, I left the restaurant industry to

start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it. Several years later, I heard that Jerry did something you are never supposed to do in a restaurant business: he left the back door open. One morning and was held up at gun point by three armed robbers. While trying to open the safe, his hand, shaking from nervousness, slipped off the combination. The robbers panicked and shot him.

Luckily, Jerry was found relatively quickly and rushed to the local trauma center. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Jerry was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body.

I saw Jerry about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Wanna see my scars?"

I declined to see his wounds, but did ask him what had gone through his mind as the robbery took place.

"The first thing that went through my mind was that I should have locked the back door," Jerry replied. "Then, as I lay on the floor, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live, or I could choose to die. I chose to live." "Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked. Jerry continued, "The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the emergency room and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read, 'He's a dead man.' I knew I needed to take action."

"What did you do?" I asked. "Well, there was a big, burly nurse shouting questions at me," said Jerry. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. 'Yes,' I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply..

I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Bullets!' Over their laughter, I told them, 'I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead.'

Jerry lived thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully.

Attitude, after all, is everything.

## Amateur Radio Newsline

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### Indy 500 Parade

It took some extra time because of the rainy weather, but this years Memorial Day Indianapolis 500 auto race was finally completed. But before there was the race there was the parade and Amateur Radio helped to make it happen.

It was a TV production that any network would be proud of. Ten cameras, five locations and lots of colorful action.

The event was the Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade. Seventeen amateur radio operators covered the annual parade from end to end. The amateur tv network provided closed circuit tv pictures of the entire route. The video was feed to an operations center where law enforcement, medical and parade committee members could see the action surrounding the parade.

According to Jim Keeth, AF9A the feed is used to spot potential trouble spots which might cause delays or other problems.

Paul Bohrer, W9DUU headed up this years project along with Malcolm Mallette, WA9BVS.

Jack adds that Amateur Radio operators have been helping to coordinate this parade for the past ten years.

*(Via Amateur News Weekly)*

### The Great Soccer Match

The same weekend, Dayton Ohio saw the only event that comes close to competing with the Hamvention in size and scope. It was a major soccer match held in the superb of Huber Heights. And once again Amateur Radio played an integral part in making it a success.

Over the Memorial Day Weekend, May 24th, 25, and 26th over 7,000 soccer team members from across North America descended on Huber Heights for the Warrior Soccer Classic.

Better than 100 teams turned down after the field of 360 teams was filled.

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association communication van crews headed up safety and administrative communications at fifteen soccer fields at Cloud Park and fifty fields at Wright Patterson Air force Base.

Realtime updates of game results fir next round pairings were past on to the officials via a dedicated packet link to help keep things moving smoothly.

The size of this event ranks second only to Hamvention in Montgomery County. And the event organizers were again very appreciative of ham radios role ion keeping the event on track.

There was one small problem faced by the players and the hams. The same problem faced by drivers and race officials at the race a hundred miles away in Indianapolis. Heavy rain that slowed this event down as well.

*(Via Amateur News Weekly)*

### Belt and HT save tower worker

A tower repairman for a large utility company is alive today only because he remembered to secure his safety harness and was carrying a handheld transceiver. It happened on Tuesday, May 27th when the unidentified worker slipped while changing lamps on an eighty foot tower. A tower that was sitting atop a three thousand foot mountain overlooking the city of Victorville, California.

Being well trained he had instinctively attached his safety harness to the tower before beginning to work. When he found himself dangling from the structure in mid-air, he used his HT to call for help. Even so, it still took almost three hours before rescuers got him down. He was flown by helicopter to a nearby hospital after complaining of back and leg pain.

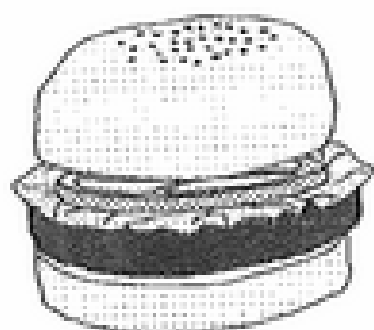
And there is big lesson from this for hams. One that says if you are going to do work on your tower be certain to wear a safety harness and be certain that safety harness is properly secured to the tower. Also carry some form of emergency communications that you can reach to call for help if you find yourself hanging in mid air.

*(Via Newsline)*

### Spark gap cure sale halted

Treating pain with a spark gap transmitter is illegal. So say federal officials who have halted sales of a device called The Stimulator.

The Stimulator was advertised on television as a pain reliever. The U. S.

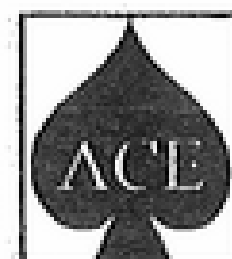


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Mart Dennis KC5NAX  
Jennie Dennis

**Altus Communications & Electronics**



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**CellPage**  
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Attorneys office contends that the apparatus is essentially a camp stove igniter that emits nothing more than an electrical spark.

But a spokesman for a firm that distributes The Stimulator says that it emits a charge to provide electromagnetic stimulation and that testimonials from customers say it does alleviate pain. The government does not buy the explanation or the testimonials. It says that a spark gap will not cure any ills and has ordered that sale of the item be halted immediately.

*(Via FCC Press Release, other news reports)*

### Digital radio bids

Two Washington area firms have bid a total of \$173 million at a government auction for the rights to provide a new breed of radio service that can be heard coast to coast and offers CD quality reception. American Mobile Radio Corporation and CD Radio Inc. were the winners in a long delayed and controversial auction limited to four companies.

Digital radio, expected to be up and running by the latter half of 1999, will be transmitted via satellite. It will allow listeners to tune in anywhere in the country and will offer listeners up to fifty stations of music, news and other specialized programs.

*(Via Radio World Magazine)*

### VT Amateur Appreciation Week

And speaking about Vermont, a proclamation declaring Amateur Radio Week in that state is scheduled to be signed on Monday, June 23rd at the Vermont State House in Montpelier. The celebration of Vermont Amateur Radio Week will conclude with the annual Field Day events in Vermont.

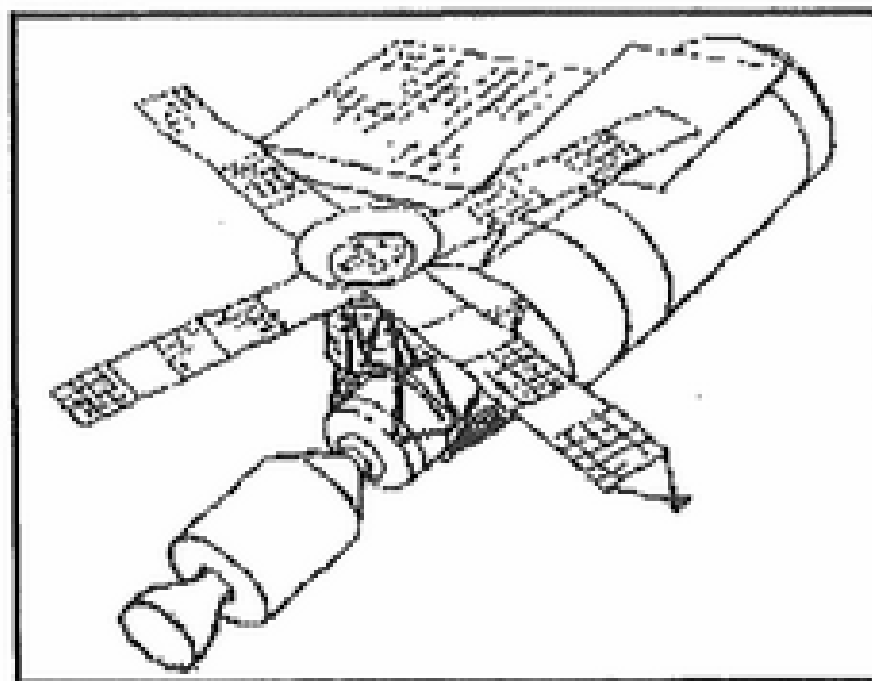
*(Via ARRL)*

### The return of the FMT

And do you remember the old W1AW Frequency Measuring Tests? They were discontinued some time ago, but John Dilks, K2TQN, reports that as of Thursday, May 22 at 00:00 UTC the Boat Anchor Net has resurrected them. Transmissions are on the 80, 40, and 20 meters. To maintain the flavor of the old tests those taking part must use vintage, tube type gear in making their measurements.

Test results will be posted to the famed "Boat Anchor" reflector. For more information, contact Bob Roehrig, K9EUI, daytime Central time at (630) 844-4898 or by fax anytime to (630) 844-5530.

*(Via ARRL)*



### Mir tracking comms

The United States is now providing VHF communications support to the Mir space station. This, according to a posting to the AMSAT North America Bulletin Board by Astronaut Ron Parise, WA4SIR.

Parise says that this service began since actually since U.S. crew members have been on board the Mir. Stations are currently operating at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops Island, VA and at the Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Within the next couple of weeks another system will be in operation at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. A possible fourth site is currently under study.

*(Via AMSAT-NA BBS)*

### Lucid receives Russian Medal

Astronaut Shannon Lucid has received the Order of Friendship medal from Russian President Boris Yeltsin. This, during a ceremony at the Kremlin honoring Russian Cosmonauts and international astronauts who have flown on the Russian space station Mir in 1996.

The Order of Friendship medal is one of the highest Russian civilian awards and the highest award that can be presented to a non-citizen. Lucid spent a U.S. record 188 days in space last year. She was launched to Mir on the space shuttle Atlantis on March 22nd, 1996. While on Mir, Lucid was active on Amateur Radio after the Russians gave her permission to talk using under the supervision of the on-board Cosmonaut hams using the call sign ROMIR.

*(Via AMSAT, ARRL, others)*

### GB2RS frequency change

The Radio Society of Great Britain says that its GB2RS 80 meter broadcasts have changed frequency. Check 3.640 and 3.650 MHZ for your regular newsreader. Start times remain unchanged, but R.S.G.B has given up the use of 3.660 MHZ. No changes have been made to news readings on VHF and UHF.

*(Via RSGB)*

### RAC Alberta Section Manager election result

Gordon Kosmenko, VE6SV has been re-elected as Canada's Alberta Section Manager. This, for a two year term that will begin on July 1st. Kosmenko ran unopposed, eliminating the need for a balloted election.

*(Via RAC)*



## Edmond Amateur Radio Society

### *E. A. R. S. June Board Meeting*

President, Jay Lytle, KB5VDH called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM on June 4th, at the Club Station. There were 15 Board and Club members present.

The Treasurer's Report and Secretary's Minutes from the May Board meeting had previously been mailed to all Board members, and were accepted as presented.

Sam, W5CU reported that he would be meeting with Ken, N5DBM the following Saturday. Ken has agreed to be the Club's Emergency Management Coordinator.

Dee, WD5FHR reported that the 443.150 repeater is now on the air, with no PL tone. The 443.425 repeater is operational, and dedicated to weather reporting.

Dee and Ernie, K5YKD will re-position the guy wires on the Club roof, and Dee solicited ideas for re-anchoring the dipole support, as requested by the City of Edmond.

Discussion followed concerning the University of Central Oklahoma's plans for their tower, and how that would be affecting the Club's antenna site. Sam expressed the need for the Club to write a letter to the UCO Station Committee regarding the Club's service to UCO and the City, and the advantages of EARS presence on the tower.

Jay, KB5VDH requested that the remote links which were taken down during the recent interference problems, be re-activated. Dee will check with Lee, KA5WIS to determine the ownership of the links and what is needed to re-

establish them. Upon clarification, the Club will address the issue of repair to these items.

Clara, KG5UG reported that Bob, N5SAG; Harold, KA5AGM; Frank, AA5GI and Tommie, KA5WAV are recuperating nicely after their surgeries. A. C.'s, KA5WGV mother-in-law is staying in an assisted living apartment and is doing well. Shelby, KA5YPE is still working through her recuperation since foot surgery, and sent a nice thank you card to the Club.

Jim, N5OHL presented award certificates to:

Ernie (K5YKD) licensed since 1959  
Dee (WD5FHR) licensed since 1977  
John (WB5SYT) licensed since 1977

*Field Day:* Dave, K0TYC announced that Field Day would be held at the Oak Cliff Fire Department in South Logan County. Set-up will begin mid-morning, with operations beginning at 1:00 PM local time. A potluck dinner will be held at Field Day, June 28th at 6:30 PM.

*July 4th Liberty Fest:* 45-50 volunteers are needed to assist with the Edmond 4th of July Parade. The Calling Committee will be contacting all members to solicit volunteers. Volunteers will also be needed for the evening fireworks festivities.

*Ham Holiday:* Our CORA representatives, J. B., K0JF and Ron, KC5QCV presented an event schedule and indicated that plans are on schedule. The EARS Club will be handling the registration desk Friday evening, July 25th and all day Saturday, July 26th.

*O. R. S. I.:* An ORSI Business Meeting will be held on June 21st at 1:30 at the Salvation Army. It is requested that the area clubs be well-represented, and that club members join ORSI and be prepared to vote at the meeting.

*VESTS:* The first batch of vest orders are being sewn at this time. Anyone interested in ordering a Club vest should contact Joyce, KC5NBI.

*E. A. R. S. SCHOLARSHIP:* Fifteen qualified applications were received this year, and are being reviewed by the Scholarship Committee. A winner will be announced very shortly.

*UHF RADIO:* Jim, N5OHL, Jay, KB5VDH and John, WB5SYT were appointed to research the cost and availability of a UHF rig for the Club Station. They will report back to the Board at the July meeting.

*CLUB BANNER:* The Board allocated funds for the purchase of a 3' x 6' Club banner for use at various activities. Jim, N5OHL will provide camera-ready artwork, and an appointed committee will design and order the banner.

The June Board meeting was adjourned at 9:48 PM.

- June Dinner Meeting - Potluck at Field Day, June 28th 6:30 PM at the Oak Cliff F.D.
- July Board Meeting - Wednesday, July 9th at 7:00 PM at the Club Station.
- July Business Meeting - Sunday, July 20th at 2:00 PM at St. John's Catholic Church.
- Ham Holiday - July 25th and 26th

Many Happy Returns to the following birthday hams?.

Joyce Wolf, KC5NBI	July 3
Paul Richardson, KB5KPL	July 6
Earnie Wolf, K5YKD	July 9
Carl Shortt, KC5YKL	July 9
Matt Hohman, KC5QQG	July 13
Jason Snyder, N5USO	July 17
Justin Soliday, KM5IA	July 17
Clarence Dollmeyer, KB5RR	July 18
Toni Winnard, KK5LH	July 24
Amy Shortt KD5AVJ	July 24
Bill Dove, KC5YKF	July 25
Jo Ann Buswell, KB5BQN	July 27
Sam Sitton, W5CU	July 28
Shelby Mize, KA5YPE	July 28
Robert Thomason, N5IJX	July 29
William Palmer, AA5JI	July 29

### *Health & Welfare Report*

Harold Hall, KA5AGM reports that he is feeling great as he recuperates from recent

surgery. He is taking therapy to increase his endurance (I think we could all use that - hi hi), and thanks everyone for their concern and prayers.

Onis Cox, KC5RPC indicates that his arm, injured in a fall a while back, is healing slower than he would like.

Bob Hebert, N5SAG gave us a good report. He is back at work on light duty, and is doing well.

Jim Ryncarson's, KC5MJS mother is having a difficult time with her illness and your prayers are requested.

Please keep all these folks in your prayers...

A hearty Welcome to our Newest Members...

Amy Shortt KD5AVJ

Jeff Krehbiel KC5ZRW

We extend a warm welcome to both of you. It's very nice to have you as new family members.

#### *Emergency Management?*

Ken Stepp, N5DBM, the Club's Emergency Management Coordinator held an informative meeting at the Club Station on Thursday evening, June 12th. He asked all amateurs interested in assisting in times of emergency to complete a questionnaire which supplies him with contact numbers and availability of the volunteers. Ken has asked that anyone not able to attend the meeting, but interested in helping, should contact him for a copy of the form. He can be reached at 341-7651. The meeting was very well attended with 25-30 people. Ken has excellent experience in this area, and will bring much-needed leadership in this area of Club service. On Saturday, June 14th at approximately 9:30 AM, a surprise emergency simulation was conducted. Contacts were made using the pager and phone numbers supplied by volunteers, to test the system's reliability and the test went very well. Similar training exercises are being planned for the month of July.

#### *Monday Night Information Net?*

E. A. R. S. holds a very informative net each Monday evening at 8:00 PM on the frequency of 147.135. We have been averaging about 50 check-ins a week, from the local area and from as far away as Noble, OK and Wichita, KS. The net is open to all - member or not. Valuable information is given concerning, not only Club activities, but also VE testing, propagation reports, and ARRL bulletin information. If you haven't yet been involved with the Monday Night Net, check it out this week and check in to let us know you're listening. Not only does the Net provide valuable information, it is also an excellent way to sharpen our skills in handling net operations, to better prepare us for emergency traffic handling. Tune in and Check-in - You'll be glad you did!

Following the Monday Night Net, at approximately 9:00 PM, a few of us meet on 10 meters on the frequency of 28.390 for an informal chat session. Participants and topics vary from week to week and it's totally informal. Come join us ?..

#### *Come have Bacon and Eggs with the Hams ?*

There is a gathering of the clan each Saturday morning at Gambill's Country Kitchen at 2nd and Coltrane in Edmond. Time? Whenever you get there? Usually the herd starts forming up around 8:30 or so. It's a strictly informal rag chew session, and you'd be amazed the variety of information and occasional nonsense that is bantered back and forth. You'll probably be eating breakfast on Saturday anyway? So why not join the others at Gambill's.

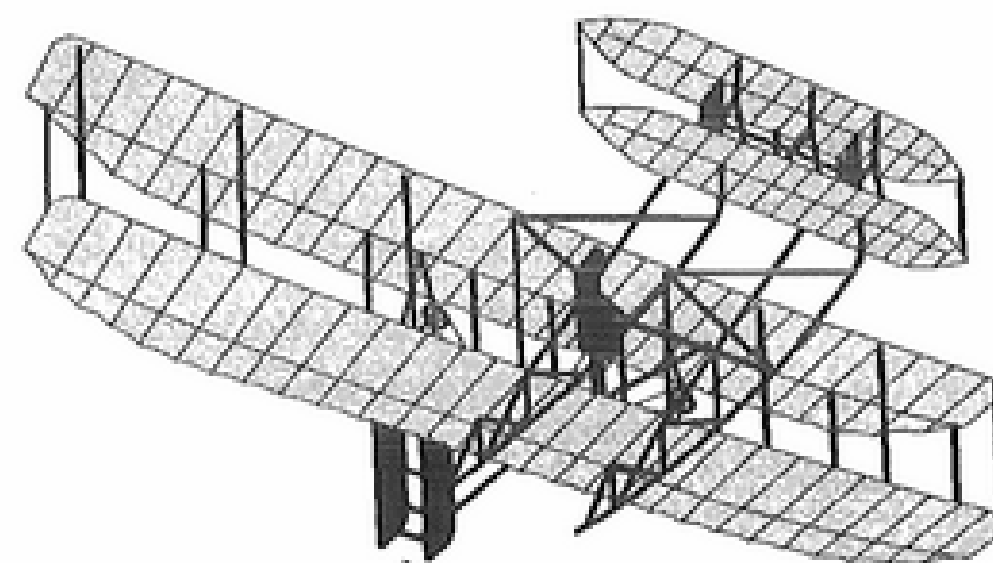
73 to All

Sharon, KM5GV  
Club Secretary

### **BORDER WHITE NOISE**

If you live near the border with Mexico, operate packet radio and are experiencing problems on with high levels of noise, we may have the answer as to what's going on.

According to a posting on the VHF Reflector, it appears as if there is a C-130 or similar electronic surveillance aircraft that flies along the Texas Mexico border looking for drug smugglers. It also seems that there are times when surveillance from the aircraft switches over to the 440 amateur band.



What the government snoopers are not aware of is that the ham radio community knows when they are listening in. This is because their electronic surveillance system takes out the entire TexNet network starting at Austin and going South. If the band is open it takes out the entire network in Texas and North into Southern Oklahoma.

The signal is not potent enough to get into most voice repeaters. But it does bother 9600 baud packet modems in the TexNet system. They have problems with the high ambient band noise. Most of the time just can't connect to each other when the airborne signal is operating.

*(Via VHF Reflector)*

### **MONTANA FLOODS**

Hams in southeast Montana were reported to be hard at work as the Yellowstone River overflows its banks in the city of Billings. This after a major storm on Monday, June the 9th swamped streets and turned many streets into canals.

While information is still sketchy, reports out of the area indicate that hams provided reports of rising river conditions to local emergency service authorities and handled other emergency related communications as well. More on this story as information becomes available.

*(Via Newslite)*

# Proclamation

**Whereas:** *the city of Edmond has more than 150 licensed Amateur Radio operators who have demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing public and emergency radio communications ; and*

**WHEREAS:** *these Amateur Radio operators donate these services free of charge to the City, in the interest of the citizens of the City as well as the world; and*

**WHEREAS:** *these Amateur Radio operators are on alert for emergency, local or world-wide, and practice their communication skills during the American Radio Relay League, Inc.'s Field Day exercise; and*

**WHEREAS:** *this year's Amateur Radio Field Day will take place on June 28-29, 1997*

**Therefore:** *I Bob Rudkin, Mayor of the City of Edmond, Oklahoma, do hereby declare this week of June 23-29 as*

## AMATEUR RADIO WEEK

*In recognition of this important emergency preparedness exercise and call upon all citizens to pay appropriate tribute to the Amateur Radio operators of our city.*



Given under my hand and seal of the City of Edmond,  
Oklahoma this 23rd day of June, 19 97

Attest:

*Nancy Nichols*

City Clerk

*Bob Rudkin*

Mayor

## "GETTING CONNECTED"

It was a cold wet Saturday afternoon in November 1995 when I was first invited to get my first look at a real live Packet Station in operation. This journey was to the Village, OK, to the shack of Richard (Now KB5TCY).

During the demonstration, I didn't remember very much of the explanations that Richard gave me as it was all over my head as he was continuously punching the keyboard hooked to his computer and twisting numerous dials and switches. I was fixed to the computer monitor noticing all those call signs that appeared and disappeared in a very non-conventional way i.e. < >. I did remember seeing my first "connect" when he sent out a CQ and was even more astonished when a "Hello" appeared on the screen.

After responding to the connect, Richard turned to me and said, "Well what do you think of Packet now?" Well, without really answering, he surely could tell by my bright eyed wonder that I really wanted to be in a position to "Get Connected" too.

And so I did thanks to the fact that my Technician license allowed it. I committed to the goal of having my very own Packet Station by starting out with an HT, (also known as a Ham Shack on your belt). Later I added a computer, a TNC, a 5/8 wave antenna, a software program, and last but not least, a special TNC cable to hook to the HT.

I could spend a great deal of time writing about the problems and frustrations I encountered to get all those components to work together successfully but will just say they did work and I did make a first "connect" which was every bit as thrilling as the stories I have heard about the first contact on HF phone or CW.

There are manuals and publications that deal with the set-up and operation of Packet, and manuals peculiar to the various soft-ware and hardware items; but in my opinion the best assistance is that

obtained from other Amateurs who have been into Packet Radio. I asked questions, a lot of questions, and reasked questions, and any measure of success I have had is directly attributable to the assistance I obtained from other Amateurs.

After getting my Packet station up and running, I replaced the HT with a Mobile Transceiver and a Ringo Ranger II outside antenna, fed with low-loss coax which improved my performance considerably since most of my initial connect requirements were some distance away with final destinations in Florida, Western and Southwestern, OK.

My performance was also improved by installing an inline passive notch filter which eliminated the Pager interference from a nearby tower.

Well, if someone would ask me right now, a question such as this, "Well, so what...you have got all that equipment, and got it working, but how do you know someone, somewhere to talk to?" My answer: Unless you know a person somewhere or can get to know them all this hardware is useless....after all Amateur Radio, including Packet Radio is communicating, isn't it?

To find someone to talk to (digitally, that is) don't expect to go out and buy a publication/directory/manual...that lists everyone you can talk to on Packet and how to get there too. If there is such a document or on a floppy somewhere, please tell me and I'll go stand in line to buy it...

Truth of the matter is...I purchased a notebook and every time I got a call sign and the routing to get there - I wrote it down. I have an overflowing book now...Most of the information was obtained word of mouth or from just watching the monitor.

As a result of this procedure, I have talked digitally to Amateurs all over Europe, Australia and South American by way of the World Wide Conference through KO4KS, Tampa, FL. Most of my rewarding contacts were made right here in Oklahoma especially to Earnest

(W6CNP) who resides in Clinton. Earnest, a ham since 1941 has provided me enormous support and encouragement in all facets of Amateur Radio, but especially Packet Radio. One of my most memorable moments was to go through his HF Packet Gateway to work a station in Florida with my VHF system. My continuing goal is to have a combination VHF/HF Packet operation similar to his.

This writing about my Packet experience, was suggested by John, WB5SYT, (who most of you know, I'm sure...as an avid supporter of Amateur Radio, both in EARS and elsewhere) in that this article may serve as a prototype and encouragement of other articles about all facets of Packet Radio, VHF or HF, toward the end that information (particularly routing) could be shared and exchanged between Packet enthusiasts.

OOPS.....I need to sign off and get to my computer...I just got connected !!!!!

Onis L. Cox, KC5RPC

An addendum: Nice article Onis and thanks for the flowers. Onis has opened the door for others to write of their packet experiences, routes, favorites "connects" as well as suggestions to speed the learning process. He and I hope other packeteers will be willing to share in the Collector and Emitter writings of their packet thoughts and suggestions. The packet experience has so much to offer for individual operator enjoyment while serving as an excellent communication medium in an emergency. Please visit the EARS Club Station packet PBBS at 145.07 (EARSBX) or the node (EDMOND). The latest ARRL bulletins are posted by KB5TCY as are the Swap-n-Shop equipment lists. Or... come by the club station on Thursday nights to get a guided tour and learn the ropes of packet! In the meanwhile: Get Connected.

73 de John-WB5SYT

## Altus Area Amateur Radio Association

Southwest Oklahoma is alive and well! New & views from A.A.A.R.A. (Altus Area Amateur Radio Association)

Well after a long dry spell from the pages of the C&E, I decided to start bragging once again about the top notch group of folks that make up the Altus Area Amateur Radio Association. So much has happened during the past six months which makes it hard to find a place to call the beginning. For starters, congratulations go out to our newest Hams in the Altus area. At the time of this writing, we had four individuals pass the exams on Tuesday night, June 24th and they will all be sporting new 5 land calls by the time that you read these words on the page now in front of you. Special achievement wishes go out to Sandy (YL of AB5WK, AI), who studied the books in Braille and earned her Ham ticket on the 24th also. Matter of fact, 3 of the 4 folks who passed the test were YLs, so now the two meter net will be hopping during the YL net held on Tuesdays nights.

Nice showing of area Ham operators at the Channel 7 presentation of the (Fifth Season) held in Altus at the city auditorium on June 5th. Special thanks to WB5KRH, N1GM, AB5WQ, and KC5TTE for helping set up the electronics which made the night a huge success. Storm spotters were quite busy on several nights well into the morning hours. Thanks for the effort each of you provides to the local populace and the national weather service.

Hospital stay for N6JGU (Lou) was on account of him having a weak ticker. The doctor has put Lou on an increase supply of oxygen and he should be home by the time this news goes to press. Welcome home Lou, now don't forget to turn your radio on when your trying to raise somebody on the local repeater! Now all you complainers about how hard the code is to learn; go hide your heads while I say this next piece here. There is a little lady up in Boydville, OK. Somewhere between the age of 20 and 100 who can't hear very much, can't see very much, and has to put up with old what's his

name (KC5CNB). We know her as Dottie (KC5EEO) and at the VE test session coming up during the July 12th Altus Hamfest, she is going to knock out her 5 wpm code test. A lot of her coach work was accomplished by W7BD, Bob of Burns Flat, during the daily CW lessons held on the 2 meter band. I guess that new HF rig of Ralph's will get a whole lot more use now, way to go Dottie.

Well Field Day '97 will be history by the time you read these lines, but once again, the Altus folks set the goal for others to follow by operating - 8 Alpha during Field Day and really put on a good display for the local public to see and learn about Amateur Radio. Coming up in July, on Saturday the 12th, the Altus Area Amateur Radio Association will be hosting their third annual Hamfest. This year, the site has been changed from the Armory building to a larger location downtown in the heart of Altus, the community building next to the city reservoir. Plenty of the famed J-poles will once again be available for purchase and your chance to own a custom ball cap can become a reality thanks to CAPS, Unlimited out of Garland, TX. this year.

Following the week of the Hamfest, will be the Quartz Mt. Breakaway Bike race. Held on the 19th of July and ramroded this year by N1GM (George). If you would like to help out this year with the communications tasking, please get with N1GM and let him know what you have to work with so he can post you out accordingly along the bike route. And last but not least, (saved the best for last), the third annual club picnic will be held this year on September 13<sup>th</sup> at the area #1 pavilion on the North Shore road. Coordination for the picnic is being handled by Birtie (KC5OAG) and with a little help from Doc (KM5IO). Birtie (and Doc) have promised a super event this year and the totally enclosed shelter will keep out all the flying pests, but we'll have to let in John, AB5WQ sooner or later during the day. Bunny hunt, plenty of good food, and maybe even a visitor from Texas will be on hand, so ya'll come out on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September and enjoy the best fellowship that Southwest Oklahoma has to offer

From the keyboard of KK5ZB (Zero Brains) so long from AAARA, Mike!

## TEXAS TORNADO HAMS PRAISED

Hams across central Texas have been praised for their volunteer efforts following a series of tornadoes that hit the state last month.

As previously reported, nearly a hundred radio amateurs from Travis and Williamson counties faced the real thing on May 27th. This, after a series of devastating tornadoes swept through central Texas, killing more than two dozen, injuring many others, and causing extensive property damage. Hams from Waco to Austin were involved as the storms tore through the heart of the Lone Star State.

After the tornadoes struck, the Red Cross found that the limited range of its radios made it necessary for hams to shadow some of their officials and help with communication. In one instance the Austin emergency medical services director was unable to reach a hospital in Georgetown by telephone. A ham was sent to the hospital and was able to relay the needed information back to Austin. State and local officials have been quick to recognize the efforts of the many ham radio volunteers.

*(Via ARRL)*

## THIS TRAIN IS BOUND FOR GLORY

On a brighter note, be sure to tune in on July 8th for the Great Circus train event from Baraboo, Wisconsin. According to e-mail from Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, a station on board the train will operate live from 14:00 to 22:00 UTC. Primary frequencies are 7.240 or 14.240 MHZ on SSB and 146.55 FM. A color certificate will be available to those who make contact.

For more information contact:

Jim Romelfanger - K9ZZ  
412 Ash St.  
Baraboo, Wisconsin  
53913

*(Via K9ZZ)*

## VE TESTING AT HAM HOLIDAY '97

**REGISTRATION:** Registration will be between 10:00 o'clock a.m. and noon, Saturday July 26th, 1997, with testing to begin immediately after registration is completed.

**STARTING TIME:** Immediately after registration. Candidates planning to test for two or more license classes at this session need to arrive promptly at 10:00 a.m. Testing starts will end at noon.

**PRE-REGISTRATION:** By e-mail to:  
jimhelps@juno.com

or a note to:

Jim Copeland, NW0K  
PO Box 156  
Norman, OK 73070

giving your name, current call sign and license class, mailing address, and daytime phone number and also indicate what exams you wish to take.

**FEES:** Total fee is \$6.25 for each session or for any re-test at the same session. There is no charge for examination for the Novice class license. Correct change would be appreciated.

**IDENTIFICATION:** Candidates must present a legal photo ID (usually a driver's license, but could be a passport, military ID card, etc.). If a photo ID is not available, then two other forms of identification must be submitted. These could be a birth certificate, minor's work permit, nonphoto ID/driver's license, a bank statement, or other business correspondence or postmarked envelopes addressed to the candidate at the address put on the FCC Application Form (Form 610).

**OTHER DOCUMENTS:** Persons with a current amateur license must bring their original license to the session and a photocopy of it that will be retained by the testers. Candidates holding any certificates of examination credit must bring the original of the certificates that will be returned as well as a photocopy that will be retained by the testers.

**SPECIAL ASSISTANCE / ACCOMMODATIVE TESTING:** Any candidate needing special assistance or accommodative testing procedures must make arrangements through Jim, NW0K, at the addresses above before July 15th.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Jim at one of the addresses above of phone (405) 329-1681.

## Internet ham link info sought

And sixteen year old Andrew Lewis, K4HQ says that he is trying to compile an accurate list of ham radio related sites and links on the internet. If you can help, please visit Andrews website at:

[www.angelfire.com/nc/DX](http://www.angelfire.com/nc/DX)

The letters DX have to be capitalized in order to gain entry. Once there, please sign the guest book and leave any ham radio Internet information that you can provide.

(Via Usenet)

## DX

In DX, some members of last year's 4L6PA expedition to Georgia are organizing a trip to Trabzon on Turkey's Black Sea coast in grid square KN91. Plans are to work 6 meters from July 1st to July 21st using the Trabzon Radio Club's special event call sign YM7PA. Participants of this DXpedition include PA0TLX, PA0JWU, PE1NWL and 4L5O.

The ARRL has filed a petition with the FCC to seek access to 7100 to 7300 KHz by the amateurs of American Samoa. This in keeping with the terms of Minute 67 of the October 1996 Board Meeting.

And as part of its 40th anniversary celebration, the North Jersey DX Association is sponsoring a year long operating event. Member stations will identify using the club call, W2JT40. The station with the most W2JT40 member call sign contacts will receive an engraved plaque at the association's annual gathering.

(Via various DX sources)

## 88 year old U.K. Ham

This week, congratulations to Geoff Yunnie, G7WIL, of Worcester, England. He recently passed the R.S.G.B twelve word per minute Morse code test and is now awaiting his M0 call sign. What's so special about this you ask? Only that at the age of 88, he is the oldest person to

have taken the Morse test with the R.S.G.B.

Geoff suffers from ill health and is housebound. He took the test under the Disabled Person's Morse test system, where a appointed R.S.G.B Morse Examiner visited him at home to conduct the exam.

(Via GB2RS)

## From The ARRL Letter

### SEVENTEEN SCHOOLS ON STS-94 SAREX SCHEDULE

Thanks to SAREX, the Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment students at 17 schools, including one in the People's Republic of China, are scheduled to talk with the astronauts on the upcoming STS-94 mission aboard the shuttle Columbia. STS-94 is a "refly"; of the April STS-83 mission that had to be cut short when a problem developed in one of the shuttle's fuel cells. STS-94 is set to launch on July 1. During the earlier mission, Columbia prematurely returned to Earth April 8 without making any of the scheduled SAREX QSOs. Most of the schools on the earlier schedule remain on tap for the July mission, which will again carry the microgravity science lab. Three hams are among the STS-94 crew members. They are Jim Halsell, KC5RNI, the mission commander; Janice Voss, KC5BTK; and Donald Thomas, KC5FVF.

Under the SAREX program, students at each of the selected schools ask questions of the astronauts during the contact. The primary goal of SAREX is to excite students' interest in learning.

Schools selected by the SAREX Working Group for a ham radio contact during this mission include: Mountain View Elementary School, Prescott Valley, Arizona; Center Street School, El Segundo, California; Lone Junior High School, Jackson, California; Foursquare Radio Amateur Youth, Oxnard, California; Crittenden Middle School, Mountain View, California; Robert J. Burch Elementary School, Tyrone,

Georgia; Edgewater High School, Orlando, Florida; Lexington Traditional Magnet School, Lexington, Kentucky; Discovery Place Inc, Charlotte, North Carolina; Lawrence Intermediate School, Lawrenceville, New Jersey; Yeso Elementary School, Artesia, New Mexico; Public School No 9, New York, New York; Du Bois Middle School, Du Bois, Pennsylvania; Dunn's Corners Elementary School, Westerly, Rhode Island; Alvin C. York Agricultural Institute, Jamestown, Tennessee; S.J. Davis Middle School, San Antonio, Texas; and Tsinghua University, Beijing, People's Republic of China.

During most SAREX missions, many of the crew members will make random contacts with earth-bound hams. This crew will use KC5RNI, KC5BTK and KC5FVF on FM voice and W5RRR-1 on packet. They make these contacts during their breaks, before and after meal time, and during their pre-sleep time. In fact, over the past years the astronauts have contacted thousands of amateurs around the world. On many missions, they have even carried a 2-meter packet radio station. Innovative computer software allows the crew to operate the packet gear in an "unattended" mode, allowing amateurs to make contacts with the ROBOT station when the astronauts are working or sleeping.

The SAREX Working Group has designated the following frequencies during this mission. FM voice downlink (worldwide): 145.55 MHz; FM voice uplink (except Europe): 144.91, 144.93, 144.95, 144.97, and 144.99 MHz; FM voice uplink (Europe only): 144.70, 144.75, and 144.80 MHz; FM packet downlink: 145.55 MHz; FM packet uplink: 144.49 MHz.

Hams should avoid transmitting on the shuttle's downlink frequencies. The uplink is your transmitting frequency. The crew will not favor any uplink frequency, so your ability to communicate with SAREX will be the "luck of the draw." Transmit only when the shuttle is within range of your station, and when the shuttle's station is on-the-air.

QSLs go to ARRL EAD, STS-94 QSL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494. Include the following information in your QSL or report: STS-83, date, time in UTC, frequency and mode (FM, voice or packet). You must also include a business-sized SASE.

Additional STS-94 mission information is available from NASA at the NASA Shuttle Web site, <http://shuttle.nasa.gov>--Glenn Swanson, KB1GW

### NEW SECTION UPS THE ANTE ON SS CLEAN SWEEP

Keep an ear out for VO1 and VO2 call signs during this fall's ARRL Sweepstakes! Canada's new Newfoundland-Labrador (NL) Section will be among those that SS participants will have to snag this November on their way to that coveted Clean Sweep Award. The ARRL received formal notification of the change last week from Radio Amateurs of Canada President J. Farrell "Hoppy" Hopwood, VE7RD, although the addition of the NL section actually was approved last year. Some NL hams gave NL as their section in last fall's SS, although the change had not yet been incorporated into the list of SS sections. Joe Craig, VO1NA, of Torbay, Newfoundland, is the Section Manager in NL. RAC Vice President and General Counsel Tim Ellam, VE6SH, said the new section was created "primarily as it was hard to service VO1/2 from the MAR (Maritimes) section due to geography"

The addition of a new section could prove to be a significant challenge for those hoping to work all ARRL and RAC sections, plus VE8/VY1 (a total of 79 multipliers) in the popular fall event. Some Canadian sections already are among the more difficult ones to find and work. (A heads up: Ellam says RAC has also explored the possibility of creating additional new sections north of the border, but no decisions have been reached yet.) The change also means that those who use computerized logging programs will have to add the new section to their program's list of SS sections--just as they had to do last fall with the

addition of the Northern New York section.

This year's ARRL Sweepstakes weekends are November 1-2 (CW) and November 15-16 (SSB).

### ASTRONAUT TO VISIT FD, SPACE CAMPS IN OKLAHOMA

Ham-astronaut John Blaha, KC5TZQ, will be on the air for Field Day later this month as a guest of Oklahoma's Lawton/Ft Sill Amateur Radio Club, W5KS. That word from Mark G. Ewell, KC5IZN, who reports the club confirmed the arrangements with NASA's Johnson Space Center. Blaha and his wife, Brenda, will visit Oklahoma June 26-29, and will also visit two area youth camps the day before FD begins.

"Although our initial desire was to arrange for John Blaha to meet one of his more frequent Mir contacts, Ashley Cagle, WB5OTD, we quickly found out serendipitously that Cameron University will be sponsoring its two-week SpaceCamp for high school students ending June 27 and that the Great Plains Regional Vo-Tech Center will be sponsoring its TechWeek technical camp for junior high students ending June 26." He said the club would try to set up a 2 meter station at one or both of the camps to give the youths a chance to use ham radio. Ewell says Blaha will spend Friday with the campers and be a guest at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon, then help to operate Field Day the next day with the W5KS group. "We might try to make a Mir contact"; Ewell said.

While he was aboard Mir for approximately four months late last year and early this year, Blaha was very active on ham radio.

For more information, see the W5KS Web site, <http://www.w5ks.org>



## OKlahoma DX Association

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

Hello everyone. I hope to see each of you at Ham Holiday. Look for the OKDXA tables in the flea market and be sure to come to the OKDXA Business Meeting.

We will have the annual election of officers and will be making important decisions affecting your OKDXA. Come and join in.

A list of nominees for OKDXA offices can be found in this newsletter. Additional nominees will be accepted at the business meeting. Be sure to get the concurrence of your nominee as a courtesy.

Please bring your ideas to the business meeting. We need your input about how to strengthen the Association and how to best meet the needs of the membership.

Plans are being finalized for the annual Banquet in November. We will be announcing the details at the business meeting. You don't want to miss the biggest DX happening in Oklahoma.

Those sun spots are coming this fall. Be ready!

----- DX NEWS -----

### • DXpedition to Willis Is., VK9

The big DX news for this summer is the Willis Island operation scheduled for September. Here is the latest bulletin fresh off the DX Reflector ...

From: Oceania DX Group

Re: DXpedition on Willis Island (VK9W?)

On 09 September 1997, ten operators will depart from Cairns on the 60 foot vessel "FLOREAT". Their first destination is Willis Island North Islet. This journey will take approximately 30 hours. Over 3 tons of equipment including 800 liters of petrol will be unloaded for 12 day stay.

With 2 separate campsites the operators will be able to set up 6 complete HF stations and one 6m station.

Negotiations are in hand to use Yaesu equipment, with an Australian manufacturer supplying the antennas. These will include full size quarter-wave verticals for all the low bands.

The budget is US \$32,400. Donations are most welcome no matter how big or small. We are fortunate that the vessel has been secured at a reasonable rate or it would have been \$40,000. Please send your donations to:

ODXG Willis Effort  
POB 929  
Gympie, QLD 4570  
Australia

All landing permissions have been granted and received. Operators include YLs WA1S, IV3FSG, (plus one JA), and OM's VK4DHM, VK4MR, AF7Y, VK4FW, XE2Z, K7CO(VK2DXT) and FK8GM.

Information about the operation can be viewed at ...

<http://www.keylink.com.au/odxg>

We will be operating a mail reflector for discussions about the DXpedition. We will be posting updates on the reflector up to and during the operation. To subscribe send the words:

subscribe odxg-willis  
to  
majordomo@keylink.com.au.

### • QSLing into South Africa

There seems to be perpetual confusion about QSLing costs out of South Africa including the much touted rumor that South Africa does not recognize IRCs. Here is the straight skinny from Chris Burger, ZS6EZ.

#### Facts

\* It is illegal to own foreign currency in South Africa and many other countries. Restrictions are being eased now, and starting next month (July) there should be no problems. Incidentally, in the

past I got around this problem by registering as a foreign exchange dealer!

\* IRCs are now officially accepted, but most smaller post offices don't know about it. However, there is a more substantial problem. We have a differential postage system, and postage to the US, Europe and Japan is more expensive than the basic rate. As an IRC covers only the basic rate, one IRC is no good. THIS SITUATION APPLIES IN ANY COUNTRY WITH DIFFERENTIAL POSTAGE RATES!

\* Virtually all the SASEs I receive are under-franked. The QSL Stamp services are apparently not as well informed as they would lead their clients to believe. I really don't know what to do with these envelopes, as I'm sitting on several dozen of them at the moment. I may one day, in a particularly good mood, decide to take the drive to the post office and buy the stamps needed to make up the difference.

#### Recommendations

Having had to respond to over 6000 direct QSL requests over the past year, I have some suggestions:

\* If you are sending QSLs to a country with a strong currency (Japan, EC etc.), use IRCs. Postage is more than \$ 1.00 from many of these countries.

\* If you are sending to the Third World, use Greenstamps (US Dollar bills). One exception might be in a case where substantial mail theft exists.

\* In many countries, a single mail unit is very small. For example, we have 10g units. 10g covers something like three cards and a light envelope. If you send a heavy manila SAE, or request several cards in the same envelope, the manager may incur more than one unit of return postage.

\* Ensure your IRCs are stamped on the left. If they are stamped on the right, or not at all, they are worthless.

\* If you really insist on using SASEs, make sure your QSL Stamp service is really knowledgeable. Most countries with inflation problems have regular postage increases, and the stamp services generally do not wake up until much later. Your chances of getting a reply if you send an inadequate SASE are virtually nil.

Chris R. Burger, ZS6EZ

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

• Farewell to one of our Directors

Nate Bargmann, KA0RNY, Enid resident and Northwest Director for the OKDXA, will soon become a citizen of Wichita, KS. Nate is a Communications Technician for Union Pacific Railroad. His paycheck will migrate north starting July 1 and Nate thinks it might be a good idea to follow! Ha

I will certainly miss seeing Nate at the hamfests and we thank him for serving the OKDXA for the past 3 years. Of course this does not preclude Nate from membership and we hope he'll keep the dues flowing ... at least for a few years! ha 73 and best wishes Nate!

• The OKDXA annual election of officers

July 26 marks this year's Ham Holiday hamfest in Oklahoma City which is traditionally the annual meeting and election of officers for the Association. Our meeting this year is at 10:00 am in one of the meeting rooms at the hamfest. There are only a few so you can't get lost. Our meeting at the Tulsa hamfest was extremely well attended. We hope all OKDXA members in attendance will be able to attend and discuss several important business items.

• OKDXA presence at Ham Holiday

As in the past, the Association will have two tables in the fleamarket to serve as a focal point for our OKDXA members. And of course, they are also handy to hold up our caps and all kinds of flyers -- membership apps, shirt order forms, badge order forms, membership rosters, treasurer's reports, and etc.

This year's hamfest will open at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 26. The location will be the Hobbies, Arts, and Crafts Building on the OK State Fairgrounds. I believe this is the same location as in years past.

The admission this year is \$9 at the door and \$7 by pre-registration. Tables are \$15 at the door and \$10 by pre-registration. Your check should be postmarked by July 15 for mail back; else they will be on hand at the desk for pickup. Pre-registrations go to

CORA Ham Holiday

P. O. B. 850445

Yukon, OK 73085

Ham Holiday has a web site this year as well. Surf in at ...

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

• Nominees to date

I have received no reports of any other nominations since our last newsletter. To date these OKDXA members have been nominated and follow-up contacts have been made to confirm their willingness to serve.

Office	Nominees to date
Pres.	Jim Hood, K5TT
V.P.	Craig Boyer, AH9B
	Ross Hunt, K5RH
	Bruce Burnette, K5PX
Sec/Treas.	Mark Byard, N5OGP

We encourage our members to actively participate in the nomination process however we ask that you please contact your nominee first and get their permission to nominate.

If you are personally interested in serving in an office for our 1997-98 fiscal year but prefer not to nominate yourself then ask another OKDXA member to place your name into nomination.

Remember that we have two Vice President positions. Please pass along your nominees to either Jim or Mark. Of course, nominations will be accepted during our business meeting.

Our current officers are President, Jim Hood, VP., Ross Hunt, VP., Craig Boyer, and Sec/Treas, Mark Byard.

• Treasury stuff

This is just a reminder that we cannot talk money in the C&E because it is not a private NL. However, I want every member assured that copies of our treasury spreadsheet are sent several times per year to each officer and director by email. In addition, printouts of the entire year's treasury transactions are available at the major hamfests. If you would like a report at any time please drop me a note and I'll get one in the mail pronto.

*Editor's Note: As Editor I feel that the funds a club has is of no business except to that club, therefore I request amounts in the treasury be deleted from all club minutes. If someone wants to know how much money a club has let them join that club.*

*The Editor*

• Congrats to K5YAA

Kudos are extended to OKDXA member Jerry Chouinard, K5YAA, of Claremore. Jerry placed FIRST in the 1996 ARRL November Sweepstakes, Single Op, Phone. Jerry listed the OKDXA as his club affiliation.

• VK0IR Video still available for loan to OKDXA members

Many of our OKDXA members have enjoyed viewing the Association's copy of the VK0IR, Heard Island video.

If you would like to view the video please drop me an email, a note in the mail, or give me a call and I'll put you in the que for viewing.

Our procedure is to daisy-chain the que ... the last viewer mails it on to the next in the que, and etc. There is no need for it to come back to me each time; that would waste postage. So when the video is coming to you, you will also receive the address for the next viewer. Just package it securely and ship it on. It is a GREAT way to spend 55 minutes.

Currently we must limit viewing to OKDXA members only.

#### • Welcome new members

We have two more new members to welcome this month! Clara Granger, KG5UG, and Ed Granger, W5EDX, both of Edmond, OK. Clara (mom) arranged for a surprise membership for Ed (son) and joined herself as well. Thanks to Clara and Ed for their support! This brings our membership to 108!

Clara Granger, KG5UG  
4500 Deason Drive  
Edmond, OK 73013-8153  
405.341.2968

Ed Granger, W5EDX  
4416 Deason Drive  
Edmond, OK 73013-8111  
405.348.3454

#### • New call signs in the OKDXA?

Our only call sign change this month belongs to Father Felix Yaoch (ex-KC6BS) who now sports the new T8 Palauan prefix. Father Felix's new call is T88SJ. Congratulations!

#### • Email update/changes

Here are this month's changes and/or additions to the OKDXA email list.

Fletcher, Dan AA5HV  
aa5hv@juno.com  
Sikes, Clif AB5UA  
ab5uacw@juno.com  
Ward, Lee, W5UDA  
w5uda@juno.com

If you are a member of the OKDXA and you have an email capability (and you wouldn't mind having it published in this NL) please email it to your Editor, N5OGP. Thanks!

#### • Thanks for the re-ups!

Thanks to A. J. Ingram, W5QVS, Ed Granger, W5EDX, and Clara Granger, KG5UG, for paying their dues for 1997-98. Several have also included donations with their dues! Thanks for your support of the OKDXA.

#### • Remember the 1997 Banquet

The 1997 OKDXA Banquet planning is coming along nicely. The site will be the River Oaks Golf Club, just east of Edmond, OK.

Our speakers will be Bill Kennamer, K5FUV, Director of the ARRL's DXCC Program, and OKDXA member Frank Smith, AH0W, who led last summer's operation to Midway, AH4/AH0W.

We are planning on enjoying a menu similar to 1996 ... a BBQ dinner from Crockett's Smokehouse. I vote for more dessert! ha

#### ----- MISCELLANEOUS -----

#### • Don't be without!

Don't be without your OKDXA name/callsign badge at Ham Holiday. Order from The Sign Man of Baton Rouge today! The toll-free number is 1-888-426-8241.

#### • A great read!

Jim, K5TT, was very kind and brought me back a neat delivery from Dayton ... the VK0IR book! You have no doubt read many testimonials to it's great reading and I can say I agree wholeheartedly!

### HRM: TO QRT OR NOT TO QRT

A strange thing happened on Sunday, June 8th. The Ham Radio and More show hosted by Len Winkler, KB7LPW, went QRT. But a few hours later word spread that it would be back the following week. Sound confusing? Well here's what took place.

Winkler made the announcement of the shows demise during what was supposed to be its last live broadcast on June 8th. Winkler said that he was ending the shows run because -- and we quote -- "he had lost all enthusiasm to continue doing it."

Winkler then took aim at the American Radio Relay League and the ham radio support industry. He said that the ARRL preaches to attract new people but refuses to try new ideas and concepts. He said that the League has outdated ideas, and has basically become nothing more than a publication company. Winkler told his

audience that the only real good the ARRL serves is for lobbying to keep our frequencies for use by hams, which he admits is paramount in importance.

KB7LPW also took a swipe at the ham radio supply industry. He said that with few exceptions -- it is an industry that seems fearful of trying new advertising techniques to interest non-hams in becoming radio amateurs. He did single out Kenwood Communications as the lone exception based on their idea to get more exposure by selling ham equipment to large electronic stores. He did not say whether it was good or not. He then said goodbye and told the audience that the Ham Radio and More show is permanently QRT.

But a few hours later Winkler sent E-Mail to Newline and other media outlets announcing a brand new Ham Radio and More show. One that will be carried only on shortwave station WWCR at 22:00 UTC every Sunday. That's 6 PM Eastern and the same time as the old Ham Radio and More program. Winkler says that he hopes to have the new shows audio on the Internet in the future, but right now it will be heard exclusively on WWCR at 5.070 MHZ on your shortwave radio dial.

(Via Ham Radio And More 6/9/97)

### U.K. 6M REPEATERS AT LAST

And look for some good FM 50 MHZ DX from across the Atlantic pond this summer. This with word that six meter repeaters are beginning to come on the air in Great Britain following the approval of eleven licenses by radio communications authorities. GB3AM was the first on the air. Its located near Amersham. It and GB3EF near Martlesham in Suffolk were both switched on the 1st of May. GB3AM operates on 50.840 MHZ, with an input 500 kHz higher, on 51.340 MHZ while GB3EF is on 50.720 MHZ with an input on 51.220 MHZ.

(Via GB2RS)



## A. R. R. L. Bulletins

From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT  
QST de W1AW  
To all radio amateurs

### ARRL Bulletin 35

June 28, 1997

#### *Field Day Bulletin*

Field Day is an emergency preparedness exercise which is held on the fourth full weekend in June each year. It gives amateur radio operators an opportunity to learn to operate in abnormal situations under less than optimum conditions. A premium is placed on operating skills and equipment development while preparing for a real communications disaster if one should happen. Good luck in Field Day 1997.

### ARRL Bulletin 34

June 26, 1997

#### *Ham radio serving as extra link during Mir crisis*

For US ham-astronaut Mike Foale, KB5UAC, aboard the crippled Mir space station, ham radio is providing a valuable supplement to conventional Russian and NASA communication systems. Foale has already used the ham gear aboard Mir to talk to NASA managers and fellow astronauts and exchange health and welfare news as the crew struggles to stabilize the ship after Wednesday's collision with an unmanned cargo rocket. Routine ham radio operation and school contacts have been canceled during the current Mir crisis, however.

Astronaut friends of Foale's gathered late Wednesday morning—just hours after the mishap—at W5RRR at Johnson Space Center in Houston for the scheduled Mir pass and QSO. "When we got there, it was a packed room. Ninety percent of the room was licensed astronauts," said Matt

Bordelon, KC5BTL, the SAREX principal investigator.

As Bordelon related: "A hush fell over the room as Mir started its trek above the horizon. We didn't know if they would be on—power was down to 50 available and all nonessential equipment was turned off. Before we even had a chance to call up, Mike called down for us."

Following a collective sigh of relief, Bordelon said astronaut Dave Leestma, N5WQC, took the mike and started talking. "Mike was in good spirits." Several others in the room also chatted with Foale during the 10-minute contact. An earlier report that the Mir's SAFEX ham radio equipment was in the damaged compartment was not correct.

Foale asked for some personal items to be sent up when the next Progress supply ship flies. And he had good news. Two of his major experiments are okay. They are in the Priroda module where he and the cosmonauts are living until repairs can be made to the damaged Spektr compartment. At that time the Mir station should be able to resume normal ham radio contacts. "Amateur Radio has a very low priority when survival is the key, and power is critical on Mir," SAREX Working Group Chairman Roy Neal, K6DUE, said in assessing the situation. A supply ship is being readied and could carry a replacement solar panel and other supplies to Mir within two or three weeks. NASA Shuttle-Mir Project Manager Frank Culbertson said repairs likely would require a space walk or two by the Mir crew.

"It was a very successful pass," Bordelon said of Wednesday's contact with Foale. "All were very thankful for the ham radio and the excellent link it provided." Bordelon said he does not expect Foale to have the ham radio on at all times during the current crisis, "but I think he'll do more passes with us," he added.

Bordelon said that astronaut Ken Bowersox was so impressed, "he wants to get his license next week." As Neal put it: "It's proving that ham radio, as always, is an invaluable aid to health and welfare during critical times." Neal said that as

repairs progress, "it's safe to say that disaster has been avoided. Repairs probably can and will be made, and ham radio will continue providing a personal link to help Mike Foale stay in touch with his home base."

Ham-astronaut and former Mir crew member Jerry Linenger, KC5HBR, told reporters Wednesday that the Mir crew had to power down everything possible, including some life-support systems, in the wake of the collision. The crash initially resulted in a loss of as much as 50 of the Mir's electrical power. By Thursday, the Mir had 70 of its power back.

For news updates, see:  
<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/NewsRoom/today.html>

### ARRL Bulletin 33

June 24, 1997

#### *Volunteers protected*

Ham radio volunteers stand to benefit from "The Volunteer Protection Act of 1997," signed into law June 18 by President Clinton. The measure aims to provide Federal protection from "frivolous, arbitrary, or capricious" lawsuits filed against individuals affiliated with nonprofit organizations and government entities and acting in their volunteer capacities. This would include members of the Amateur Auxiliary and volunteer examiners, as well as other volunteers.

In general, the new law will exempt a volunteer of a nonprofit organization or governmental entity from liability for harm caused by an act or omission of the volunteer on behalf of such organization or entity if:

The volunteer was acting within the scope of his or her responsibilities at the time.

The volunteer was properly licensed or otherwise authorized for the activities or practice in the State in which the harm occurred.

The harm was not caused by willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or a conscious,

flagrant indifference to the rights or safety of the individual harmed.

The harm was not caused by the volunteer operating a motor vehicle, vessel, aircraft, or other vehicle for which the State requires the operator or owner to possess an operator's license or maintain insurance.

The law, known as Public Law 105-19, becomes effective September 16, 1997.

#### **ARRL Bulletin 32**

June 13, 1997

*New Yorker's ham ticket suspended for 15 months*

The FCC has suspended the Technician Class license of a ham in Brooklyn, New York, for causing willful or malicious interference, using obscene or indecent language and failure to identify. The licensee, Anthony Barben Jr, N2WNF, consented to a 15-month suspension which resulted from the FCC's efforts to resolve a rash of interference cases in the New York City-Long Island area. The FCC said the violations occurred in November 1996.

The FCC's Enforcement Division has requested that Barben forward his license to the Commission. The suspension became effective this week.

#### **ARRL Bulletin 31**

June 6, 1997

*Vanity call sign update*

Electronic filing has proved to be a popular among vanity call sign program applicants. The FCC in Gettysburg reports it received a total of 682 vanity call sign applications during May, and more than two-thirds of them were filed electronically.

As of June 6, the FCC had run vanity applications received through May 30 (the last business day of the month). The FCC granted 161 new call signs in the latest run. Another 207 applications were put aside in the work in process (WIPs) stack for special handling.

The FCC has not said when vanity Gate 3 will open.

#### **ARRL Bulletin 29**

May 30, 1997

*New Vermont Section Manager*

Vermont has a new Section Manager. He's Bernard "Bernie" Capron, N1NDN, Route 1, Box 2086A, Northfield, VT 05663; tel 802-485-7400; e-mail berniedrbs.com.

Capron succeeds Justin C. Barton, WA1ITZ, of Randolph, who resigned recently for health reasons. Barton had served as Vermont Section Manager from July 1, 1994.

#### **ARRL Bulletin 28**

May 30, 1997

*Congress acts to protect volunteers*

The US House and Senate have passed companion bills aimed at shielding volunteers from lawsuits resulting from their activities as volunteers. The Senate has passed S 544, and the House has passed a companion bill, HR 911, each described as "The Volunteer Protection Act of 1997." The Senate is expected to adopt the House version of the bill and send to President Clinton for signature.

As a result, volunteers of nonprofit organizations and government entities will, in the words of the House Judiciary Committee report on the bill, "generally be relieved of liability for harm caused if the volunteer was acting within the scope of the volunteer's responsibilities."

This will be good news to Volunteer Examiners, Official Observers, ARES and RACES volunteers and others working under the sponsorship of a qualifying nonprofit organization, all of whom appear to be covered by HR 911. The pending new law means that you aren't as likely to be sued as a result of harm unintentionally caused to someone else, if your actions were part of your responsibilities as a volunteer working on behalf of a government agency or a nonprofit organization.

Amateurs and other volunteers are advised that until the bill is signed by the President and its various loopholes pass the scrutiny of the legal community, they should not assume they'll automatically be covered. It appears, for example, that ham volunteers not working under the

sponsorship of a qualifying organization and who provide communication during a marathon, bicycle race or other public service or public safety event might not be covered. The same exclusion might apply to frequency coordinators and certain others who--though they are volunteers--aren't participating on behalf of a nonprofit entity. The law will clearly protect only those who are "volunteers of a nonprofit organization or government entity." The definition is less clear with respect to "non-profit organizations." These can be Section 501(c)(3) entities, that is, an organization holding a certain tax exemption from the IRS. But, they also include those organizations which may not be tax-exempt, but which are organized and conducted for public benefit and operated primarily for charitable, civic, educational, religious, welfare, or health purposes.

The growing reluctance of private citizens to volunteer for fear of lawsuits triggered interest in this legislation. Some states have enacted volunteer protection statutes, but inconsistency among the various state laws prompted the League to promote liability legislation in Congress, initially to protect VEs and Amateur Auxiliary members.

The new legislation requires that the volunteer be licensed, certified or authorized, "if appropriate or required" by state or local authorities. It does not provide protection where the harm was caused by willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or conscious, flagrant indifference to rights or safety of the individual(s) harmed by the volunteer. The House version of the legislation would not cover any volunteer who inadvertently caused harm to another person while operating a motor vehicle that requires an operator license or insurance. Also, certain limitations in existing state volunteer liability laws are not preempted by the Federal protection under the bill.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, is studying copies of the House and Senate bills to determine the impact of the new legislation on Amateur Radio volunteers.

## Up Coming Hamfests / Swapmeets

July 12 - Altus, OK 8 AM to 4 PM.  
Sponsored by Altus Area ARA, located in  
the Community Center, 401 Falcon Rd.  
Flea Market, VE session. Contact Ronald  
Hughes @ 405-482-7994

Ham Holiday '97 - July 25 & 26, 1997  
sponsored by CORA. See advertisement in  
this newsletter.

## 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 at Southern Temple  
Baptist Church, 1821 S High, OKC. Talk  
in on 146.76 MHz. For more information  
contact Audie, AA5GB @ 799-9916.

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 Tuesday of even months  
are held at 1830 at the Altus Vo-Tech in  
Altus, OK. Contact George Mateyo AA1IJ

for details.

VE exams on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each  
month at 1430 in the Vinita City Hall  
sponsored by Northeast Oklahoma Radio  
Assn.

VE exams on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each  
month at the American Red Cross 6<sup>th</sup> and  
Lincoln for more information call Jim,  
N5BEQ at 232-2299.

## 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 3855.0kHz USB.

**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.

## ANOTHER LEAP SECOND

Its time to add another Leap Second. And  
here is the reason why:

The National Institute of Standards and  
Technology says that the summer of '97  
will get an extra leap second on Monday,  
June 30th. The extra second will be  
inserted one second before midnight UTC.

The change will mean little to most  
people, but keeping the correct time is  
vital for television, telephone and other  
communications systems, marine and  
aviation navigation, computer systems,  
electric power grids and a multitude of  
science applications.

Leap seconds are used to keep clocks in  
time with the spinning of the earth.  
Which has slowed slightly. This is the  
twenty first such adjustment since 1972.  
The last leap second was on December  
31st, 1995 and the last summer leap  
second was on June 30th, 1994.

So get ready, to set those clocks on  
Monday, June 30th when we get to add  
one second to our summer.

So don't forget. At 23:59 on June 30th set  
your clock ahead one full second so that  
you are not left behind.

(Via NBS)

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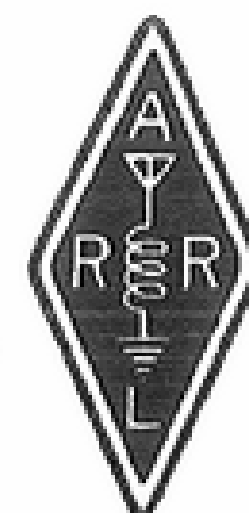
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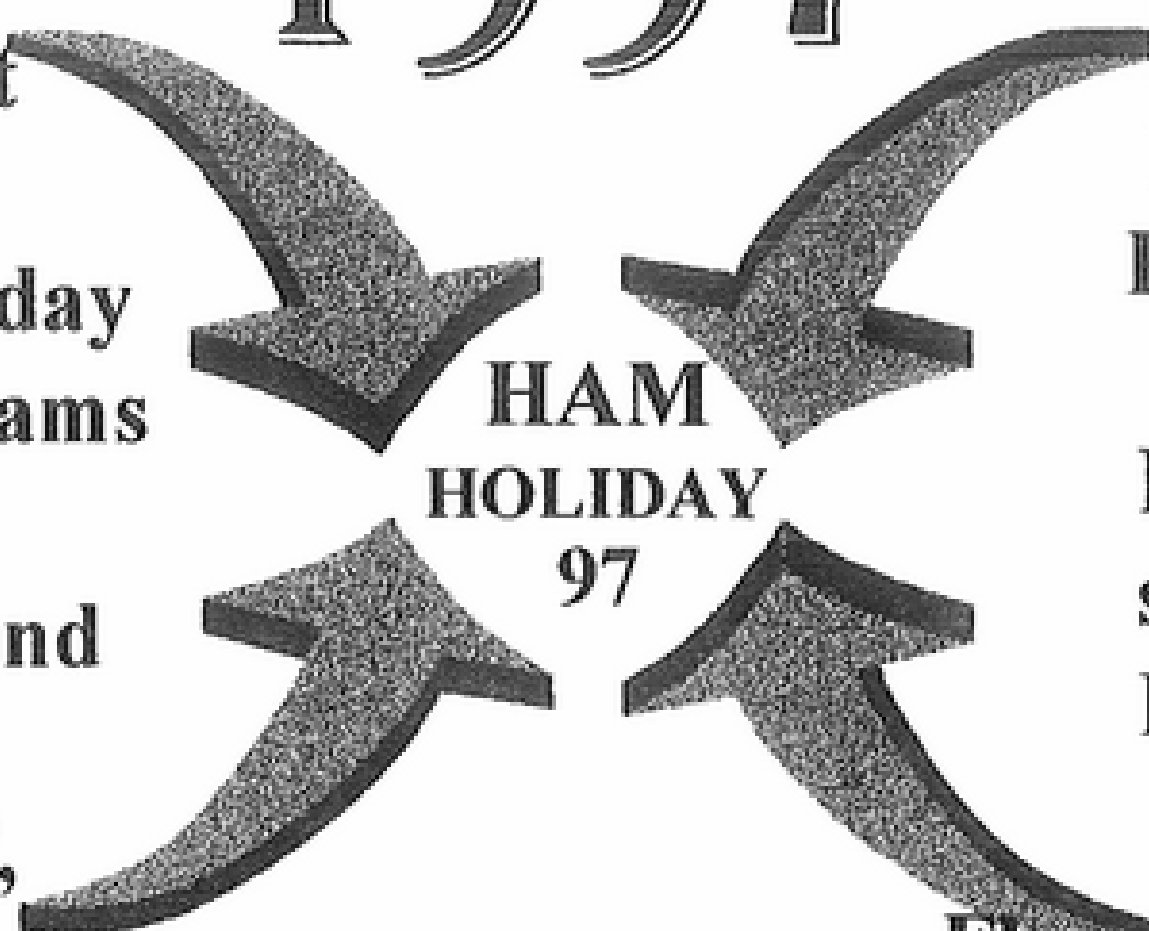


# ALL ROADS LEAD TO OKLAHOMA CITY HAM HOLIDAY 1997



23

Large Flea market  
Lots of Dealers  
V.E. Testing Saturday  
Forums and Programs  
RF Foxhunts  
Ladies Programs and  
Bingo, MARS  
OKDXA, AMSAT,  
ARES, Packet Programs



Main Drawing Prize  
Hourly Prizes  
Pre-Registration  
Award  
Flea Market setup  
starting at noon  
Friday and 7AM  
Saturday  
Flea market opens 5PM  
Friday, 8AM Saturday

**FRIDAY NITE AND ALL DAY SATURDAY  
JULY 25 & 26th 1997**

**OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR GROUNDS  
HOBBIES ARTS & CRAFTS BLDG**

**Pre Registration to the convention \$7, Registration at door \$9, Tables \$15 at door (if available)**

*Please order tickets and tables together if you wish to be placed near friends, otherwise tables together may not be possible. Registration must be purchased with Flea Market tables. No vehicles allowed into the Building after 3 p.m. Friday.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ 1st Yr Licensed \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

No. of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ @\$7 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Flea Market Tables \_\_\_\_\_ @\$10 \_\_\_\_\_ @\$15 next to AC outlet or on outside wall

No. of Scholarship Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @\$2 ea or 3 for \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

Must be postmarked by July 15, 1997 for mail back


TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to C.O.R.A. and mail to

CORA HAM HOLIDAY P.O. Box 850445 Yukon, OK 73085

Visit our Website [WWW.Geocities.com/Heartland/7332](http://WWW.Geocities.com/Heartland/7332)

## June 8 to July 12, 1997 Schedule of Events:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 VE Exams ARC	7	8	9	10 7:00 p.m. Altus Area ARC	11	12 9:00 a.m. VE Exams SBC 09:30 a.m. SCARS 10:00 am AARC
13 1:30 p.m. Wheatstraw	14	15 7:30 p.m. OCAPA	16	17 5:30 p.m. VHF Club	18	19
20 2:00 pm EARS	21 6:00 p.m. CORA VE Exams 7:00 p.m. CARC	22 7:00 p.m. Shawnee VE Exams 7:30 p.m. CORA	23	24	25 <b>Ham Holiday '97</b>	26 <b>Ham Holiday '97</b> 10:00 am OKDXA
27	28	29	30	31	1 C&E Deadline 	2
3	4	5 6:30 p.m. LFSARC	6	7 7:00 p.m. Aeronautical Center 7:30 p.m. CARA	8	9 9:00 a.m. VE Exams SBC 09:30 a.m. SCARS 10:00 a.m. Ada ARC

### CYBERHAM MAGAZINE - QRT

Yet another failure to report in the ham radio marketplace with the announcement that Cyberham magazine has suspended publication. In a letter to his writers, Editor Publisher Gene WB9MMM and Shari WB9SFT Harlan say that the decision to suspend publication comes as the result of a lack of advertising revenues.

According to the Harlans, projections show that bringing out a July issue would only produce about eight dollars in advertising revenue. Also from the Dayton Hamfest till now Cyberham has only garnered eighteen new subscribers. And that includes those people who signed on at Dayton.

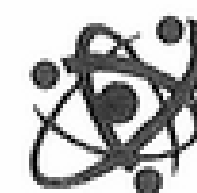
The Harlans' say that renewals have been going pretty well and that shows people who subscribed to Cyberham do like it. But the reality is that without advertisers a magazine can not survive.

Gene and Shari Harlan add that the magazine publication is technically on hold to leave the door open for someone to take CyberHam over, or maybe after a period of time, that they may feel that it is time again to try.

(Via WB9MMM/WB9SFT)

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**HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR HAM HOLIDAY '97, HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**