



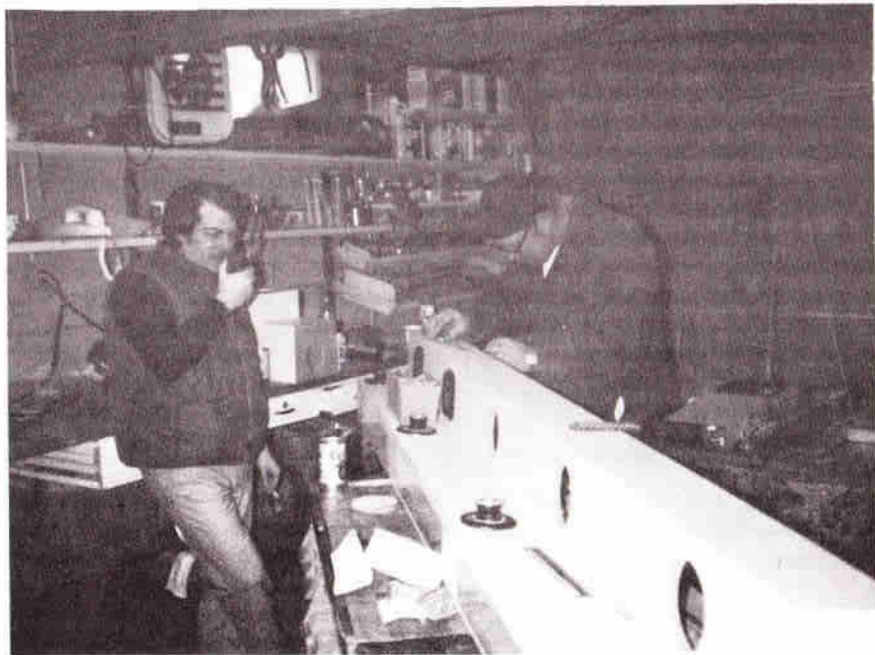
HAM HUM

Published by
AK-SAR-BEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 291 — Downtown Station
Omaha, Nebraska 68101



March 1984

Vol. XXXIV
No. 3



NØAZF and NØAIH working on the new console for the
Red Cross VHF Station

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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INC.

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Omaha, Nebraska 68101

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X-200

Copy Deadline for Apr. is Mar. 16

Dues—Annual Basis

(Due and Payable each January 1.)

New member initiation fee\$1.00
Regular member \$10.00
Regular member and spouse .. \$12.00
Student member\$4.00

Dues—Quarterly Basis (For each quarter or part thereof for balance of calendar year.)

New member initiation fee\$1.00
Regular member\$3.00
Regular member and spouse\$3.60
Student member\$1.05

NEXT MEETING

WHEN: Friday, March 9, 1984

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

WHERE: Heartland Chapter
American Red Cross
38th and Dewey Avenue
Omaha, NE 68105

PROGRAM: "FOX HUNTING" by Bill True WA9ASD.

PRES SEZ

I certainly hope everyone enjoyed the February meeting as much as I did! We owe a big "thanks" to Walt Brown for arranging the entertainment and Dick Eilers' "Birthday Celebration." Also, thanks to the ladies who helped with the food at the meeting, Marlene Jugel, Lee Brown, June Gagne, Charlotte Kaplan, Loretta Kydney and Sandy Hamilton. And thanks to the ladies who donated the desserts.

The E.O.C. is coming along on schedule. The bids have been received and opened and we had a committee meeting recently to select equipment to be purchased.

Our Education Committee Co-Chairmen, Jay Nichols, KB8TR, and Chuck Peaker, KCØDB, are working to get a Novice class started. Please contact Jay, 333-9412, or Chuck, 347-6945, if you would like to be an instructor or if you know of anyone who wants to start the class.

We have received some cards indicating approval of the bid for the 1985 Midwest Convention. However, we still need more volunteers. Please mail in your card (they were included in last month's Ham Hum) as soon as possible or bring it to the March meeting. We must have your response by March 10, 1984.

The March meeting sounds like another good one — Fox Hunting by Bill True, WA9ASD. Bill has had several hunts this year and some of our members have taken part in them so this should be very interesting.

See you at the meeting.

73's
Dave, NØCLW

Mike Bruening, NØAON, has accepted the Field Day Chairmanship. Please call him at 347-6483, if you would like to be a shack chairman or if you would like to work at Field Day.

We still don't have an Auction Chairman and this is important as it is a money-making event for the Club. Please call me if you would like to take on this task or, perhaps, be a co-chairman for the committee.

THE 1984 MIDWEST DIVISION ARRL SPRING CONVENTION

**March 30, 31 & April 1, 1984
Holiday Inn - Holidome
Kearney, Nebraska**

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING February 2, 1984, Red Cross Building 39th & Dewey, Omaha, Nebraska

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dave Hamilton, NØCLW, at 7:30 p.m.

The Board members present were: Dave Hamilton, NØCLW; Jim Sanford, NØAIH; Virgil Wamsat, KBØBW; Sam Kaplan, WDØBVH; Brian Zdan, KMØY; Chuck Rush, NØAZ; Marlene Jugel, and Ellen Morrissey, WBØHWF.

The guests present were: Walt Brown, KAØDMB, and Sandy Hamilton, NØCLQ.

The Secretary's report of the previous meeting was read and it was moved, seconded and unanimously approved as read.

The President asked for budget recommendations for 1984 from the Treasurer with the recommendation that last year's budget be used as a basis for this year and then adjusted after the budget committee has time to develop an appropriate budget for 1984.

The Treasurer gave the existing budget accounting which was accepted by the Board.

Discussion was held on the annual auction concerning the auction chairman and date. If no volunteers or chairman come forth, the auction may not be held, so every effort should be made to obtain the auction chairman.

Discussion was also held on the need for an Education Chairman.

A report was given on the 34-94 repeater status. The commercial firm will check out the problems as he can and charge us only for his time.

Brian Zdan, KMØY, will research the legal situation on the outstanding bill on the hard line on the TV towers.

The President discussed the possible club nouse at the North Omaha Radar Site. The building must be used for training.

The President asked about the status of the E.O.C. and was informed by Jim, NØAIH that the \$11,000.00 check from the City of Omaha was in the bank and the E.O.C. Committee had sent out 31 requests for bids on 58 separate items with a bid closing date of February 18, 1984, and a meeting of the Committee on February 19, to consider the bids.

Donations are needed to purchase a computer for the E.O.C.

Sam, WDØBVH, asked to use the Club Call and Club Station for contact with Israel in celebration of the start of the State of Israel on May 6, 1984. He was instructed, as chairman of this special event, to make it a Club function.

Questionnaire on the 1985 Midwest Convention will go in the Ham Hum for February, asking whether we should hold this convention. A minimum of 75 volunteers are needed to successfully administer this function.

Walt, KAØDMB, asked on the status of the Club roster.

It was moved, seconded and approved to take the \$1,200.00 from the Club checking account and the entire amount from the passbook savings

account and put it in an insured, no fee, interest bearing money market account. Those actions were taken to maximize the interest earned and to give immediate access to the money if needed.

Sandy, NØCLQ, reported on the costs for the banquet for the February meeting and a maximum cost of \$275.00 was approved.

The Board authorized \$60.00 for a gift of appreciation for Sally, Secretary to Dick Eilers, WØYZV, for her cheerful, unstinting help in preparing the Ham Hum for publication.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the E.O.C. funds from the city be put in an interest bearing account and that certified checks be issued for the purchase of equipment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Virgil Wamsat, KBØBW
Secretary

LETTER

HCH-61 Box 199
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
11 February 84

Ak-Sar-Ben ARC, Inc.
Ham Hum

Dear Folks:

Enclosed are dues for my 30th year---a long time.

I keep in touch each morning at 8:30 — 14240I with WØKH, WØEN, WØYEK, WØQFY Dingaling Net. Also with Dave Hollander and Leo Meyerson and N6PG—Paul Garroto. We went to Tech High with Charlie Crozier so we have Omaha news each morning.

Ruth and I are coming back to Brookings, SD for our 50th Year Class Reunion, 14, 15, 16 June. Would like to attend a meeting of Ak-Sar-Ben ARC.

Greetings to members who might remember WØUIO!

Yours,
Damon Nuckols, W7LKH

 **Need help? Call us. Want to help?
Call us.**
Red Cross is counting on you.

A Public Service of This Magazine
& The Advertising Council



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

February 10, 1984, Red Cross Building

39th & Dewey, Omaha, Nebraska

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Hamilton, NØCLW, at 7:45 p.m.

Dick, WØYZV, introduced Julie's sister and her husband. Sam, WDØBVH, introduced his wife.

Motions were made and seconded to approve the minutes as written in the Ham Hum.

Treasurer's report was given and approved. The President urged all members who had not paid this year's dues to do so.

Merlin, KB8TR, Education Chairman, asked for volunteers to teach any class and described the goals for this year's education committee. He told about the first testing program for novices on code and theory.

He also gave a short, technical talk on an elementary circuit consisting of various configurations of resistors and capacitors, and gave a demonstration of a 5-year "License Timer" which he had designed, which was guaranteed for 4 years. This device was then donated to Rich, WAØZQG, for installation in his Museum of Exotica.

There is a Novice Net at 0200Z, run by KAØBCB on 3.737kh.

The 25 year Club will celebrate at the March 26 meeting. All members and ex-members are invited.

John, WBØCMC, reported that a rectifier blew up and he found a couple of cold joints which he fixed on 34-94 repeater and it seems to be working fine now.

Hidden Transmitter Hunt on Sunday, February 12.

Foreign call book auctioned off to Rich, WAØZQG.

Walt, KAØDMB, reported on the E.O.C. Project, National Weather, etc. and stated that the Club stands in dire need of volunteers — then gave a reading of a poem on Volunteers, Valentines and Love.

Walt, KAØDMB, introduced the U.P. Quartet; Ralph Frederickson, piano; George Watson, bass; Frank Weiss, baritone; Mark White, lead tenor; Harry Wagner, tenor; who entertained the membership with song. Everyone enjoyed their performance very much.

A birthday cake was presented to Dick Eilers, WØYZV, while the U.P. Quartet and the membership sang Happy Birthday. Dick says he is over 30, at least.

Walt, KAØDMB presented a gift to Sally, Dick Eilers' secretary, for her friendly, efficient, caring work on the Ham Hum and other Club business.

It was moved and seconded that the General Membership meeting be adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried.

The membership then moved to the banquet table and enjoyed the food and fellowship after the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Virgil Wamsat, KBØBW
Secretary

**1984
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

Program

Jim Sanford, 571-2704
Dave Hamilton, 493-1390

Equipment

Chuck Rush, 333-1148

Special Events

Greg Zimmerman, 895-5219

Club Shirts and Jackets

Duke Humphrey, 455-5402

E. O. C.

Walt Brown, 451-1072

Courtesy

Walt Brown, 451-1072

Repeater

John Gebuhr, 553-5296

Budget

Sam Kaplan, 551-5658

Education

Jay Nichols, 333-9412
Chuck Peaker, 347-6945

Auction

Field Day

Mike Bruening, 347-6483

NEW CALL LETTERS

June Gagne KAØRYM

UPGRADE IN LICENSE

Stephen H. Budzinski KØHRF
from Advance to Extra

DONATIONS

Ham Hum

Frank Beach, Jr. WAØOVU

The Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club, Inc., is disposing of various teletypewriter equipment. Models 14, 15, 19, 28, 32, 33 and 35 components and complete. Let us what you need. Call or write: John Orr WØPHW, 402-571-3422, 8310 Emmet Omaha, NE 68134

FEBRUARY MEETING PHOTOS

1984

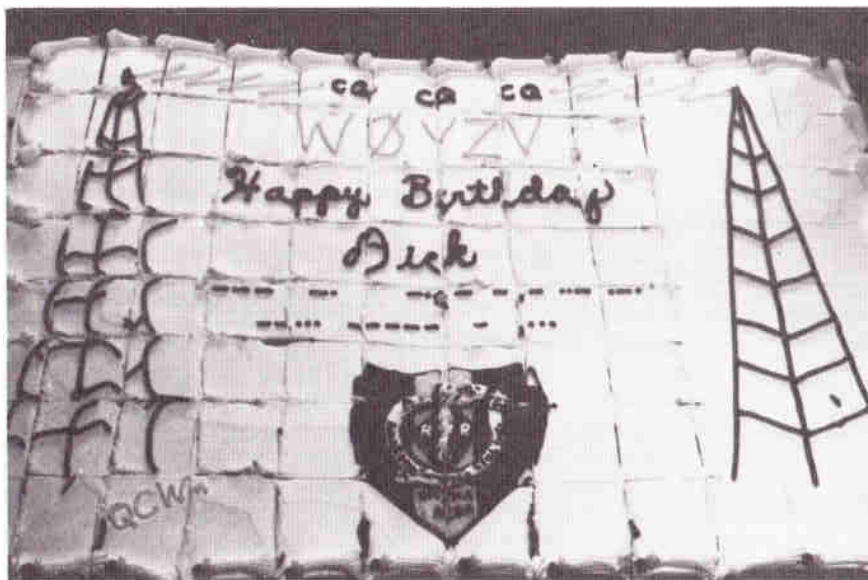
Just a little narrative to go along with some of the pictures taken at our February meeting by Dave Hamilton, NØCLW and Mitch Gagne NØAZF.

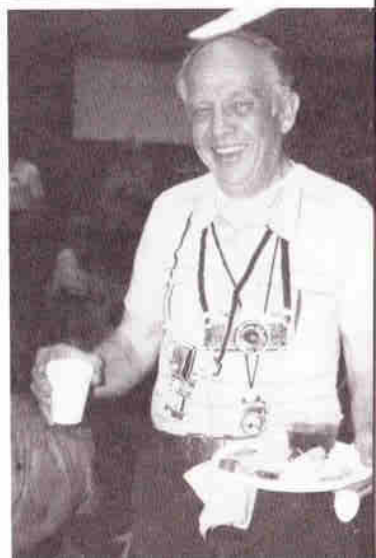
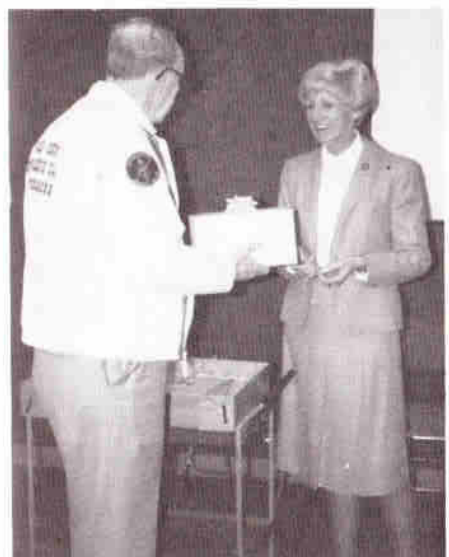
Seventy years is quite a milestone in one's life (especially when you consider the alternative) but I hadn't considered having any special kind of celebration other than "The Family Gathering." You can imagine my surprise when you honored me in such a way on the occasion and permitted me to share the spotlight with a person who plays a part in my work-a-day world and assists me with a good deal of Club involvements.

A picture's worth a thousand words so feast you eyes on several thousand words which I hope express my appreciation for such a fine evening and I thank you sincerely.

Dick WØYZV

P. S. Sally says the desk ensemble looks like it belongs on a Vice President's desk and now she has to ask for a promotion.







CAN WE MAKE IT WORK?

A couple of months ago I reported to you that the Hometown Council met last night and voted 4 to 3 to tear that Downtown Depot down and approve a contract with the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club (that's us!) to equip, staff, and operate a HAM station in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for a sum of about \$11,000.00. The money was to be used (has been used) for radio equipment and antennae, and the manpower was to be (is being) supplied by the Club on a volunteer basis. So, everything looks hunky-dory, and progress is being made daily toward our goal of an easy-to-operate, versatile Emergency Communications Center.

Now, the plan is to locate one complete RTTY system, consisting of a computerized TTY machine and a Terminal Unit (TU), in the EOC, and a second one in the Red Cross radio room. The one in the Red Cross radio room would not have to be identical to the one in the EOC, of course, but the closer they are to being the same, the less training our operators would have to have in order to run the two stations. In addition, we figured that maintenance and programming support would be easier on a single system than on a couple of different ones. (Ever try to get any help repairing or adjusting a Model 28 lately?)

So, I have been talking to people, listening to people, thinking a little, procrastinating a lot, and chewing my fingernails. And then out came the new Heathkit Catalogue, with H89 computers cut back to just a hair over \$1,000.00!

"Wow," I said to Dave Hamilton, better known as NØCLW (Chubby Little Wimp to those who love him), "wouldn't that sucker make a nice RTTY terminal for the EOC and the Red Cross?" And Dave said "yes," because he was busy reloading shotgun shells at the time, and he figured if he said "yes" that I would shut up and quit bothering him.

Well, I didn't. I finally got his attention for a few minutes when he had to stop to pour some more black powder in the black powder hole, and we roughly figured that we had enough money in the EOC fund to take care of the EOC system, but what would we do about the Red Cross?

I asked him why we couldn't just hit a bank or something, or maybe a liquor store, but Dave said that since we weren't on the first string of the Nebraska Football Team we would probably be put in jail when we got caught. And how much communicatin' can you do from a jail cell? So we scrapped that one.

Then we thought about hittin' the Council up again, but we decided maybe we'd better leave well enough alone on that front. Then Sandy, NØCLQ (Cuddly Little Queen, for those who don't know her well), suggested that we set up a Lemonade Stand on the corner of 66th and Redick, but we checked, and the Zoning Laws prohibited it.

Marlene, XYL, had a good idea, but we all decided she was too old.

Then we hit upon an excellent plan! Since the City Council had given us such an excellent start, and since we were really committed to making this thing go, why don't we turn to the very people who are always there to

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

help out on this kind of a project — fellow HAMS! And to get it started, David and I decided to kick in the residue from our old company, DFD Systems, which amounts to about \$250.00 cash-dollars, and we talked old Bill Martin, NØANQ (Another Nebraska Q-pee-doll, for those of you who know him — and those of you who don't), to throw in the RT-89 RTTY software, as well as a *** FREE *** box of 10 5 1/4 inch data diskettes (total value about \$80.00)! So the old ball got rolling!

SO — WHAT WE NEED NOW — is about \$800.00 cash-dollars more for the Red Cross H89, and another \$250.00 or more for a terminal unit (or a donated terminal unit), and a technical type to put the blasted H89 kit together, and a volunteer to wire the turkey inline, and somebody to run and get the beer while all this is being done (Sanford will foot the bill for the beer).

Then, Martin broke for another deal — he says that for anyone who buys the RT-89 program from him for \$49.95 over the next several millenia, and so specifies in writing at the time of the order, he will forward the ENTIRE AMOUNT (\$49.95), in the name of the guy ordering the software, to the RED CROSS RTTY FUND! Now how about that! What a guy, huh, folks! And Sanford thought he was a Puke!

But, alas, even with all that, we still need them cold, hard, cash-dollars. And that, my friends, is where you all come in. We want you to send as much as you can afford, not to exceed 20% of your annual gross income, to the RED CROSS RTTY FUND, P.O. Box 291, Downtown Station, Omaha, Nebraska 68101. And don't worry, if you send too much, we'll either send it back or buy some SWR wax with it.

Of course, unlike Billy Graham, we can't guarantee that your support of this project will get you through the Pearly Gates, but it may help delay some other poor soul's departure (to wherever) for a while.

So, with your help once more, we can make this project work, and we can really outfit the EOC and Red Cross with a top notch computerized RTTY setup for a fraction of the cost of a commercial installation. And when the next one comes, we'll be even more ready!

So, in closing, I want to thank you all in advance for your support of this project, and may the Great Spirit let the rear of your shorts be as white in the evening as they were in the morning when you put them on.

73 es CUL,

Dick Jugel, KØDG

MIDLANDS ARES NET REPORTS

Jan 15	23 Check Ins	4ANCC	9 Counties
Jan 22	28 Check Ins	8ANCC	8 Counties
Jan 29	31 Check Ins	3ANCC	8 Counties
Feb 5	39 Check Ins	5ANCC	8 Counties

de Duke WDØEWH, ARES Net Mgr.

RAISING A TOWER

After Jim Sanford, NØAIH, gave a talk on the structural integrity of towers, I looked at my 40-foot tower very carefully. In the past I was never secure about the safety of the tower and I asked Jim to take a look at it and get his opinion. He showed me its weakness was in the base. Jim offered the services of the Club's Tower Committee to rebuild the base. The pictures show a truck-mounted crane lifting the tower off its old base and the Tower Committee's work rebuilding. At this time the bottom section was anchored in the new cement. Then came the great work of the crane operator who fitted the upper section of the tower perfectly to the lower section. A GREAT SIGHT!! All wiring was replaced, all connections checked. Operations restored.

I wish to thank Jim Sanford NØAIH, Dave Hamilton NØCLW, Mitch Gagne NØAZF, Walt Brown KAØDMB, for giving of their time and effort. A job well done.

KØQVL

Charlie on Charles

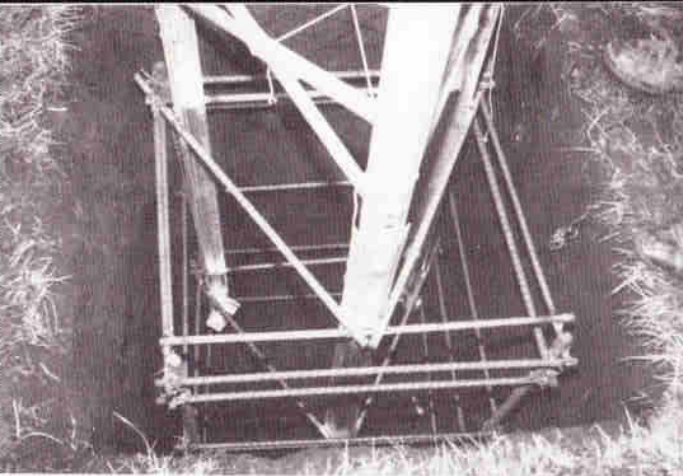


Digging the deep hole — 6+ feet (Dave & Jim)

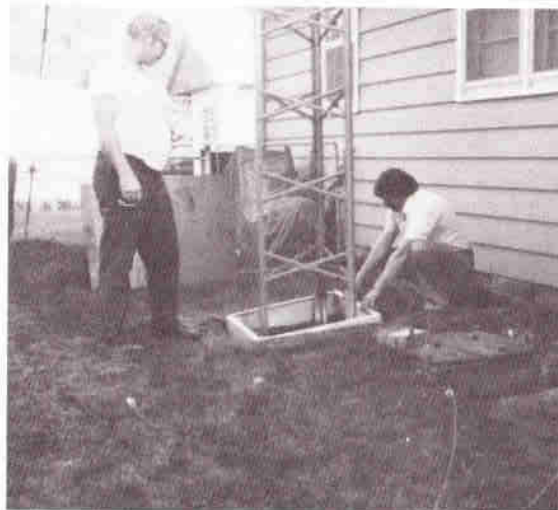


Lifting the tower out of the old base

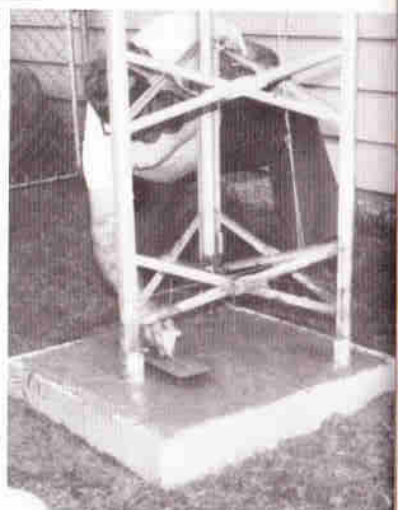
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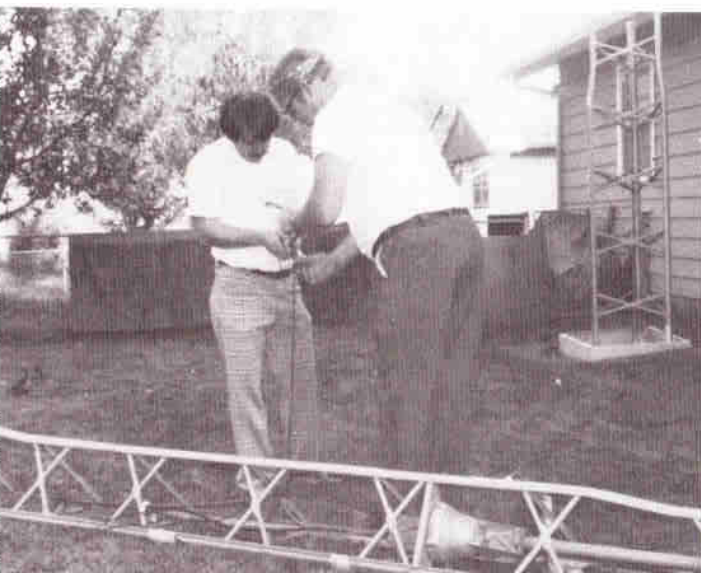
Fabricated base section —
Jim's work



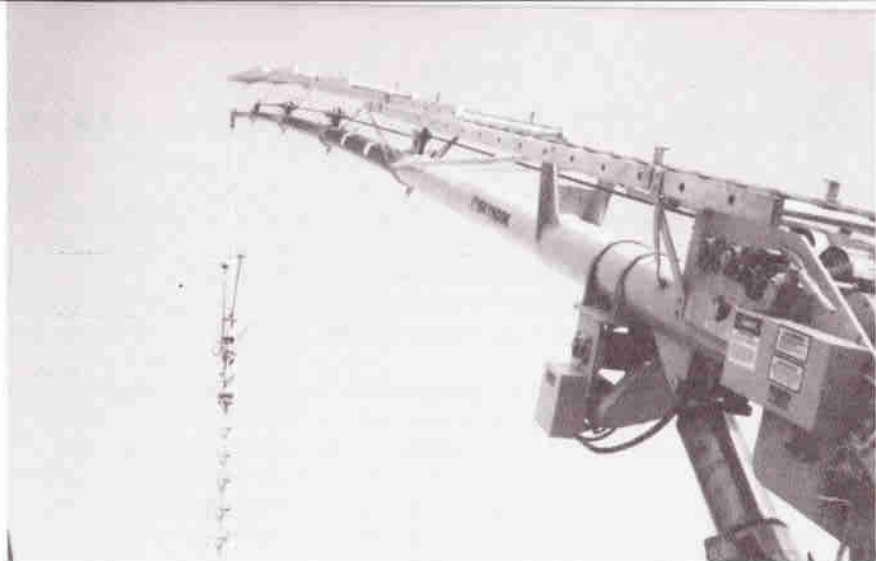
Frame fitting in perfect - also Jim's handiwork



Nice and smooth

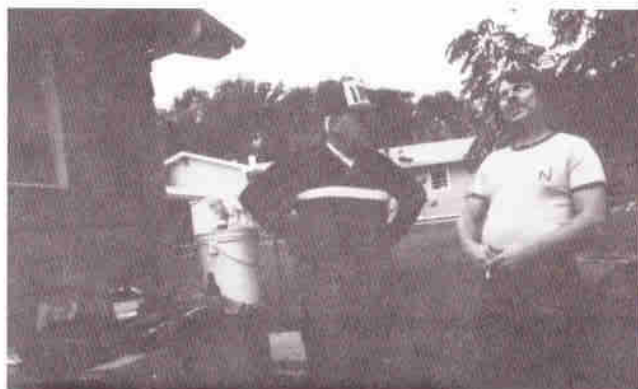


Coax cable installation —
two hands needed



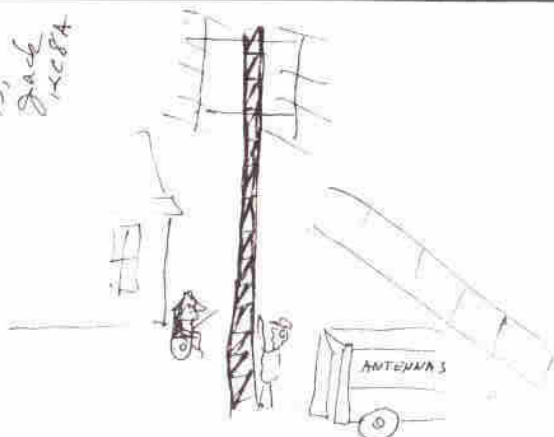
The last stage of the hoisting operation — job well done

"Look at all the empties —
Liquid Refreshments."
Walt came to help connect
cabling in Charlie's shack.



CHARLIE: I THOUGHT OF YOU WHEN
I SAW THIS LITTLE CARTON - HI, I
I'M SURE YOU WANT CHANGE YOUR
MIND BECAUSE YOU GET YOUR ANTENNAS
BACK IN OPERATION. BUT I THOUGHT
TAMM WAS CLEVER. TAKE CARE,
CHARLIE, AND HOPE TO HEAR FROM
YOU SOON.

TB,
Jack
KCPA



NO, I THINK I WOULD RATHER
HAVE IT OVER BY THE FENCE!

MESSAGE STORAGE OPERATION (MSO) — PART II

DE Larry KAØJRQ

In the first message we casually defined what MSO's are. In this one we hope to provide more pertinent info about MSO's so you may start your own voyage into this new and exciting area and, in this light, I think it is important to begin with a review of a subject that needs to be stressed, not only in RTTY operating but amateur radio in general — good operating habits!

One of the basic tenets of amateur radio down through the years is that the authorized spectrum we hams occupy is for everyone's use. No one person, group, club, system or activity has any more "right" to use a particular frequency than anyone else. Just because MSO's are frequency from day-to-day, doesn't imply in any manner that they have any more "right" to use that frequency than any other person or entity. Consequently, it is important for the remote user to understand that his remote commands, when acted upon by the distant MSO, can cause an MSO to interfere with established communications on or near the MSO's transmit frequency. Using an MSO is no different from using any other mode in amateur radio, in that the remote user should insure that his actions do not cause interference to already established communications. What I'm saying is this...listen on the frequency, don't activate the MSO until the frequency is clear. Equally important, ask if the frequency is in use! Ionospheric conditions (skip) may not allow you to hear one side of a QSO already established on frequency. However, if you ask if the frequency is in use, one (or both) of the stations may hear you and your courtesy in asking will most certainly be appreciated by all concerned.

Even though the FCC has recently relaxed standards for identifying RTTY stations, it is still a requirement that you properly ID your station. The MSO's automatically ID but you must consciously ID you RTTY signals at the start, at ten minute intervals, and at the end of your transmissions. Many MSO SYSOPS have printers that copy all MSO activity. These printers are usually activated after receipt of the MSO access code. Sending your station ID during your first transmission after activating the MSO will insure that record of your activities are properly noted on hardcopy. Anonymity is great but proper ID is a *requirement!*

Now let's talk a bit about where to look for the MSO's, how to insure that your equipment gets on and stays on frequency, baud rates, and access codes.

RTTY frequencies have over the years been identified by placement of the "mark" tone. However, most modern amateur radio equipment with digital frequency readouts can show a variety of different frequencies and the complexities can take pages to describe. Bill Henry K9GHI recently authored an excellent article on this subject in *CQ Magazine*. All MSO operating frequencies I list in these messages will be referenced to the "carrier" frequency and this simply means that in order for effective communications to take place between your station and that of the MSO, your "carrier frequency" must coincide exactly with that of the MSO. (To

determine the "mark" frequency, simply subtract 2125 hertz from the stated carrier frequency.)

MSO's are, almost without exception, crystal controlled. My experience has shown that they are extremely stable and re-appear day after day at the very same location within one or two hertz of their advertised frequency. Consequently, finding them is relatively easy and modern transceivers with digital readouts make "fishing expeditions" rare. It is very important to disable your R.I.T controls and if your transceiver tends to demonstrate short-term frequency drift, re-zero it with the MSO frequency to prevent data loss (either data you are receiving or data you are sending to the MSO). It has been my experience that a good RTTY tuning scope is essential in general RTTY operations and even more essential when using the MSO's. Current RTTY demodulators have very narrow front end filters and unless your signals match those of the MSO's almost exactly, you will experience difficulty in using them

At the present time there are MSO's spread out across the United States from the East Coast to the West. They range from Apple and Radio Shack computers to the Info-Tech and HAL units. Their placement is such that even under the worst of band conditions at least one can be heard and utilized. At last count there were 44 MSO's available for use. The Majority on 14MHZ but with active stations on 10.7MHZ and 3.6MHZ as well. As propagation changes during the day, one can easily move from band to band and still feel confident that MSO's can be utilized

Baud rates differ on each MSO frequency but usually you will find the baud rate on one specific frequency remains constant from MSO to MSO on that particular frequency. At the present time, 45 (60WPM) and 74 (100WPM) baud rates are split about even and at least one station on 40 meters is now alternating days with baud and ASCII.

These two messages are from the last RTTY Journals written by Dick KØVKH, with only very slight changes. I will not attempt to list the MSO's at this time and all the specs that go with them unless someone who isn't bothered by numbers, etc., wants to type it for me. HI...

This is up-to-date so the next article will appear in RTTY Journal next month and will be on "Operating Instructions."

Thanks KAØJRZ

(Continued from page 21)

regarded as moot; when the Report and Order was adopted in Docket 83-27 establishing a volunteer program for Technician and higher class licenses, the Commission merged the rules for Novice with the rules for higher class, and the specific prohibition of both employer-employee and employee-employee relationships was omitted, because it would have severely restricted examination opportunities. With regard to the second issue, FCC said that as a matter of practice and policy it has not permitted a father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law to administer a Novice examination to a candidate. This policy has not changed and represents the limits of the prohibition toward relatives by marriage.

THE "FAR EAST"

This is about the time of year when people start to think of vacations. It reminds me of last fall when we took off from Omaha to tour the New England area.

Even though we went to see relatives and the fall scenery, I did manage to include a couple of sites of interest to hams.

On the east coast of Cape Cod, in Massachusetts, about as far east as you can get in the U.S., except for Maine, is the Marconi Site. This is where the first U.S. Transatlantic Telegram was sent to King Edward VII from President Theodore Roosevelt in January of 1908.

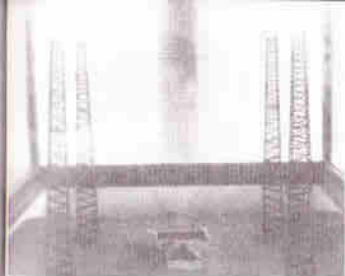
There is a bust and a model of the antenna overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

We also went to Newington, Connecticut to ARRL Headquarters. Unfortunately, our timing caused us to visit on a Saturday. Nothing was open. Luckily, a tour of the station, W1AW was scheduled, so we were able to slip in prior to the group's arrival.

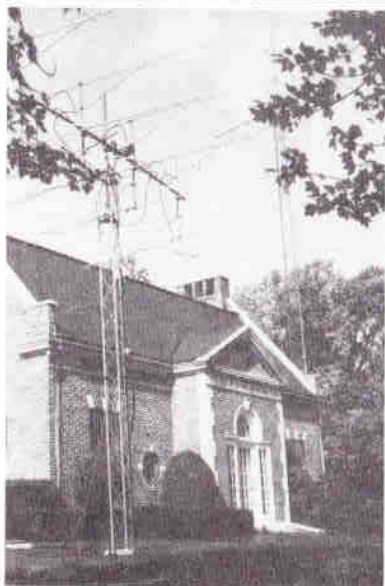
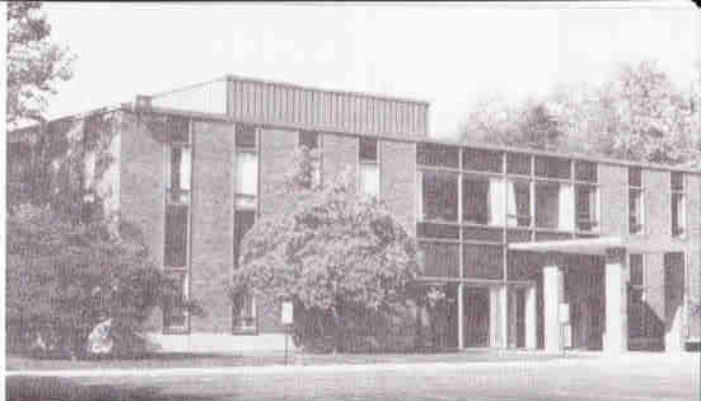
With a little better planning you can tour the HQ Bldg and W1AW. If you are thinking of going to the "Far East," you may wish to include these two sites in your tour. They are worth it if you make the time.

De WBØQGV
Jim Peterson





ARRL Headquarters
Building



W1AW Station

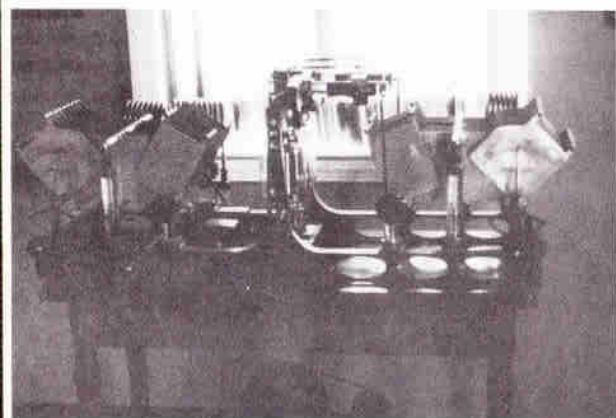
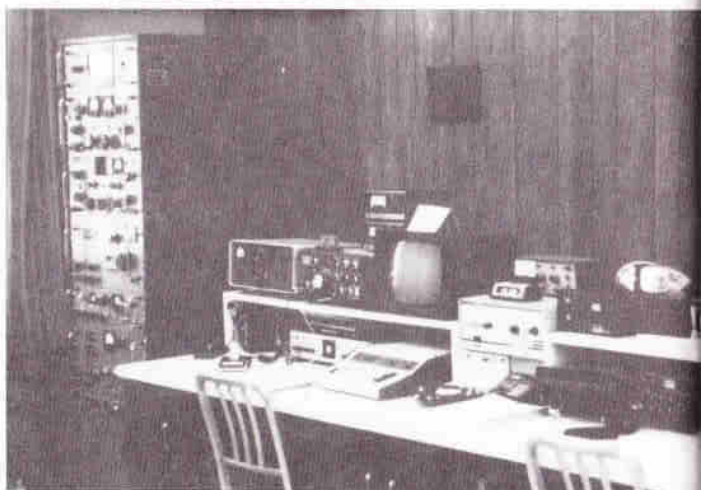


W1AW Building - showing some of
the antennas

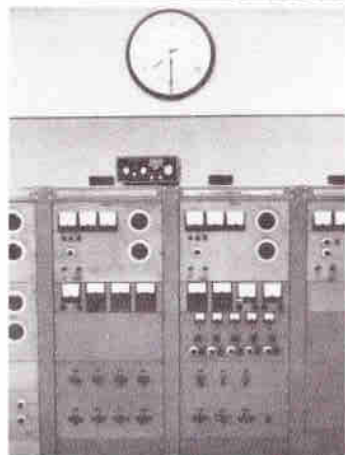


Interior W1AW —
HF operator position

W1AW interior —
operating position



W1AW interior — anteroom antique



W1AW interior - each transmission
on a separate frequency

ANNOUNCEMENT

REUNION NIGHT — KC DX CLUB

The Kansas City DX Club is celebrating its 25th year as an area club. Over the years, many Kansas City area hams have belonged to the Club. The Club is sponsoring a gathering of past, as well as present members for its March 26th meeting. The meetings are held at the downtown TWA building, 1307 South Baltimore at 7:30 PM. Anyone who was ever a member of the Club is cordially invited to reunion night. Meet your old friends and reminisce a bit. There will be general door prizes and a prize for the oldest previous, and present member. Join in on some of the fun Monday March 26th. Anyone interested in DX'ing is also cordially invited to this or any regular meeting.

de John L. Chass, W0JLC
President, KC DX Club

FCC CLARIFIES NOVICE EXAM RULES de THE ARRL LETTER

On June 29, 1983 FCC adopted its Report and Order Docket 82-727, setting up new rules for Novice examinations which would eliminate mail-back to the Commission. Generally, ARRL and the amateur community accepted the changes willingly, since they had the potential for speeding up the Novice license process. The new rules allowed examiners to design a Novice exam of 20 questions from a pool of 200 and administer this test to a Novice applicant immediately following the passing of the code test. The results were then to be certified to FCC at Gettysburg, and that office would issue the Novice license.

However, the Report and Order did adopt a new rule prohibiting administering a Novice test by a person who had an employer-employee or employee-employee relationship with the applicant. It was quickly seen that this new rule would cause difficulty with American personnel overseas where typically most examiners and applicants would be employees of the U.S. government. There would also be problems for employees of large corporations where Novice training is conducted on company premises during lunch hour, immediately following work or during off-hours recreation periods: it would be difficult to arrange for non-employee examiners in such settings. Lacking a proven problem caused by employee-employee relationships, ARRL petitioned for partial reconsideration of the Report and Order, with respect only to this portion of the new rule. ARRL also took advantage of the opportunity to ask FCC to clarify what it means by the statement that an examiner "must not be related to an applicant." Are relatives by marriage covered?

The Commission, on January 20, adopted by circulation a Memorandum Opinion and Order settling these issues. The first issue was

(Please turn back to bottom of page 17)

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FCC PROVIDES NEW FREQUENCIES FOR RACES de THE ARRL LETTER

The Commission has adopted rules to make additional frequencies, including the 144.50-145.50 MHz subband, available to RACES during an emergency that causes the President to invoke certain war emergency powers. (See August 1983 *QST*, pp. 58-59, for details of this proposal, PR Docket 83-524.) Also adopted were proposals for operational limitations on the additional frequencies so as to provide protection to the Governmental Radiolocation Service, to the Aeronautical Radionavigation Service and to Canadian radio stations. Restrictions limiting RACES operations to 30 days and to specific geographical areas were deleted.

This proceeding originated in response to a request by the Department of Defense (DOD), which had reviewed the role of RACES in support of civil defense activities during a national emergency declared by the President. The DOD concluded that additional RACES frequencies are needed under "war emergency conditions." "Since the presently available RACES frequencies have proven inadequate in peacetime," the DOD said, "they would be completely unsatisfactory in wartime. In addition, although the number of Amateur Radio repeater stations has increased, they operate on frequencies that are not now available to RACES." Thus the DOD wanted repeater frequencies and hf-net frequencies to be available to RACES stations.

Nineteen comments, generally supportive, were filed. Several commenters suggested that the repeater subband 144.50-145.50 MHz be included for RACES operation. The ARRL favored this idea, and said that such a plan would "make it unnecessary for anyone to alter existing equipment, especially repeaters, to operate on RACES frequencies during a declared emergency since ARES members could switch from ARES to RACES immediately without a shift in equipment."

The Commission referred this matter to the DOD, which did not object. Therefore, the 144.50-145.50 MHz subband is included in the final rules.

Some commenters suggested that additional frequencies in the 6, 10, 40 and 75-meter bands be added for RACES operations. Those frequencies were not included in the DOD's original request, however, and the Commission did not include them in these final rules.

The FCC had stated that additional amateur radio frequencies in the 10 and 18 MHz bands might be considered for RACES wartime emergencies if the United States ratified the final acts of WARC-79. The U.S. did ratify that treaty on September 6, 1983, but the amateur rules have not yet been amended to make 10 and 18 MHz available for amateur use on a regular basis. Thus the Commission decided that it "would not be appropriate in the report and order."
