



# Ham Hum

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## HAM HUM

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### Prez Sez

This issue of Ham-Hum is the first one published by our new Editor, Mitch Gagne, NOAZF. After more than 30 years as the Ham-Hum editor, Dick Eilers, WOYZV is retiring. Not enough thanks can be said to Dick for the dedication and outstanding service he has so generously given to our club. Ham-Hum has won several national awards for being an outstanding Ham publication.

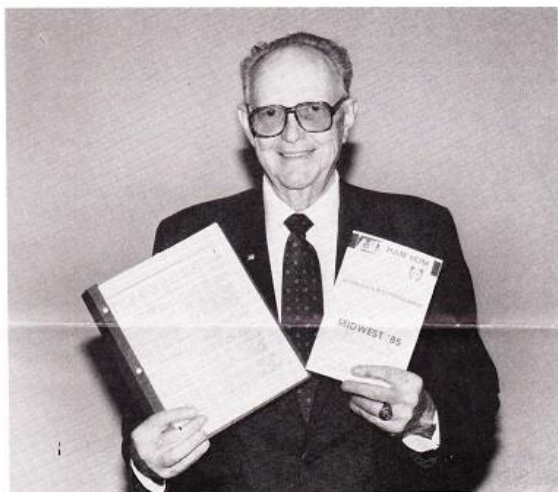
Mitch has his work cut out for him as Dick has left some mighty big foot steps to follow in. YOUR help is also needed. Ham-Hum needs your ideas and input, this is your magazine and some of the best articles and news items come from our members. Any info you may have for Ham-Hum should be sent to Mitch or myself. In each issue there will be a deadline posted for the next months Ham-Hum. Your help is appreciated.

Should anyone have any errors in their mailing label or need to change the address drop me a note or call me, I will be taking care of the Ham-Hum mailing list.

73's

DAVE - NOCLW

### Ham Hum Editor Retires



Dick Eilers showing off the first and last issue of HAM HUM published during his 35 years as editor. Mark your calendar for the December meeting, and help Dick celebrate his retirement.

**NEXT MEETING—NOV. 8th**

## The Effects of COVID-19 on World Wide Propagation

By Pat Connell W0OJU

On a typical Sunday Spring afternoon, I would be working on a project in the garage, in the basement, in the back yard, at a friend's house. Anywhere but in the basement in my radio room.

But today was different, it was March 29, 2020 the year of COVID-19. Our president, governor, and numerous other really brilliant scientist touted the way to defeat or "flatten the infection curve" was to practice "social distancing". But how does an extrovert like me practice social distancing. Thinking about what to do next, I found myself in the radio shack. Seeing the HF radio was on, I checked on 15 meters and found the WPX contest was on and could hear US states repeating going CQ with no answers or at least I could not hear the stations foreign stations calling them on my simple dipole.

I went down to 21.074 to see if FT8 was active and start seeing signal reports of +5, +8, +10! What the heck, as I turned up the audio I could hear lots of signals and some really loud from all over North and South America. I thought what the heck, I would check out 10 meters my favorite band. (Did I ever tell you I had a 8 element 10 meter yagi on an 48 foot boom when I was young and single? That is a story for another column.) Today I was 40 watts into a dipole.

I could hear a faint signal down in the noise and then a string of W4, 5 and a W6 came across the WSJT program screen. I worked a half dozen stations, and then started calling CQ, which in turn caused me to work stations after stations for the next two hours. I worked W1-W0, KP4, KH6!, a slew of central and South Americans until I had 34 calls in the log on 10 meters!!

You might ask, what is my point with the COVID situation? Our new normal should be get out on what may sound like a dead band and call CQ and be ready to be surprised! – Pat W0OJU

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On page 3, there are two pictures of three members receiving certificates for hanging in with the club for over 30 years. And back on page 1 is the Ham Hum cover dated November 1985 with an article honoring Dick Eilers—W0YZV who was the Ham Hum editor for 35 years.



At the first meeting of the AARC there were 38 people present - 30 years later three of them were still members - in the photo President Russ Minks WA0VEE - gives certificates for 30 years of membership to Art Gaeth W0FQB and Rollie Fried W0YMU. The meeting report notes they are both founding members. Henry Velte W0ABI - was also a founding member but was leaving town prior to the meeting (so his certificate was given earlier) There was no roster of members until the 1950s when the Ham Hum was created, so most of the names of our founders remain unknown.



# Area Nets

## Monday

7:00 PM 145.290 South-West Iowa ARES Glenwood, IA.

8:00 PM 144.250 NE Missouri SWOT.

9:00 PM 146.940 AARC Chat Net. Ak-Sar-Ben ARC Omaha, NE.

## Tuesday

9:00 PM 145.310 Washington Co. ARES Washington Co, NE.

## Wednesday

7:00 PM 146.670 Dodge Co. ARES Dodge Co, NE.

7:30 PM 7.122 CW Four State QRP Comfortable Net.

8:00 PM 3.564 CW Four State QRP Comfortable Net.

8:00 PM 145.310 Saunders Co. ARES Saunders Co, NE.

8:30 PM 7.122 CW Four State QRP Comfortable Net.

9:00 PM 3.580.5 PSK Four State QRP Comfortable Net.

9:00 PM 146.820 Pottawattamie County ARES Council Bluffs, IA.

## Thursday

8:30 AM 7.122 CW Four State QRP 40M Morning Net.

7:30 PM 145.310- Lincoln/Omaha SATERN Net. Ashland, NE.

8:00 PM 28.350 SSB 10-Meter Net.

8:00 PM 144.250 2-Meter SSB Net.

8:00 PM 147.360 Heartland DX Association.

## Friday

10:00 PM 224.760- Tone 146.2 Promote the Band Net

## Saturday

12:00 PM 146.82 Swap Net Council Bluffs, IA.

8:30 PM 3.921.000 QCWA Chapter 20.

## Sunday

8:00 AM 3.902.500 Swap Net.

8:30 AM 3.897.500 3900 Club.

8:30 PM 443.925+ (103.5 tone) IRLP Net.

2:00 PM 50.200 6 Meter Net

9:00 PM 146.940- Douglas Co. ARES net, KØUSA repeater.

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## Bill Batchelor-W5UZQ Silent Key

- A life member of AARC for 30 years
- Retired LtCol USAF with 22 years of service

2 OCT 1943 — 1 May 2020 Age 76



## Club Officers & Board Members

President	Sean Edwards	ADØQG	president@aksarbenarc.org
Vice President	Pat Connell	WØOJU	vicepresident@aksarbenarc.org
2018 Secretary	Brian Sohl	KEØGKB	secretary@aksarbenarc.org
2018 Treasurer	Dave Rice	NØJSB	treasurer@aksarbenarc.org
2019-2021 Director	Dave Rice	NØJSB	board@aksarbenarc.org
2019-2021 Director	Dan Buchholz	NØPOT	board@aksarbenarc.org
2018-2019 Director	Brian Sohl	KEØGKB	board@aksarbenarc.org
2018-2019 Director	Ray Blackburn	NØREA	board@aksarbenarc.org
Immediate Past President	Kevin Hill	KAØVNY	board@aksarbenarc.org

## Club Committees

Courtesy Committee	Bill Snyder	KDØFJR	courtesy@aksarbenarc.org
Education	Ray Blackburn	NØREA	education@aksarbenarc.org
Field Day	Adam Kavan	KDØMMG	fieldday@aksarbenarc.org
Flea-Esta	Chris Rice		flea@aksarbenarc.org
Membership	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	membership@aksarbenarc.org
Monday Night .94 Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	wa0zqg@hotmail.com
P.I.M.P.	Jim Westcott	KAØKCV	pr@aksarbenarc.org
Prizes	Open	Open	prizes@aksarbenarc.org
A.R.E.S.	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	n0up@arrl.net
Publications	Brian Pitchanau	WEØBEP	hamhum@aksarbenarc.org
QSL Manager & Technical	Ed Edwards	KØIL	qslmanager@aksarbenarc.org
Special Events Coordinator	Pat Joseph	KØCTU	community_service@aksarbenarc.org

Technical Assistance	Ed Edwards	KØIL	technical@aksarbenarc.org
Web Services	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	web_master@aksarbenarc.org

## Repeater Committee

Chairman	John Gebuhr	WBØCMC	repeater@aksarbenarc.org
Vice Chairman	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	repeater@aksarbenarc.org
Control Operator	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	repeater@aksarbenarc.org
Club Call sign Trustee	Corby Krick	KØSKW	trustee@aksarbenarc.org
Member	Russ Hilton	ADØQH	repeater@aksarbenarc.org

## Other Contacts

ARRL Midwest Director	Rod Blocksome	KØDAS	k0das@arrl.org
ARRL Midwest Vice-Dir.	Art Zygielbaum	KØAIZ	k0aiz@arrl.org
EC Douglas County	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	dcares@aksarbenarc.org
EC Sarpy County	Dennis Mitchell	KCØYKN	
Exams/Vol. Council	Brian Zdan	KMØY	testing@aksarbenarc.org
NE Section Manager	Matt Anderson	KAØBOJ	ka0boj@arrl.org

AARC Ham Hum Post Office Box 24551, Omaha, NE 68124-0551

**MY REVIEW OF THE ANYTONE D 878 DIGITAL/ANALOG  
HANDHELD RADIO**  
**by Rick Rodgers KD0WDP**

This month I thought I'd take a stab at reviewing some Equipment. The latest and hottest handheld to hit the market. Its the Anytone D878 Digital DMR and Analog radio.

This radio comes with the following:

1. radio
2. antenna
3. Lithium Ion Battery
4. desk charger/ AC adaptor
5. belt clip
6. hand strap
7. instruction manual
8. programming cable

At first look this radio is really beefy feeling and heavy, not cheap feeling like some of the other Chinese made radios. I compare it to a Motorola or an ft-60 in weight.

After getting some help, programming it is pretty easy with the software, which you can download from the internet. It seems a little backwards in how to program it as you enter the talkgroups first, then the channels, then the zones. Once you get past the learning curve, its relatively easy.

**NOTE: AS OF THE TIME OF THIS ARTICLE, THERE ARE NO BRANDMEISTER REPEATERS HERE IN OMAHA.**

The battery life is amazing as Ive used it for up to 5 days without a charge and it didnt die. The battery supplied is a 3100 mAh battery.

The screen is full color with different colors for different features. The settings menu is easy to navigate and use and you can change a lot of settings from the radio. The transmit power settings are low, mid, high, and turbo. On turbo it gives you the maximum amount of power output . You can reach some of the harder to hit repeaters using this mode.

There are 4 hot keys, 2 on the front of the radio, and 2 on the left side just below the ptt button. On the right side is the port for the programming cable, and for a speaker mic. It uses the same type of 2 pin connector as the Kenwood.

This radio comes with features including GPS and APRS. Some models also include Bluetooth and can be bluetoothed to your vehicles sound system. If you choose this radio, a remote ptt will be included which you can attach via a velcro strap to your steering wheel.

The audio on this radio is extremely good with stations remarking that I sound very clear when using this radio. Receive also has an option of audio enhancement. It allows weaker signals to sound a little clearer.

Overall I give this radio a huge 5 star rating, but thats my opinion.

I purchased this along with a Nagoya 701 antenna for a total price of \$229.00 from Bridgecom Systems out of Missouri. Shipping was literally 1 day. They include Bridgecom University with a purchase of any radio which is a plus as it walks you through every aspect of the radio from opening the box to getting on the air. Their customer support is absolutely great and they are very helpful..

So, if you have any questions about this radio, hit me up and Ill be glad to answer them. Til next time, 73s

Rick Rodgers, KDOWDP

## KER-CHUNK

It seems time for another article on repeater operation since there seems to be a fast growing amount of button pushing (or ker-chunking) on the various machines in town.

1. When a transmission (or series of them) is not identified, it is illegal. Therefore, button pushers usually are.
2. Button pushing quickly becomes a nuisance to people who usually monitor, and makes them curious to who the \*@#! button pusher is.
3. It creates unnecessary wear and tear on the repeater, which is usually a very expensive piece of equipment, and hastens its failure.
4. It is a psychological crutch to the user to reassure himself that the repeater is still actually there.

To solve these problems is quite simple:

1. If you find you must ker-chunk a repeater, simply give your call and say testing. This makes it legal and is a courtesy to those who are monitoring at the time. Also, if you are testing into a dummy load, that repeater is still likely to hear you, since you probably have the covers off your radio and the RF conductors act like reasonable antennas. A 2 watt hand held into a dummy load has been easily copied through a repeater even though it was four and a half miles away.
2. Have faith, Brother, that the repeater is really still there.

If you hear this type of operation persistantly, don't hesitate to let the offender know

that his operation is somewhat questionable. Do it nicely, **only once**, and state the reason. Two and three above should be sufficient. If he then persists, the best thing to do is ignore it (him). Most hams, given a reason to do or not to do something, are more than happy to cooperate. If the instigator turns out to be a turkey, he has gotten one response, don't give him another. That just keeps him going.

Even though it is no longer a legal requirement to give your call at the beginning of a QSO, it is still a good idea to I.D. before an autograph call. First it is a courtesy to those who must listen as control ops. It satisfies their curiosity as to who it is and announces your intent.

WBØCMC

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## Fishin'



An antidote for all one's cares  
And moods of fretful wishin'  
(Especially when one despairs)—  
Is just to go a-fishin'.  
You have to leave your work behind,  
And out in God's great open,  
Beside a lake or stream you'll find  
No reason for your mopin'.  
And even if no fish you hook  
You have achieved your mission;  
And you will bless the time you took  
To just go out, a-fishin'.

*Carl C. Helm*