



HAM HUM

Published by

AK-SAR-BEN RADIO CLUB, INC. - Omaha, Nebr. 68101
Post Office Box 291 - Downtown Station



Vol. XIX
No. 10

October 1969

NEXT MEETING

WHEN: Friday – October 10, 1969

TIME: 8:00 P.M.

WHERE: Red Cross Chapter House – Club Room
39th and Dewey

WHAT: Life saving techniques for the Ham operator
with movies and model by R. W. (Bob) Lefholtz

Eyeball QSOs and refreshments.

HAM HUM is the official organ of the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club, Inc., of Omaha, Nebraska, mailed monthly to all members and to others upon request.



Next copy deadline: October 31st

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I have been a little slow in submitting copy for Ham Hum but hope to do better for a while at least. I guess I got too busy with vacation and all the other extra activities that go along with summer. I haven't been too active on the ham bands either, but there still seems to be plenty of activity on them. Six meters locally could sure use some more hams, as at times, it is still hard to find anyone there. Six or ten meters is where about half of the 75, 40, 20 and 15 meter QSOs you hear should be. I was listening to two hams the other day from the same town (not from Omaha) and they were having a rough time holding a QSO on 75 even with linears. For the price of two month's electric bills they could get on 6 meters and have a megacycle to themselves, but I'll bet they are still there years from now.

Two meters locally on the repeater has really been busy lately. The new rig from across the river has been tested and seems to be doing a real good job. Reports indicate same will be available real soon.

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AK-SAR-BEN RADIO CLUB, INC.

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In the last year there have been quite a few expenses in connection with the repeater and I'm sure there will continue to be some. Regardless of what we tell our wives, it does cost to keep rigs operating. This was discussed at the last Board meeting and it is the feeling of the Board that the people using the repeater should help pay the normal operating expenses. I would like to suggest at this time that each ham who uses the the repeater make a \$3.00 to \$5.00 contribution to its upkeep. This contribution can be made by mail to the Club or given to a Board member to turn in. I can see no reason why the hams using and benefiting from the repeater shouldn't carry the expense.

73's

Royce E. Johnson, WAØKIL

SILENT KEY

Edmond E. Donze, WØYEV

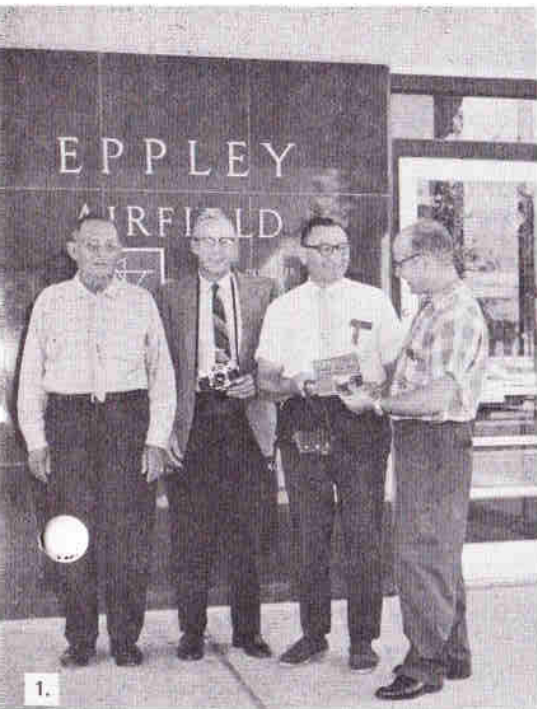
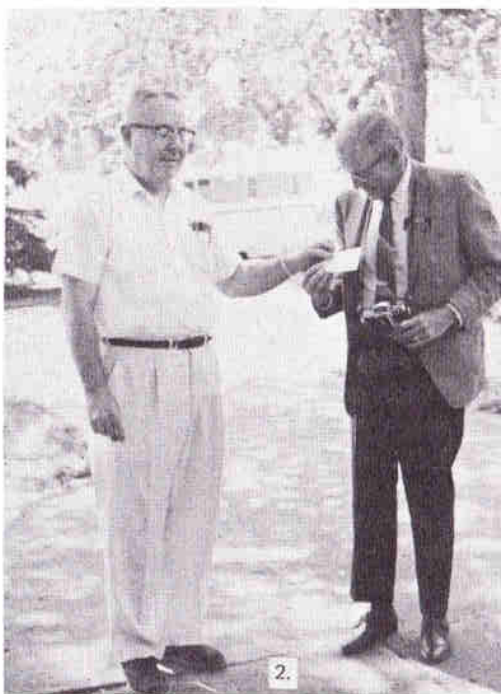
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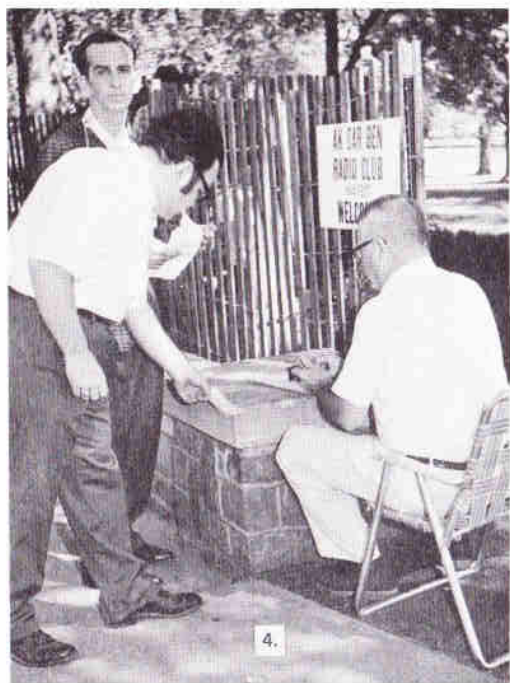
HAMFEST REPORT

By Erv Heinz, WAØEEM

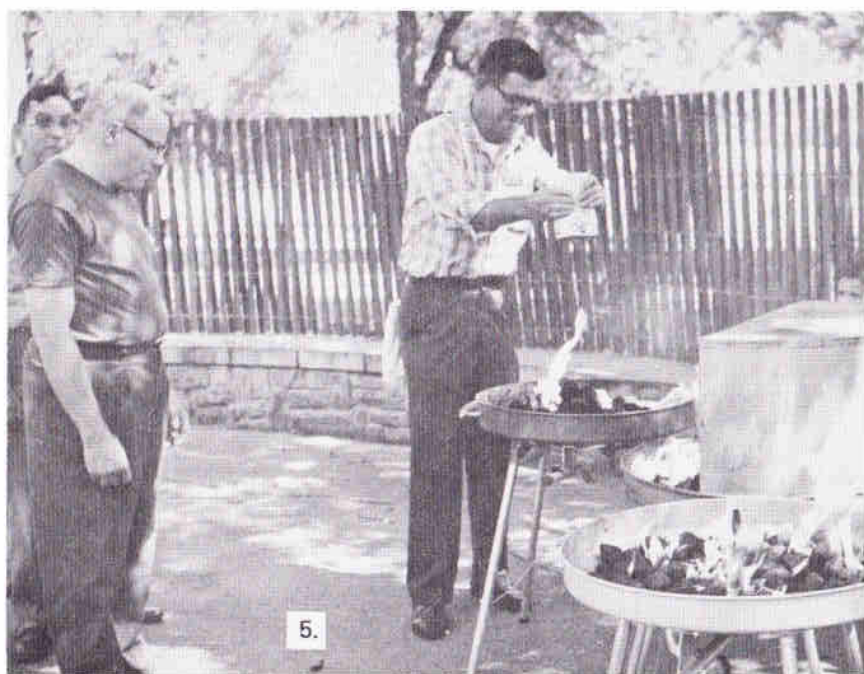
The Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club Hamfest was very successful. The weather cooperated and even Sumner Foster, WØGQ, ARRL Midwest Division Director, took time out from his busy schedule to visit for an eyeball QSO. We are in debt to our reception committee (picture 1), Royal Enders, KØLYO, Lou Cutler, WØVLI, and Erv Heinz, WAØEEM, for meeting him at Eppley Airfield and for conducting him to the Hamfest and back to his plane within a few hours.

Picture 2 shows Hank Dworak, WAØQLE, presenting Sum with a complimentary steak dinner ticket with the trimmings. Hank did a commendable job registering all the hams (pictures 3 and 4).





Royce Johnson, WAØKIL, John Ebright, WAØQGZ, and Bob Lockwood, WAØDHU, prepared the steaks (picture 5), which were enjoyed by all (pictures 6 and 7).

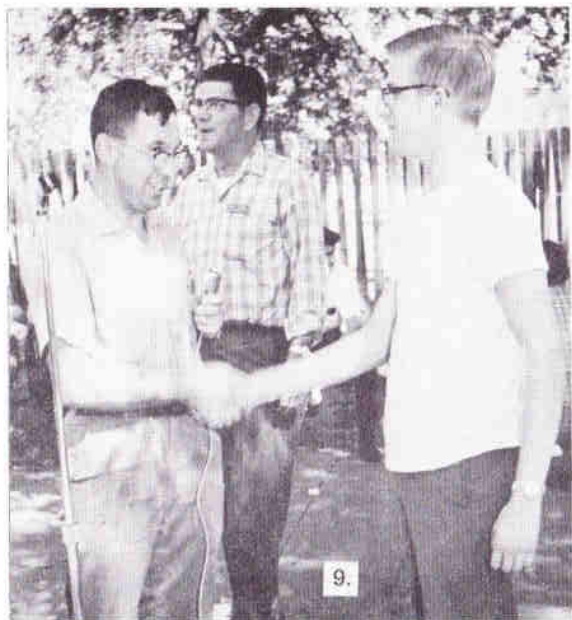




Our honored guest, Sumner Foster, addressed the group (picture 8), and informed us of recent directives from

ARRL and the FCC. Many hams had questions which were handled informally before he had to catch his plane.





After the lavish barbecue, President Royce Johnson, WAØKIL, conducted the door prize drawing and awards. Picture 9 shows Field Day Chairman Bob Lockwood, WAØDHU, congratulating first runner up Bryce N. Nels, WAØTSSO, for outstanding effort during Field Day. Harold McClenahan, WAØDGA, received the coveted plaque for the most outstanding effort during Field Day this year (picture 10). Congratulations to Bryce and Harold for a job well done! Congratulations also to Dave Gautier, WAØMDZ, who received honorable mention for his support.





Again Cecil DeWitt, WØRMB, did a tremendous job conducting the games

with the YLs, XYLs and Jr. Ops. (picture 11).

LINCOLN'S 10 RULES OF CONDUCT FOR INDIVIDUALS AND NATIONS

1. You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.
2. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
3. You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.
4. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.
5. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred.
6. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.
7. You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money.

8. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn.
9. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence.
10. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

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REFLECTED and DIRECTED

George H. Goldstone, W8AP
1010 Burnham Road
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A RETURN TO COURTESY

Some months ago we observed in this column that a 'phone QSO on 75 or 20 sideband was like getting into a bathtub already occupied by 6 or 7 people. A change has come about in one small segment of the bands, namely, the bottom 25 kc of 75. Not only have the multiple layers of QRM disappeared, but a vestige of the courteous operating that once existed can again be found. As W5RM, of Santa Fe, NM, put it (during a recent early evening QSO on 75), "It's wonderful! I don't hear these guys shouting 'Break-Break-Break' anymore!"

In truth, the millenium has certainly not arrived, either on that segment or any other band. But the experience demonstrates how, when the pressure of excessive occupancy is off, hams can conduct themselves in a gentlemanly, sensible manner. If you are talking to a friend on the street, would you expect someone to walk up beside you and shout "Break-Break-Break" in your ear? Or would you expect him to wait until you had concluded your conversation?

The root problem is frequency space. What has happened in a small way indicates what might happen on a large scale if every ham used the appropriate frequency for the type of communication he intends. If you will give this some thought, you will see that much of the answer lies in using

the frequencies which today are NOT properly occupied.

First of all the short range nets do not belong on 75 meters, but on 160 meters. The FCC has given us increased privileges on the "local band," and if we were to put the local nets there — like one confined to one municipal area — we would have just as good coverage, with less power required.

A parallel source of local frequency space is the 6 and 2 meter bands, of course. Here we have still another choice. AM or FM? (Not that SSB won't be common to those bands in a few years.) There is plenty of wide band equipment available at most reasonable prices. By sticking the transmitter in an attic or basement, you can remote control its operation from a tiny box on your operating desk. It won't interfere with your 20 meter rock-crusher — and will save on your electric bill for those local area QSO's.

But this isn't all that's available and unused. Vast areas of 10 meters are seeing little use, even though 10 is a good band for local work in the evening. A 10 meter ground plane or J antenna is simple and inexpensive; and a tri-band beam will do also, of course.

The incentive system of licensing, by setting aside the use of certain frequencies as an urge to self-improvement, has demonstrated what "thinning out" will do to a crowded part of the amateur spectrum. We hope this will continue, until both 75 and 20 are entirely restricted, as they once were. But when that comes about, there will still be a problem of overcrowding, just as there was on 20 (and to a lesser degree on 75) prior to 1952. The only

answer is a "thinning out" by a more intelligent use of the frequencies that are available, for the particular type of communications involved.

Hams are going to have to think in terms of "communications channels"; "DX channels"; "local ragchew channel"; "state net channels"; and so on, to fill our varying communications needs. We have high hopes that the use of FM repeaters may provide a far better system of network communications than does 75 meters. In fact, an FM repeater system is the logical answer to much of amateur radio's public service communications.

Yes, a little courtesy has returned to some frequencies. But better conditions come from less crowding; and the ultimate answer to that problem is a more intelligent use of the present amateur frequencies.

George H. Goldstone, W8AP.
de Auto-Call

**OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 239
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CONN
SEPTEMBER 18 1969 TO ALL
RADIO AMATEURS BT**

Attention VE stations. Thailand is now off the banned list for Canadian amateurs, permitting contacts between VE and HS stations. Countries Canadians may not communicate with include Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Iran. United States amateur licenses may not communicate with Cambodia or Vietnam. This information updates the list appearing on page 82 of August QST AR

ADDRESS CHANGE

I was pleased to get Ham Hum again and I apologize for not giving you my new address. I now work out of 704 Fir Street, Brainerd, Minnesota 56401. I would like to continue getting the Hum as I miss the guys back home.

The radio boys up here are all hibernating. 6 meters is dead because of all the water around the town. I still hope to work the Aurora into Omaha.

73's

Jim Knudsen, WAØMHF

THANK YOU

Mr. R. C. Lockwood,

Rummaging through some old letters I had received, I found the message sent to me while on duty in the Mediterranean on the U.S.S. Casa Grande. That message sent on Mothers Day was much appreciated and certainly a surprise. Thank you for sharing your talent to provide this service.

Sincerely,

G. T. Dawson

Dear Bob, WAØDHU:

I very much appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and your club last Sunday.

Will you please express my personal appreciation for the kindnesses extended by Lou Cutler, Ervan Heinz, and Royal Enders in providing transportation and sustenance.

Keep up the fine work your club is doing, and again thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Sumner H. Foster, WØGQ
Director - Midwest Division

EDITORIAL
THE LEAGUE IS NO
RUBBER STAMP

One reason that every American radio amateur should belong to the American Radio Relay League is that as an organization, it is nobody's doormat. This is particularly true in respect to its representation of American amateurs before the F.C.C. Now, we do not mean to suggest that the League should be a "thorn in the side" on any trivial matter; but occasions arise when a matter of importance to a great percentage of American amateurs has been dealt with by the Commission in a manner which the League, speaking constructively, feels could better be handled otherwise.

A situation has developed out of F.C.C.'s ruling in Docket 15928 - the "Incentive Plan" docket - which would set aside the bottom 250 kcs. of the 50 Mc. band for holders of the Extra and Advanced Class licenses. The bottom 100 kcs. will be so restricted on November 22, 1968, and the remainder a year thereafter. To begin with, it is a safe bet that out of 100 holders of the Extra and Advanced Class licenses, you would be hard put to find more than 1 or 2 who spend any considerable time on 6 meters. To give them a special frequency segment on 6 seems futile. They need no special segment there. In fact, *who does*, on 6? At present, the bottom 100 kcs. of 6 is available for CW only. This not only creates a CW band for DX work under conditions of unusual propagation, when CW's advantages of readability demonstrate again CW superiority over AM and SSB, but also provides a code practice

channel for the Technician Class amateur whose interest in radio is serious enough to push him up the incentive ladder to a General Class license. Where else is he going to get some on-the-air CW practice?

To the credit of the League, it has filed a tactful "Petition for Reconsideration," in which the Commission is asked to hold off on the restrictions of 50.0 to 50.25 mcs., leaving these bands as they now are. We will not repeat here the technical arguments of the League in respect to TVI potential; it will suffice to say that these arguments are based upon actual amateur experience, not on theory. It might be helpful to the Commissioners if they would get on their little teletype machine, that box with the green keys, and ask the various Field Offices throughout the country whether the amateurs are correct in saying that the higher in frequency you operate on 6 meters, the greater the possibility of interference with Channel 2!

We do not want the League to have a reputation for being obstinate; but we do want the League to stand up for what is right. If you don't belong to the League, the present stand on 6 meter frequencies is just one more reason why you should be a member.

- W8AP

de DARA Bulletin
Via Signal Report

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25 tower.

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Charles (Chuck) Ostler, Jr., KØTMV (OPPD employee)

ANTENNAS VERSUS VOLTS

Omaha Public Power District has expressed special concern to the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club about contacts with power lines by radio operators installing or changing antennas.

In recent months, two fatalities resulted from work on antennas near power lines.

Robert H. Ward, OPPD safety director, pointed out that electric wires in residential neighborhoods may carry as much as 13,000 volts. The voltage in some wires may be as low as 120, but Mr. Ward compared 120 voltage to a 22 caliber gun which although not heavy or noisy certainly can be hazardous.

Radiomen may believe that power lines are insulated. This is not true, Mr. Ward said. Some lines have a weatherproof covering but this is not insulation material and offers no protection from electrical contact.

Charles H. (Chuck) Ostler, Jr., KØTMV, an OPPD employee, noted that the victims of the recent tragedies may have been inexperienced or

momentarily careless, but such an accident could happen to experienced operators. A radio antenna can be an awkward and difficult piece of equipment to handle. An operator planning to erect an antenna should take plenty of time to study his installation carefully and make sure that the work can be done safely.

Other safety suggestions when installing or moving an antenna: make certain the equipment is "legal" and is rigidly secured; allow plenty of distance from all power lines; always have one or two helpers, one as an observer to watch for clearance; and be extremely careful when using metal ladders.

Mr. Ward suggested that radio operators call OPPD, 341-3100 or 556-7800, if they have any question about the safety of an antenna location. OPPD will be happy to inspect an existing installation to determine whether or not it is hazardous.

The above article was prepared especially for us by OPPD as they are concerned with our safety. We are also concerned that we cannot get this message to hams who are members of our Club or who do not receive our magazine. Will each of you, therefore, consider yourself an ambassador of safety and promote proper study of antenna installations with not only your ham buddies but also with any CB operators or even television users who may be installing antennas.

Of most importance we hope you may be called upon to assist a would-be ham, a new novice, or short wave listener and will then caution him, whether you think he needs it or not, regarding the possibility of any tower or wire contacting or even being near voltage carrying lines.

While on the subject of safety, don't forget the inside of the shack. You are not supposed to be a part of any electrical circuit nor are you a suitable radio component.

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