

# HAM HUM

AK-SAR-BEN  
RADIO CLUB  
INC.

WØEQU

January, 1956

P.O. Box 626

Omaha 1, Nebr.

Vol. VI No. 1

THE SIGN OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION



“YOU ASKED FOR IT”

(See page 6)

# Ham Hum

Published by  
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Editor---Art Stadler WØQMD

HAM HUM is the official organ of the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club of Omaha, Nebraska, mailed monthly to all members and to others upon request. News and information of interest to amateur radio is gladly accepted. All items must be received at least two weeks prior to the second Friday of each month for inclusion in the current month issue. Submit all correspondence to P. O. Box 626, Omaha, Nebr.

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## AK-SAR-BEN RADIO CLUB, INC. OFFICERS

*Dick Eilers, WNØYZV, President*  
*Rudy Rampacek, WØRMC, Vice Pres.*  
*Curt Hicks, KØAMM, Secretary*  
*Bob Stratbucker, WØHZE, Treasurer*

Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club memberships are open to all persons having an interest in amateur radio and its activities. Dues are 50¢ per month or \$5.00 per year when paid in advance. Students rate is 25¢ per month or \$2.50 per year. Initiation fee \$1.00. Special rate for OM-XYL, \$6.50 payable annually. Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month.

## Officers

Dick Eilers, YZV, President  
Rudy Rampacek, RMC, Vice Pres.  
\*Bob Stratbucker, HZE, Treas  
\*Curt Hicks, KØAMM, Secretary  
Art Stadler, QMD, Past President  
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Lee Beckley, SRR  
Larry Caccamo, MNN  
\*Dick Curzon, KØAIS  
George Fox, AEM  
\*Ed Gutman, CQX  
Rolly Johnsen  
\*2 Year Term

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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Lee Beckley, SRR  
Rudy Rampacek, RMC  
HAM HUM  
Art Stadler, QMD

### PROGRAM

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TECHNICAL

Larry Caccamo, MNN  
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MOBILE

George Fox, AEM  
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Frank Cooper, IOS  
Allen McMillan, JJK  
CIVILIAN DEFENSE

Art Stadler, QMD  
NOVICE

Rolly Johnsen, SPO  
FIELD DAY

Ed. Gutman, CQX

## TO ALL MEMBERS OF AK -SAR-BEN RADIO CLUB

Your new officers and the Board of Trustees are deeply engrossed in the formation of plans for the forth-coming year.

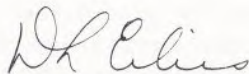
Every man is fired with enthusiasm to make this a banner year, and with your support will accomplish that end.

Ideas are coming thick and fast, and included among the list are ideas for field day, Ham Fest, renewal of the quest for a Club transmitter site, and a real and working Civil Defense operation.

This year will be the first real test of the Club activities under our new Constitution. Not only will more emphasis be placed upon programs, but other activities will be developed to a finer degree as the new Board members take a more active part in the planning. It also makes possible greater participation, by the membership at large, in Club activities which will enable you to be part of the growth of this organization.

Your Officers have accepted, whole-heartedly, the challenge of directing the affairs of the Club, but we solicit your support and assistance in the Club action of 1956.

73



Dick Eilers, President  
Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club, Inc.

## TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE AK-SAR-BEN RADIO CLUB

1955 has been an eventful year for our organization!

Every member is to be congratulated, for during the past 12 months you have contributed immensely, not only to your own club, but to the growth of our mutual hobby--Ham Radio.

In retrospect, let's stop for a moment and review our operations of this past year:

(1) Since January 1st. 1955 the membership of the A.R.C. has grown from 100 members to approximately 137. This represents a growth of 37%! An indication not only of the strength of the club but the greater interest in the hobby.

(2) Financially this year has been a profitable one, too. As the treasurers report will indicate our finances are in good shape. While our funds have not increased in the same proportion as did our membership, our bank balance at the end of October was greater than on January 1st. 1955. When we consider that numerous activities undertaken represented abnormal expense it is obvious that the financial affairs of A.R.C. were well handled.

(3) The A.R.C. played a very important role in securing the passage of L.B. 464 which makes available automobile license plates bearing amateur call letters. While it was not your preference to lead this drive, in the final analysis, you men played an important role in this project. You wanted L. B. 464 passed, you worked at it and succeeded, therefore it is now your responsibility to support the availability.

(4) 1955 has seen "Ham Hum" in its year of greatest growth! From a loose leaf publication our official organ has grown to an efficient professional appearing magazine of national recognition. On two occasions you received a 24 page edition. Ham Hum is a well read, newsy paper of which you should be justly proud.

(5) As sponsors to the 1955 Midwest A.R.R.L. Convention the A.R.C. again maintained their fine reputation as hosts to the amateur fraternity. Those who contributed their time and effort are to be congratulated. You should be proud to have as a fellow member Earle Olsen who guided this huge operation from beginning to end; and Dick Eilers the convention treasurer for his masterful handling of many im-

portant details. Reports to date have not shown one single complaint. Your efforts were appreciated.

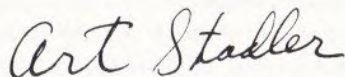
(6) If it were possible to nominate a single Club action of this year as the most important, I am confident that you would agree that the adoption of a new Constitution and By-Laws together with the forming of the AK-SAR-BEN Radio Club Incorporated would take top honors. This is action long over due but today you operate as a non profit organization on a business like basis but removed are the fears of the many hazards prevalent under our old method of operation.

For the future I can forsee an even greater organization with a closely knit relationship. To do this, however, I offer to your future officers the following suggestions.

1. The appointment of a functioning budget committee whose responsibilities should be the financial planning of our moneys based upon income versus Club needs.
2. That every member of the executive council be assigned, by the president, a committee shairmanship. This would assure the Club membership of active officers rather than officers in title only.
3. That A.R.C. membership whole-heartedly support the C.D. movement in Douglas County. Forget the past, erase from our mind the existing complacency toward C.D. and instead be an active proponent of C.D. and the purposes for which it is intended.

To every member of this organization, to the men with whom I have served as officers I offer my sincere thanks for your cooperation. Serving as your president during this year has been a challenge but a priveledge I'll always remember. You have given me a greater respect and a deeper appreciation of the amateur fraternity which I will always remember.

73



Art Stadler  
President 1955

## NEBRASKA AUTO LICENSE PLATES

During the last few weeks we have had numerous inquiries regarding the manner in which "Ham" auto license plates can be secured. It appears that the lack of knowledge and procedure to be followed in applying for the long coveted plates made possible by L. B. 464 is the reason that only 17 applications had been received at the Omaha City Hall at the time of the last reading...or could it be that fat old man with the long white beard dug into your pocket a bit deeper than usual? Or, it could be that your tax statement has not reached you, and it is a necessary part of the whole process.

It's a simple matter, fellows, to secure license plates, bearing your call letters, for your car if you will follow the following procedure. First, dig out your Amateur license issued by the F.C.C. and put it in your pocket. Next, grab hold of your personal property tax bill and your check book and head for the office of the County official that issues auto license plates. Be sure that you take your car registration

certificate off the steering post before you enter the sanctum of the local politico, 'cause he will want to see that, too.

Now, assuming that your personal tax bill has been paid, merely let it be known to the issuing agent that you want Amateur auto license plates. Present your paid tax bill, registration certificate, F.C.C. license, and a check for your usual license fee *plus* an additional \$2.50 for the Ham plates. That's all there is to it!

The County Officer will issue you a new registration certificate and will order for you a license plate from the Nebraska License Plate Factory, at Lincoln, on which will appear the call letters issued to you by the F.C.C. The plates will be mailed directly from the Plate Factory to your home address. Only one set of plates can be issued to any one individual regardless of the number of vehicles he might own.

We have had a request that all applications be made as

soon after January 1st, as possible in order that your plates can be prepared and in your possession on or before March 1st, 1956.

We recommend making application in person rather than trying to handle this deal via the mail in order to eliminate the possibility of a "deadline headache". Our informant tells us that mail applications are handled after all personal applications are taken care of and at this time of year that could be next March, soo...oo a word to the wise should be sufficient.

#### News from the absentees

Fay, ISV, is taking advantage of the weather in the sunny south at Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dupey, W5GXR patched Dick, KØAIS into Fay a few nites ago and Fay says that Dick was really pouring in a swell sig. After January 1, ISV will be gypsying around New Mexico, Arizona, and California so give a listen for his mobile sig down south....you all.

Guy Bailey, KJP is operating KJP/7 these days via his new mobile set-up. With

a new AF67-Elmac, Johnson 6 antenna, Morrow receiver with all the trimmings Guy is "wintering" at Tuscon, Arizona. Guy is active on 10 and 15 so give a look.

Via FQB, message No. 344 was addressed to the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club. "Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year". Sig. Tri State Amateur Radio Society. ....(and the same to you, fellows)

#### OFFICIAL BULLETINS

NR524

Recently discovered means of long distance propogation of VHF waves indicate that reliable communication over distances up to 1300 miles or more should be possible in the amateur 50 MC. band. Requirements for this work are high power, large antennas, low noise receivers and CW. The medium scattering in the E region of the ionosphere, provides weak but consistant signals, suitable for the maintainance of schedules but difficult to observe by other means. ARRL urges 50 Mc. workers to set up such schedules and report results for correlation at Headquarters and possible

use in QST. Amateurs who can work 6 meters and above are also reminded that the 9th VHF Sweepstakes will be held January 7 and 8. AR

#### NR 522

Conelrad rules for the amateur service applicable within the Continental United States are approved by FCC on November 30, effective January 2, 1957 or on such earlier date as FCC by order may designate. See page 47 of October QST for test of the proposed rulemaking. Thus a year is allowed to permit amateurs to undertake a voluntary program of readying their stations for compliance with Conelrad radio alerts. Suggestions for compliance are made in an article appearing in January QST. AR

#### TVI COMMITTEE FORMED

While not an innovation, but rather a function that we have needed for a long time, our new President is responsible for the reactivation of a TVI Committee. Under the very capable direction of Frank Cooper, IOS, and Allen McMillan JJK, this new TVI Committee is ready to handle your problem. If you are confronted with a stubborn situation that has not

responded to your own tactful handling and desires for cooperation, let the Committee handle it for you. We need to improve Public Relations with Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Public.

#### FOR SALE

COLOR TELEVISION: RCA, Brand New. \$350 complete and installed. Contact Bob Strambucker, WØHZE.

JJK reports that a new microwave record has been set but it sounds like he's trying to take us for a "buggy" ride.

Al says that a new micro-wave record has been set by resonating 2 fireflies at 2 micro-millimicrons. A distance of ? miles was worked, and this record is all "cricket".

NEXT MEETING FONTENELLE HOTEL FRIDAY - 8:00 PM JANUARY 13, 1956
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Jan Rampacek reports that the CD classes being held at Westside High School for the purpose of developing novice Ham operators has had a surprising turn out. It now appears that about 20 youngsters are sticking with it. CD is in need of another instructor which will make possible the formation of another class. If you want to take part, contact Frank Fernall, WØBTE.



# AK SAR BEN RADIO CLUB

INCORPORATED

## ROSTER

January 1, 1956



**REMOVE THESE PAGES FOR  
FUTURE REFERENCE**



**PLEASE NOTIFY THE CLUB SECRETARY  
OF ANY CHANGE**

## PHONE PATCH FACTS

During the past few years we have had the opportunity of making many persons a lot happier by bringing together, via the air-ways, mothers and sons or daughters thousands of miles apart; husbands in isolated parts of the world with families back at the old homestead. All these experiences have been the result of Ham radio and a little device commonly known as a "phone patch".

At one time the use of a phone patch was handled on a hush-hush basis but today all you have to do is listen on 20 meters and you will hear many conversations that run something like this; "Say, OM, can you handle phone patch traffic for me?... break..." "Sure thing, Mister, ...go ahead, give me the dope". No longer do we hesitate to let the world know that we can and will make use of the telephone as a relaying device.

It is the writers understanding that there is no definite F.C.C. regulation that prohibits the use of phone patches, BUT, we also understand that in the Communications Act of 1934 penalties are provided for

violation to tariff schedule regulations which are binding on users of Telephone Company equipment. It is well to take a look at the provisions of the so-called "foreign attachment" regulations that are found in just about every Telephone Company schedule.

We're not attempting to criticize the use of patches, nor are we condoning the practice, but if a patch is to be used here are a couple of ideas that may keep you from running into trouble.

1. Don't cut in the patch so that dialing clicks can be heard on the air. If clicks are heard on the air it is possible that a recording of the dial clicks could be used to determine a phone number.
2. If you place a call through an operator, be sure that her voice does not go out on the air. Keep the patch OFF THE AIR until the party called on the phone has been reached.
3. Before cutting in the patch after the called party has been reached, be sure to tell them that they are to have their voices transmitted

and that what they may say will be heard by many people. Get an agreement that it is OK with them to have their conversation broadcast on the air.

We are assuming of course that if you are using a phone patch that it is free from hum and that it will not overload the phone lines. If there is any doubt in your mind about these two points, don't use the patch at all until you are sure.

Whether we want to admit it or not the Telephone Companies have in many instances closed their eyes to many infractions and have let us bring those few pleasant moments to many people in all parts of the world and at the same time have let us enjoy this part of our hobby. Let's continue the latitudes afforded us by keeping our own house in order.

### **CONTACT MADE WITH A HARD TO FIND CALL**

For the past several months one of the most often questions asked whenever the crowd gathered was, "Where's John?" "Haven't heard him on 2, he hasn't been at the meetings,....can't figure it out."

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Well, gang "Mr. Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club" of 1955, the fellow that so diligently gave of his time to ARC and Ham Hum is still around and doing well. We had two letters from John, PHW, during the past weeks and it was mighty enlightening to know that if he has not been able to join us personally, that he is still one of the crowd and active on 2 meters in Chicago. Along with his 1956 dues, John sends his regards and best wishes for the New Year.

John tells us that he heard someone on 10 using the call of WØPXJ, (that's the way he copied it) but as Bob has not been on the air for a long time, it may be that some stinker is keeping the call alive for him! As PHW will be back in Omaha very shortly he is interested in knowing if there are any hams interested in 2 meter RTTY. This seems to be the only field of Ham radio in which the gear must be home-made and for the experimenter only. In Chicago, John says that RTTY activity is rampant. If you want a new venture, give John a call at his home QTH.

We're looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting John.

# HELP WANTED...

## DOUGLAS COUNTY

Wanted: Radio amateurs in Douglas County. Qualifying persons must be F.C.C. licensed, operating on phone, fixed or mobile, 10, 20, or 40 meters preferred. Willing to participate in scheduled or assimilated condition tests. Club affiliation not necessary. See or contact WØQMD.

We're serious, guys! Too long there has been a feeling of "so what" regarding the Civilian Defense operations in Omaha and Douglas County. Lethargy has crept into our souls and a lot of fellows are poo-pooing the possibility of there ever being an incident that would call for the services of the Civilian Defense organization.

Perhaps some of this lethargy and lack of participation is not due to the Amateur fraternity, alone. For sure, there have been those that headed up the CD activities that stirred up your original interest, may have made a lot of promises and then by their lack of follow-thru, plus not delivering on their commitments have con-

tributed to a poorly qualified amateur communication service in this area.

The writer has been charged with the responsibility of instituting an active amateur CD group in Douglas County and your participation will determine the degree of success of this venture.

Already CD has made available a mobile communications unit that will house transmitting and receiving gear for the Police, Fire, Sheriff, and Amateurs. Equipment, for all other than Amateurs, is in the process of being installed. It will be up to us to handle that part of the job, but it will take men...men that are willing to tackle the job on a wholehearted basis, and willing to utilize their hobby and knowledge of it to prepare for emergency service to the community.

If any of you men would like to devote one evening a week teaching novice classes as a CD activity, we can certainly use your help.

It is our plan to set up a CD net in Douglas County with weekly role call and an occasional emergency trial. Frequencies will be designated for our operation and these will be in conjunction with the State CD operation.

Your community needs your

help, so if you are interested in a worthwhile application of Ham radio, indicate your willingness to participate by sending a card to A. F. Stadler, WØQMD, 4228 Lanmore, Omaha, 11, or to P. O. Box 626, giving your name, address, and the letters "CD".

NEXT MEETING  
FONTENELLE HOTEL  
FRIDAY - 8:00 PM  
JANUARY 13, 1956  
"DX and How" by WØGKL

## Do You Want "HAM HUM"

**every Month?**

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF AK-SAR-BEN RADIO CLUB, OR NOT ON THE INTER-CLUB EXCHANGE LIST AND WISH TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE "HAM HUM" EACH MONTH, SEND TO BOX 626, OMAHA, ON THE POSTAGE FREE CARD ENCLOSED, YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND CALL.

WE ARE REVIEWING OUR MAILING LIST FOR 1956 AND WILL REMOVE, SHORTLY, YOUR NAME UNLESS YOU INDICATE YOUR DESIRE TO RECEIVE "HAM HUM".

**Mail your Card Now!**

## "DX.....1956 STYLE"

One of the high lights of the Midwest Division - ARRL Convention, held in Omaha, was the DX session conducted by WØGKL...Orville Weimer.

Your Editor attempted to stick his bald head and long nose into the DX session meeting room while Orv' was in the midst of his presentation but unfortunately, there was not a single seat or a bit of standing room available. With that great, big, deep, booming voice, and that congenial smile creeping through his close cropped moustache, "R-VILL" had every last man in the room deeply engrossed in the means and methods to work those hard-to-get DX stations.

In view of the interest shown, and the inability of many to get in on GKL's dissertation on the finer points on working DX, our program chairman, Bob Stratbucker, has arranged, by popular demand, to have Orville appear on our January meeting program.

Orville's qualification as a top notch DX man is not one of short duration. A licensed

ham for some 20 years has given him an old timers rating and an opportunity to see the ups and downs of the 20 meter band. To date Orville is the only member of DXCC in Omaha, and this by virtue of his 150 countries worked and confirmed. While these countries are all the result of 20 meter phone contacts, Orville, in the last several months, has devoted the majority of his air time to 20 meter CW and this has accounted for another 25 countries to be added to his already long list of countries.

Professionally, Orville is an engineer for Station WOW-TV, with color transmission as his newly adopted specialty.

If you want to hear the many twists and short cuts to working DX from a man that knows, be sure to be on hand at the January meeting.



## AMATEUR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES 1956

by Lawrence F. Caccomo, WØNMN.

5 December 1955 - I just received my Motor Vehicle Tax statement. Since the passing of L.B.464, I have eagerly looked forward to the day when I would receive those new plates and proudly display them on the front and rear of my bucket of bolts. I took the tax statement together with my vehicle registration and a copy of my Radio Amateur License and a personal check for \$14.50 (\$8.00 license; \$4.00 wheel tax; \$2.50 our additional cost) to the county courthouse. Whereupon after making the necessary payment of my personal tax, I was referred to the Motor Vehicle License Bureau on the ground floor of the courthouse and directed to ask for Mr. Fleming. This individual was most cooperative. After filling out the necessary entry on my vehicle registration form, the copy of the amateur license and my tax receipt form were returned to me. This action required only ten minutes of my time. It is important to advise you that payment of the \$14.50 should be made by check or money order. Cash is not accepted in this particular transaction. So be prepared.

Just talking about it is one thing, but doing is another. As a matter of record I made inquiry to ascertain the number of individuals interested in obtaining their registration plates. To date, only five have applied. These persons I list in their order of application:

Guy Bailey, WØKJP, Nov. 14  
Fay Powell, WØISV, Nov. 17  
Herb Curry, WØQXR, Nov. 29  
Lew Cutler, WØVLI, Dec. 2  
Larry Caccomo, WØNMN, Dec. 5

Fellows, this is a very poor showing. After all the planning and work that went into the passing of this L.B.464 by all the prominent officials of the state, just to mention a few: Mssrs. Charles Tvrdik, Norman Otto, Sam Klaver, William Moulton, William Dean Noyes, etc -- There were many, many more. Just to list the individuals that were interested and went to bat for our cause would fill this page completely.

Just in case you have forgotten why we went all out for this license plate bill, I will itemize just a few of the reasons:

A system of designation for amateur radio mobile vehicles.

From an emergency and civil defence standpoint there would be definite advantages, for the car would be easily recognized.

Recognition and indication to the public of the far reaching interest in amateur Radio and its contributions as a public service. In this we mean, our efforts in carrying on during floods, blizzards, our contribution in the "March of Dimes", "Heart Funds", "Muscular Distrophy", "Cancer", etc.

Reasons? We could go on and on. But we need not go into further discussion at this time.

Should you see your duty clear and stand behind your convictions? Examine your conscience! Do you have a moral and physical obligation to stand behind this 100% or should you stand by and let the others carry your burden.

Examine your pocketbook! True-- This little venture is going to cost us all an additional \$2.50 each, but it isn't going to break us. You ask, is it worth it? Yes, it is. This additional fee is essential to defray the cost of manufacturing the metal dies and equipment necessary for producing these plates.

Thousands of amateurs over the State of Nebraska and neighboring states are watching the initial outcome of this important occasion. This license plate is one of the greatest mediums which can serve to help us to attain the recognition we desire. Your cooperation in bringing the radio amateurs into a position of civic importance is certainly a duty and a privilege, YOURS AND MINE.

P.S. Mr. Fleming suggested that as many registrations be submitted before January 1, 1956 as on or about that date he intends to forward the whole slug to Lincoln. After that, who knows.

## SINGLE SIDE BANDS

We have had numerous inquiries from readers asking for information on the subject of single side band operation. The speed with which this type of operation is catching on seems to be the reason for the sudden burst of inquiries. Anybody have a simple and inexpensive method of getting a SSB rig on the air? The way the gang are divorcing their AM associations and dropping their carrier there must be something to it.



AK-SAP GEN RADIO CLUB INC.  
P. O. BOX 626  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA



NEXT MEETING  
FONTENELLE HOTEL  
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POSTAGE RATE  
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Omaha, Nebr.  
Permit No. 221