



HAM HUM

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April 1976

Vol. XXVI

No. 4

NEXT MEETING

- WHEN: FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1976
- TIME: 7:30 P.M.
- WHERE: NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY
6929 Mercy Road, Omaha
- PROGRAM: PROPAGATION--HF VHF UHF

John E. Bruckner, WAØMRH
Senior Communications Operator 911

What is propagation? Solar cycles? Sunspots? Why are some amateur bands affected and not other bands? Different forms of radiation and how they affect the ionosphere. Use of WWV reports, signals and predictions to predict amateur propagation. Weather phenomena. John has charts and records that he has gathered over the last four years. He had a short article in March 1976 QST, page 64.

This will be super meeting. Don't miss!!!

* * *

VISITORS WELCOME--REFRESHMENTS--EYEBALL QSOs

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



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Deadline for May issue is April 16th

Annual Dues:

Regular member\$7.50
 Regular member and XYL 9.00
 Student member 3.50
 (due and payable each Jan. 1)

New member initiation fee\$1.00
Quarterly for balance of year:
 Regular member\$2.00
 Regular member and XYL 2.45
 Student member 1.00

**1976 MIDWEST DIVISION CONVENTION
 SPECIAL CALL SIGN CONTEST**

"Pick a Call Sign for the Convention."

1. Send in your choice of a call sign for the Convention.
 Tell what it means in phonetics. Example: WSOGBC -
 "Some Great Big Convention."
2. Deadline for entries is midnight April 30, 1976.
3. Earliest postmark wins in case of tie.
4. Convention Co-Chairmen will judge. (Judges not eligible for competition.)
5. Call selected will win two free tickets (including banquet) to the Convention.
 Person who submits winning call sign will receive tickets whether the FCC approves call or not.
6. Submit suggested call sign and \$1.00 entry fee to:
 1976 Midwest ARRL Convention, Box 1173 D.T.S., Omaha, NE 68101.

MENTION CONVENTION

MARCH PROGRAM

By Edward C. Eichler, WBØBCB

John A. Draus, WØEKB, is a new member in our Club but certainly an old hand in ham radio and security systems for mobile, residential and commercial. John fielded many questions regarding equipment security, equipment identification and proof of ownership.

The most secure means of protecting your equipment in unattended cars is to take the equipment out of sight of windows and lock it in the trunk. The trunk is generally more difficult to enter forcibly than doors or windows. If your equipment is permanently mounted in your car, auto security alarm systems are available. Basically, an alarm system detects forcible entry and sounds off sirens or horns. John mentioned, however, that no system protects an individual against theft nor guarantees capture of the thief.

Perhaps the most effective method in identifying stolen equipment is enscribing on the chassis N.C.I.C. (National Crime Information Center) numbers, your Social Security number, and serial numbers, especially if such numbers are labels and easily removed.

In reporting a theft, one must show proof of ownership. Usually a bill of sale from the manufacturer or a retail sales outlet or warranty claims which identifies ownership by name and serial number of equipment by the manufacturer will serve as proof of ownership. Between private parties, the sale of equipment and proof of ownership may not always be recognized by verbal claims or simple

sales receipts. The ultimate owner should obtain all papers relating to ownership from the previous owner in establishing that an actual theft has occurred.

Thank you, John, for a nice presentation. We will be waiting for your visual demonstration when the air freight delivers your aids to you. Perhaps next meeting!

MENTION CONVENTION

SILENT KEY

Larry V. Donnelly, WØKCK
4127 North 61st Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68104

The Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club, Inc. mourns the loss of a valuable member, Larry V. Donnelly, KØKCK, who passed away at age 60 on March 4th as the result of an illness.

WØKCK (Kiddie Car Kid) first became a member of the Club in 1957. He devoted a great deal of time helping others through the use of his ham radio equipment.

Larry is survived by his wife, Frances, three sons and two daughters. Our deepest sympathy to them in their loss.

MEMBER NEWS

R. J. (Jim) Wickham recently passed the general class exam and now has the call WBØS JL. Congratulations, Jim!

**1976 MIDWEST DIVISION CONVENTION
HOLIDAY INN – OMAHA, NEBRASKA
OCTOBER 8-9-10, 1976**

The Convention Committee has been hard at work and has given us tentative listing of exhibitors and speakers. The time schedule has not been worked out nor have the fees been finalized. This will be completed by the next issue of Ham Hum. We do know the pre-registration prize will be a Midland 13-500 2 Meter Transceiver, donated by Midland International Corporation.

Exhibitors

Burghardt	K-Enterprises
Collins	Midland International Corporation
Communications Systems	Ray-De-O-Ray
Dovetron	React Commo Van
FCC Monitor Van	Red Cross Commo Van
HAL Communications	Satan Electronics
Hobby Industry	Spectronics Inc.
Hy-Gain	VHF Engineering
	Zero QSL Bureau

Speakers/Programs

ARRL Forum--	Harry J. Dannals, W2TUK, President ARRL;
	Tony A. Dorbuck, W1YNC, Asst. Technical Editor QST;
	Paul Grauer, WØFIR, Director Midwest Division
Bell Telephone:	Laser Communications
Best Home Brew Construction Contest	
Disaster Communications--	Red Cross Officials
FCC/Direction Finding Forum--	John McKinney, WØAP
Novice and Beginner Forum--	Robert A. (Bob) Conley, WBØLYU
Public Relations--	Various Area Club Presidents
QRP--	Adrian Weiss, K8EEG/Ø
Radio Controlled Models	
RTTY Repair--	R. J. (Jim) Wickham, WBØSJJ
Technical Seminars--	Tony A. Dorbuck, W1YNC
Weather Seminar--	James W. (Jim) Zoller

Other Topics

CW Nets	Reminiscing Hour
Flea Market	The Law and The Amateur
Public Service Forum	Traffic Handling
Radio Astronomy	VHF/UHF

WESTROADS SHOWCASE

March 1-6, 1976

By — John Gebuhr, WBØCMC

The day of the February Board meeting, Gene Young of the American Red Cross called me on the phone and asked if some hams in the area would be willing to set up a display at the Westroads along with them for a week-long exhibit showing Red Cross services. The long awaited view of the public at amateur radio was at hand for Omaha. Immediately I said "yes" and got details on what he expected out of the hams.

Later that night the matter was brought up to the Board of Directors. It was moved, seconded and approved that the Club as a whole participate to whatever extent seemed appropriate.

The end result was a lot of people putting in time and talking to the public about amateur radio and a lot of people know the difference between Ham and C.B. as a result. In addition, over 25 people signed up on the big brother program (I don't have exact figures), each one of which is a potential ham.

A lot of equipment was donated for use making a very impressive display and a big "thank you" is in order for those donors.

Thanks also to everyone who donated his time to make this thing work. Even though it may have seemed like you didn't do much, one cannot estimate the effect of personal contact. Maybe your talking to someone will result in his becoming an amateur some day.

One of the high points was the disaster training exercise on Saturday. There were 39 check-ins and 5 mobiles

were dispatched to two different locations: WBØEGR and WBØWRI at 148th & Blondo; WBØQGV and WØPDP at 121st & Miami; and WAØAPV went mobile to one of the sites but had rig trouble. (Hope it wasn't serious.)

The 148th & Blondo group had a surprise waiting — casualties. About 8 or 10 boy scouts were already on the scene as simulated casualties, making the exercise more realistic. For those who just listened, it was still a good exercise as it showed what to do in an actual situation. All in all, not bad for a Saturday afternoon which normally is a family day.

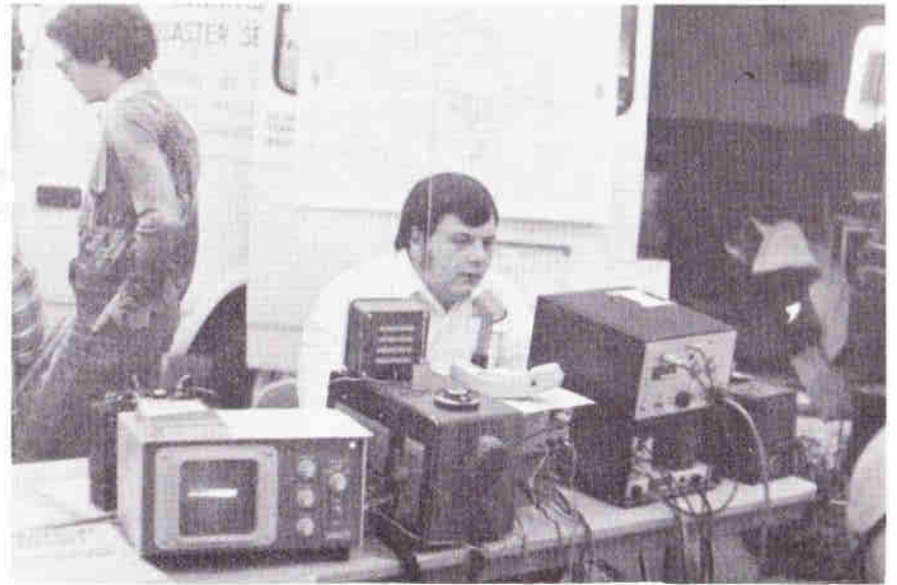
A special note of thanks to Bob, WBØLYU, for all his time spent doing the RTTY thing. Lots of hours and lots of traffic!

In summary, the whole week went very well considering the short notice. It will take several months before we know the overall results of this P.R. opportunity.

(President's Note: In behalf of the Club, I would like to personally thank John Gebuhr, WBØCMC, and Gary Maples, WØOXT, for their efforts in organizing this venture and for gathering both equipment and personnel to see that the job was well done. I also thank Chuck Hoffman, WBØNVL, for writing and preparing the hand-out material. At least those people passing the display at the Westroads had a chance to see amateur radio, the most thrilling hobby in the world, at work!)



"My beard causes a 6 db loss."



... And then LYU said I couldn't play with his RTTY ...



"This ham radio stuff is swell, I may even get a license some day."



... Dopey, Grumpy, Bashful, Sneezzy, Sleepy ...



Mighty Noisy Klepto



... And you can talk to Valley, Neb. on this one.



CLUB NEWS

The Board of Trustees has established a new class of Club membership.

Upon receipt of his first and original license, the new Ham may apply for membership in the Club. If approved, the balance of the calendar year will be complimentary and the first dues will be due on January 1st of the following year.

A French tourist asked the druggist for a small tube of toothpaste and was handed a package marked, "Large."

"I'm afraid you don't understand," the bewildered Frenchman said, "I asked for a small tube."

"That's right, sir," was the answer, "it comes in three sizes—Large, Giant and Super. I gave you the small size—Large."

Have You Heard?

XMITTER HUNT

There will be a transmitter hunt on Sunday, April 25, 1976, to start at 1:30 P.M.

Hunt will be on 146.52 MHz. Participants will be requested to make a 50¢ donation to be given to the winning hunter. Get your DF equipment in shape! Open to everyone!

Gary D. Maples, W00XT
E.C./A.R.E.C.

ANYONE ASSIST?

Omaha, Nebraska
February 26, 1976

Mr. Dick Eilers
Editor, HAM HUM
Post Office Box 291
Omaha, Nebraska 68101

My dear Mr. Eilers:

As you probably remember, I'm the retired Western Union brass pounder that rejoined the Club after a lapse of several years because of night work. Well, for many years (about 20) I covered all the Nebraska home football games down at Lincoln for the World-Herald when Fred Ware was the sports editor. Most of the time my receiver would be J. R. McKenzie at the local sports desk who rarely "broke" me and I wasn't exactly "loafin'" - a gilt edge operator.

"Mac" also hit the "rockin' chair" a couple years before I did and was really enjoying his retirement 'till a stroke changed the picture very considerably. His right side all but useless. To help pass the now long weary days away, he thought a key, morse sounder and a battery to start learning to send with his left hand would do it - it did. Next I suggested I try and pick up a used communications receiver, a copy of the International Code and let him do a little listening for a change.

My first issue of HAM HUM couldn't have come at a more appropriate time. K3CRF, Dave Smith of Bellevue had a NC-270 listed for sale. I talked it over with him and his XYL and at my suggestion I drove down on a snowy Sunday afternoon,

picked up this blue jewel, took it home, put the speaker in a baffle and set it up for Mac just in time for a Xmas gift from his XYL. Mr. Eilers, this man now has a brand new lease on life, and his wife tells me he's at "set" at least 4 hours a day come or shine.

I told them there's one more thing I'd like to get for Mac to make it just about complete - a code practice AC operated variable pitch oscillator. Reckon someone out there in HAM HUM land would have a beat up old code practice oscillator they'd like to get rid of?

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Frank S. Dyba, WØUSU
6776 Wirt Street
Omaha, NE 68104
Phone: 556-9179

Tongue Twister - A group of words that get your tang all tongued up.

- Service

MENTION CONVENTION

OSL CARDS

Printed by a ham for hams.
Also featuring Bicentennial cards.

WØGG, 625 S. 1st Street
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501
Phone 328-1163

The Elmwood Park
Amateur Radio Club K9YHB
Elmwood Park, Ill.

Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club
Omaha, Nebraska

Gentlemen:

We recently moved K9YHB from our old location at the Lawndale Boys Club to the Elmwood Park Amateur Radio Club. Enclosed I have included a picture of K9YHB's new station in Elmwood Park, Ill. We also thought it was fitting to make a small contribution to your organization for the many years we have received and read with interest your magazine. Therefore you will find with this letter a money order.

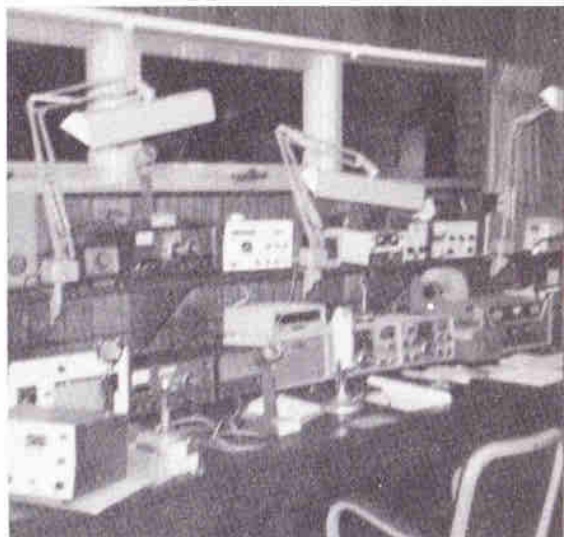
73's

Philip Nowaczyk, WA9QHI
Sec. of The Elmwood Park
Amateur Radio Club

(Ed. Note: Sincere thanks for your communication, photo and contribution).



"...And what was it you wished to see the doctor about?"



"K9YHB"

The Elmwood Park Amateur Radio
Club Station

RECENT CONTRIBUTORS

Ham Hum Postage

Elmwood Park A. R. Club, K9YHB
Mike Wilczynski, WBØBMV

Autopatch 22/82

Johnny Baria, K5QKT
Chuck Hoffman, WBØNVL
Jay C. McAleer, WAØLLQ

Repeater 34/94

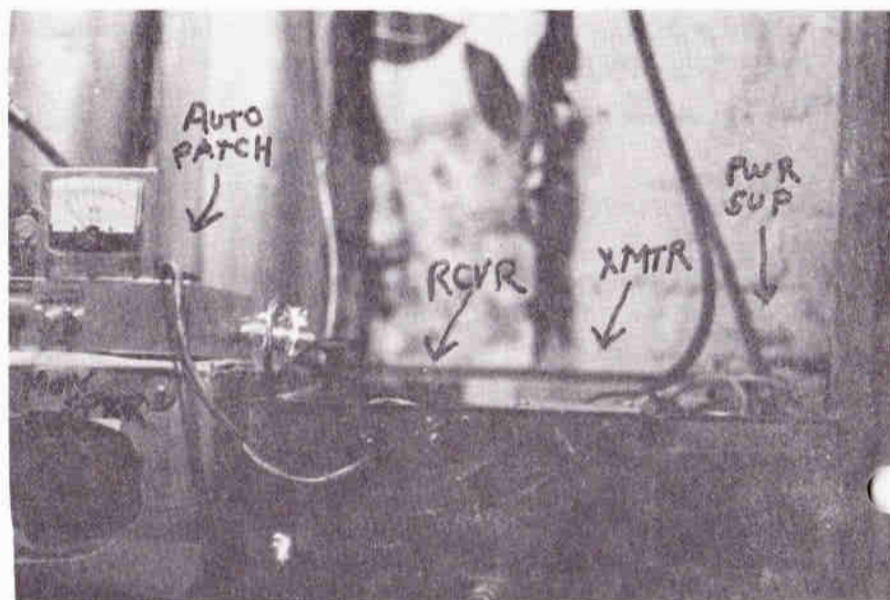
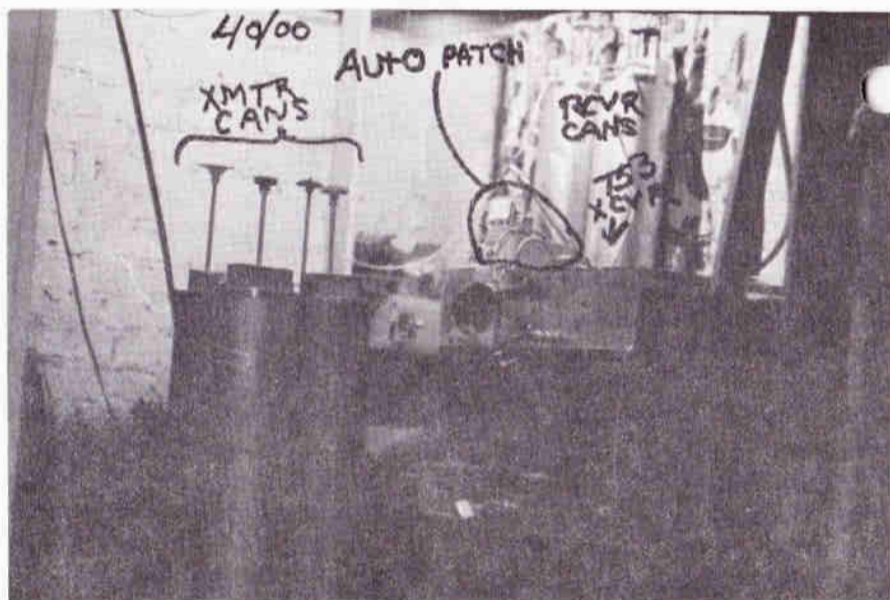
Johnny Baria, K5QKT
Chuck Hoffman, WBØNVL
Jay C. McAleer, WAØLLQ
Kent A. Sinram, WBØBOR

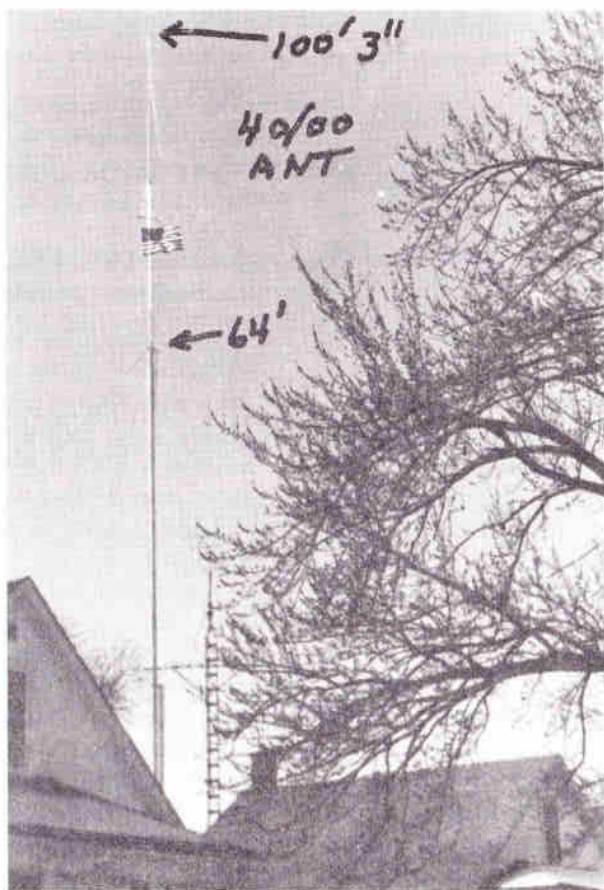
Sincere appreciation to you all!

A special thanks to Royal M. Enders, KØLYO, for his contribution to the Club as a memorial to Larry Donnelly, WØKCK.

And a great big thanks to John A. Draus, WØEKB, for his donation of a smoke detector which was used as a prize at the last meeting.

REPEATER 146.40/147.00





AMATEURS vs CITIZEN BAND RADIO

By Bill Burke, WA7NXI

(In W710 NEWS LETTER FROM ARNS JAN. 1976.)

The Ham fraternity is currently facing a potential crisis because of encroachment attempts into amateur allocated bands, licensing structuring,

and above all, a decrease in our numbers with a corresponding increase in CB operators. If this trend continues, we will have less and less voice in frequency allocations nationally, as well as internationally.

April 1976

Additionally, manufacturers who already realize the monetary value of catering to CB operators will restrict production of amateur equipment or eliminate it entirely because of non-profitability.

If we continue to be complacent, continue to be condescending to other groups in the media of communications, continue to sit in our ivory towers immune to the needs and desires of others, and continue to be

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apathetic in our direction and actions, Amateur Radio will not survive and go down the tube.

A major source for recruiting of amateurs is from the ranks of the Citizens Radio Service, especially the younger groups who for their own reasons wish to improve their communications ability and obtain greater satisfaction in hobby radio. But, I ask, "How can we expect to encourage these people by throwing bricks in their direction?" Derogatory, slanderous and demeaning statements made about CB operators really do not help the amateur cause one iota. They tell us little, factually, about CB radio. They may tell us and others a lot about the person making the statements.

Admittedly there are CB operators who take advantage of their privileges, but I have heard real "lids" on ham frequencies. Should ham radio be condemned because of actions of some?

Listen to Westcars, or the Western Public Service net or your own FM repeaters.

Amateur radio has taken some abuses of CB activity; however, CB response and service in times of emergencies and civic needs should be acknowledged. They have greatly benefited the many communities and individuals in time of need. Maligning CB is an affront to many good people and particularly those dedicated to members of REACT.

I believe that it is time for us to reflect on our own deeds; time for us to consider the need to cooperate with and encourage CB groups in a common cause of service, and thereby provide the means to fill our ranks. Let's get

our hats on straight and start directing our energy where it is needed...End of Quote.

de K6MEP Keyer

MENTION CONVENTION

IS METRIC NECESSARY?

By George Goldstone, W8AP

These days we have our minds made up for us by government. We don't have to wait until 1984; we are already being told what to do. You had better not get the idea that you can send your kids to the school across the street; some judge apparently has the right to say "No." And it won't be very darn long before we are told to speak all measurements in metric terms. In fact, we can use a lot of the old terms, if we really want to.

If you are looking for a convenient unit of measure, how about the "rod"? One rod is $5\frac{1}{2}$ yards; and a yard, as any fool knows is 3 feet. So a rod is $16\frac{1}{2}$ feet, which makes a good half-wave antenna on the 28 MHz band. We could then call the 14 MHz band the "4-rod band," which is an easy number to remember, especially because road in Michigan has traditionally been a "4-rod road" in width. For a real nice long wire, you could use a furlong, which just happens to be 40 rods, or 660 feet.

Now, the 4-rod piece of wire—66 feet long — that you might use as a half-wave on 7 MHz—just happens to be one "chain" in a surveyor's measure. Isn't that a colorful unit measurement? Every chain has 100 links, each link being 7.92 inches. Just 5 of these links will give you a half-wave on 2 meters—uhh, we mean 144

HAM HUM SWAP

WANTED: Radio control model sail boats – kits, partly built or complete, with or without radio gear.

Call or write Fred Fischer, WØEGP, 836 S. 88 St.,
Omaha, NE 68114; phone (402) 391-4193

WANTED Receivers and transmitters suitable for novice operation.

TO BUY: Novice class needs receivers for on-air practice.

Bill Wesslund, WØBJ, 2801 Wright Avenue,
North Platte, NE 69101

FOR SALE: 5 element Telrex 6 meter beam – \$20.00

Fred Fischer, WØEGP; phone 391-4193

FOR SALE: Heath HW101 transceiver; Heath SB600 speaker; Heath HP23 AC power supply. This equipment is in mint condition, no marks or scratches, and it works perfectly. The transceiver was aligned at the Heath factory. I am asking \$330.00 and will include a Hy-Gain 14 AVQ antenna.

Lawrence A. Hiltner, WAØQCI, P. O. Box 331,
Columbus, NE 68601; phone (402) 564-8657

(Cont'd from second column, P. 14)

MHz. See how easy all this is? You can start out with the simple but memorable assumption that a king of England once had a foot that was exactly 12 inches long. With this as a standard, all is simple. You memorize the word "boxcars" meaning two 6's side by side: 66. Multiply that by one foot, which shouldn't tax any ham's mental machinery. That gives you a half wave on 7 MHz or 4 rods. Then remember that a rod will work fine as a quarter wave whip on 14 MHz, 2 rods on 7 MHz. If it is easier to remember, just call a rod 25 links; 2 rods 50 links.

If for some reason you think the term "rod" sounds like a term used by gun nuts, there are other words in the English language which mean the same thing. It can also be called a "perch"

or a "pole." The use of "perch" should probably be discouraged, however, as in some parts of the United States, "perch" has the same meaning as a "verandah," while in another part of the country it might mean a fruit usually spelled Papa Echo Alfa Charlie Hotel. "Rod" is the preferred usage.

Knowing how simple that old English system is, we are sure you won't want to get into the complications of the metric system, where all units of measure on the base ten, and all you have to do to shift measurement units is to move a decimal point. Long live the rod, the chain, the link and the furlong!

—from DARA Bulletin
via ARNS Bulletin



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