



# HAM HUM

AK-SAR-BEN  
RADIO CLUB  
INC.

WØEQU

August 1957 P.O. 626 Omaha 1, Nebr Vol. VII No. 8



# Ham Hum

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## EDITORS

Alan McMillan, WØJJK

Dick Eilers, WØYZV

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.

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Lou Cutler, WØVLI

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. Student 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.

# Way Back When

That's the editors summary of the August club meeting topic. The speaker at the next club meeting will have information and display material of real interest about the early days of Amateur radio. Our speaker's activities in Amateur radio really date back when. You fellows that are OT's to most will probably be babes in the woods compared to Mr. Otto Schmidt, LICENSED in 1916 under the call 9SE. The

only Amateur licensed earlier, that we knew, was the late Porter Quinby, whose last held call was WØAY. We believe Porter held other call letters originally and perhaps Otto can advise us. If you think you don't get out very well now, you should have been active then, when Council Bluffs was DX. See you at the August meeting, and don't forget to bring along your idea for improving spark rigs.

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## DON'T LOSE 11

That is what a card from Gary Tighe says. Gary believes that 11 should go to the Novices and Technicians. There is a lot of controversy about who should get what, but we do believe that it should stay in Amateur hands. The club members should write to your Director, advising him of your views so that he will have something to present to ARRL Hq. and they in turn will fight

11 if that's what the Directors say the members want.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ARRL OB#606

VHF history was made July 8th when W6NLZ of Palos Verdes Estates, California, worked KH6UK at Kahuku, on the Island of Oahu, on 2 meters. 144 Mc. contact was made on a 2130 PST schedule that had been kept regularly for more than 9 months. Signals were good CW copy both ways and moderately steady for more than one hour, suggesting tropospheric duct propagation. Tape recordings were made at both ends of the 2,600 mile path. Further details to be in August QST-AR

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## Operation Alert! 1957

under the direction of George Winkler

Operation Alert arrived on schedule July 12th, with 5 eager operators manning the switches. At a previous meeting July first at Ak-Sar-Ben field, it was decided by those present to divide the 55 hour operating period into 11 five-hour shifts with 5 men on each shift. It was originally intended that a 6 meter link be used between the Fremont city auditorium and the mobile communications van, located at Fremont city hall. Due to a shortage of equipment it was decided that the Viking II and HQ-140X be used for the link, operating on the 10 meter band.

When RACES was declared to be in effect, all license barriers were removed and operations and operators were guided only by RACES rules. We are told that some of the pretty young ladies roving around the auditorium were put to work as operators.

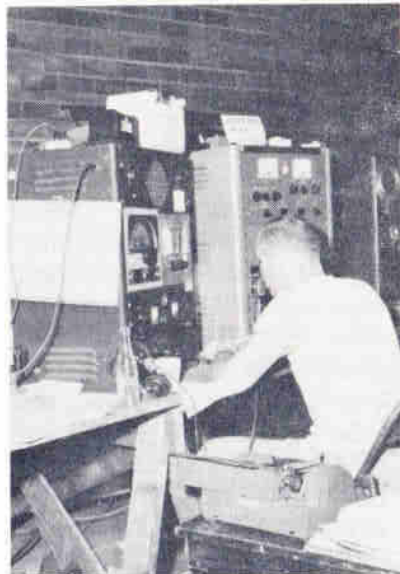
After a message had been received at the mobile van via the 10 meter link, it was passed along to Lincoln, Nebraska via our 2 meter link. The 2 meter link was found to be quite reliable, and with the exception of a bit of a high noise level on Saturday evening, the copy on the 2 meter link was excel-



lent.

The mobile van had a 3/4 ton air conditioner in use, however, someone mentioned that it was still a bit warm with all the equipment in operation. A bit of forced draft would have most likely helped carry the cooler air to the back of the van and made the air conditioner more efficient.

An occasion arose whereby the emergency generator was required and found to be reliable during the replacement of a blown fuse.



John Snyder set up the 2 meter equipment Thursday and reported that 2 meter communication with the station at Lincoln was possible, though the signals were much stronger when using the Gonset linear amplifier than when only the Communicator was used at a lower power.

Transportation to the operating site on each shift was via the share-a-ride plan, using one, or a maximum of two cars per shift. CD offered 6 cents

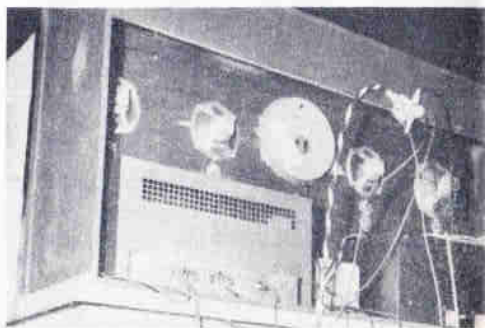
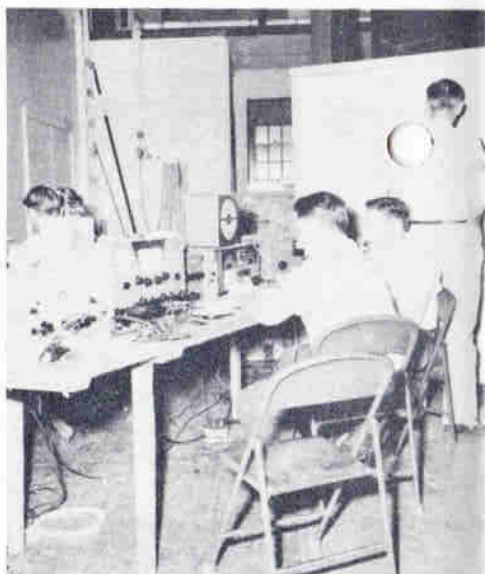


per mile to the driver of each shift, and anyone desiring such compensation, were entitled to it, should contact Erich Bahr.

Jerry Armstrong and Ed Gutmann arranged the operating schedule in fine shape. They want to thank those assisting and we also want to thank Jerry and Ed for their time and effort. Not all the fellows that would have liked to operate were able to participate, and some could not be reached due to the July 4th holiday, though there were enough operators, in fact, a reserve.

Many amateurs participated, though not members of the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club. Our thanks to them for their cooperation, without whose help it would have been rough sledding. Thanks also to the fellows that allowed the use of their equipment.

The pop and sandwiches were good and a fine time was had by all.



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## Q&A

Beginning this issue, we are starting a new column, which we hope will be of interest to all readers. We will have three questions posed, one each in the Novice, General and Advanced class. We will publish the answer to each question elsewhere in the issue. See how many you can answer with-

6

out looking. Of course, if you Have an Advanced ticket we expect you to know the answer to all three, but if you have a Novice ticket and know answer to 2 or more, you're on the ball. If you are a General and get the hardest question, likewise. (No fair peeking)

(Con't on page 7)

## NOVICE

Define the term "Power", as used in electrical circuits.

## GENERAL

Why are tubes operated as class C amplifiers not suited as audio amplifiers?

## ADVANCED

One decibel equals (a) times the (b) (c) of the power gain over a specific reference level. (Answers on page 9)

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## SEPTEMBER PICNIC MEETING

The picnic club meeting for September promises to be a real bang-up, rip-roaring time. We haven't had one of these for several years and this one should make up for those missed. Naturally there will be prizes galore, entertainment and everything that goes into a real good time. There will be a real crazy transmitter hunt, in addition to a regular 10 meter hunt. There will be pop, 807's and other goodies on the house. The feed will be potluck, with an incidental charge of \$0.50 per family to cover prizes and drinks. We believe that you will remember this picnic for a long time to come (that is if you're there) The time and place, with other details will appear in the next issue of Ham Hum.

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## BOARD STIFFS

A lot happened at the last board meeting. Plans for our September 15th picnic were formulated and you will read about that elsewhere in this issue.

The main item of business that we want to pass along at this time, with regret, is the resignation of our treasurer, Dick Nystrom. Dick will be moving to Berkeley, California very soon. His new QTH will be 1525 Francisco Street. We are sorry to lose Dick, as he has been an excellent treasurer, board member and club member these many years. We hope Dick will be able to make the next club meeting and, if so, we hope each member will wish Dick the best of luck in the land of the "Prune Pickers".

To fill the vacant treasurer's office, the board elected Bob Sleyster. Bob has been doing a FB job as a regular board member and we are confident that Bob will also do an excellent job in the new position of treasurer.

The board has a member to recommend to the club as a board member to fill Dick's unexpired term of 5 months. The club will have the opportunity to approve the boards proposed candidate of the August meeting.

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## THE LAST MEETING

Our July meeting was devoted to VHF to enlighten and educate those of us that normally only propagate the DC bands. Unfortunately, due to the CD exercise being carried out that week end, the equipment intended was not available. However, our principal speaker was able to attend. Frank Parsons, well known in 2 meter circles as an outstanding DX man was our very capable speaker on the subject of "Why I like 2 meters". Frank told of his early days in radio and his like for patience and fishing, a couple of the desirable attributes for a 2 meter man. We were told that a good 2 meter station is composed of a medium power rig, about 100 watts, a good receiver, a fairly high (not absolutely necessary) beam, but foremost, plenty of patience, listening over a dead (?) band to be rewarded by the sudden appearance of a nice signal from hundreds of miles away. Frank says he isn't trying to put your DC band station off the air, he just wants you to get a little rig on 2 and see what you hear. Given half a chance, Frank believes that you will find 2 a real interesting band. There were several pieces of VHF gear on display, some very interesting examples of what a little

patience and planning could produce. There was a very fine home-brew 2 meter transceiver built into a gallon can which we hear tell has been used mobile over a path of 25-30 miles with FB results. There was a low noise, no birdie 6 meter crystal controlled converter that was the handywork of John, WRT. Also shown was a 2 meter converter by JJK, taken out of the CQ magazine a few years ago that has not seen much use lately. Two products to be produced in the future by WRL were shown; an antenna tuner with built in SWR bridge, and a linear amplifier for 80 to 6 meters which will run about 300 watts SSB or CW and 200 watts AM (ancient modulation).

Due to the very hot weather, the movie that was on hand and the usual raffle were dropped.

When the meeting started, the heat had several fellows about to QSY to the North pole, fortunately though, the cool breezes prevailed and the meeting was bearable.

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FOR SALE: 40 meter receiver with built-in 3 tube 6 meter converter. Only \$20. Jerry Knight, 8825 Edgevale Pl., TE 1630.



## Q&A

### NOVICE ANSWER

The rate of doing work equal to the voltage multiplied by the current. The measurement unit being termed the Watt-equal to one volt times one ampere.

### GENERAL ANSWER

A class C amplifier stage is biased beyond cut-off. This means that plate current does not flow during the entire excitation cycle even when push-pull stages are used. Without current flowing during the entire excitation cycle the stage can not faithfully reproduce the signal to be amplified and if audio signals are not faithfully reproduced, distortion results.

### ADVANCED ANSWER

- (a) ten
- (b) common
- (c) logarithm

\*\*\*\*\*

### CARDS FOR FREE!

We have QSL cards on hand that need claiming. One for KØGHK, Hugh and one for KNØJBP. The card for the latter says JBP is his first state contact, so pick it up and make the sender happy OM. P. S. WØBQP has one here too, just received.

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## THE FIRST NATIONAL

Single Side Band

DINNER

7:00 P.M. AUGUST 31, 1957

TO BE HELD AT THE PALMER HOUSE, RED LACQUER ROOM, CHICAGO, ILL., DURING THE A.R.R.L. CONVENTION

A large attendance is anticipated and the committee urges early reservations before Aug. 25th. The price of tickets is \$7.50 per person (including dinner). Mail your reservation at once.

W. L. Runzel, Jr. (Bud)

(W9OGA)

Chairman of the S.S.B.  
Dinner

4727 W. Montrose Ave.  
Chicago 41, Ill.

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OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 607  
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS  
WEST HARTFORD CONN  
JULY 18 1957 TO ALL RADIO  
AMATEURS BT

The 1957 ARRL National Convention will be held at the Palmer House in Chicago Illinois over the Labor Day weekend. League members planning to attend should make hotel reservations and arrange convention registrations early to avoid last minute confusion or disappointment. See pages 51 through 54 of August QST for complete information  $\overline{AR}$

## A DOUBLE TAKE

Ham Gab (Chicago) stole this little ditty from Cq mag, so they say. It is so good we couldn't resist the temptation to steal it too.

If she wants a date - - - - meter  
If she comes to call - receiver  
If she wants an  
escort - - - - conductor  
If she's cheating - - - detector  
If she's fat - - - - - condenser  
If she's thin - - - - - feeder  
If she's extravagant - - - limiter  
If she's in error - - - - rectifier  
If her hands are cold - - heater  
If she sputters - - - - insulator  
If she's ugly - - - - transformer  
If she's bossy - - - - resistor  
If she's slow - - - - accelerator  
If she's bored - - - - - exciter  
If she refuses - - - - - rejector

## HAVE A CEEGAR!

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Reimund announce the arrival of a new "harmonic" at the WØLFM QTH. (a boy). Are you training him for phone or cw, Dick? Dick also asks if there are enough fellows of 6 to have plenty of QSO's? Guess Dick has a 6 meter rig in mind for a forthcoming project. As we hear it, there is plenty of activity on 6  
(1) you will not have a hard time raising a QSO. Guess all the fellows have forsaken the 80 and 40 meter bands for the VHF.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 6 METERS

Elsewhere in this issue you can read of the CE effort, but we will mention that due to the lack of equipment, 6 meters was not used. The VHF 2 meter link from Fremont to Lincoln was quite effective.

I want to thank all those that helped with the July VHF meeting, and state that sometime this fall or winter we want to have another along with operational equipment.

WØUKQ has been NCSvon 6 for the past weeks, and since he is moving to W6 land, WØFRN assumed the post as of July 22nd. Our sincere thanks to Dick for his loyal support of VHF and CD amateur activities. We will miss you Dick & Frank and wish you the best of DX and good fortune. Let us hear from you and of your new QTH.

Again I would like to extend the welcome hand to any one planning operation on the VHF bands. I am sure I speak for the majority of the VHF gang, when I say we will be most happy to give help to anyone to get on these bands.

As many of you know, mobile units are of prime importance during any emergency. For that reason any person that can and cares to could be of more help by including VHF mobile in your plans. Hope to see you mobile this fall. 73's

-WØNRT

## ODDS-N-ENDS

WIAW code proficiency runs will be held August 19, September 5 and 17. Get your code speed up and go for that nice certificate. (P. S.--if you can't even copy your own fist, we suggest you bone up real hard).

ARRL frequency measuring tests will be held on September 18th. See QST for time and approximate frequencies. If you can't find the signal at all you need a new receiver.

Midwest Clix reports that the Zurich provisional relative sunspot number for April 57 was 175.2. This brings the 12 month running average count up to 154. This is a virtual tie with the peak reached during the last cycle in 1947.

Your editor is not an expert on such matters, but firmly believes that the best is still to come in 58 and 59.

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## ODDS-N-ENDS

The Field Day boys were, no doubt, wondering if they were getting out at times on the bands. We are happy to report that the 40 meter rigs were QSL'ed by a SWL from way out in Iowa.

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## NOVICE JITTERS

Have you ever sent your call - CW, told your contact you were an XYL, sent your name very slowly 3 times and then get the response--R. R. O. M.? Well, that's what can happen to a Novice XYL. It's quite an experience and thrill to send that first CQ and hear your call coming back to you, even though you may not recognize it the first time you hear it.

After meeting the mailman at the door for 9 weeks and 3 days that little piece of paper arrived and I could hardly wait to get on the air. Then the fateful hour arrived--I was scared to death. First, because I was afraid I wouldn't be answered and 2nd because I wouldn't be able to copy. My first contact was KØAMM. He was very patient and put up with my slow sending. Thought for sure I'd blow something the first time I fired the rig but so far nothing has happened because "somebody has been watching over me"--my OM.

This could be a book concerning the first experiences of a Novice XYL but in closing I will say, it's fun, challenging and hope to keep at it so that before the year is up I'll be KØ instead of KNØ.

88's

KNØKEN Donna

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Here are some recent 2 meter happenings--. The two meter distance record has just been broken...on July 8 W6NLZ made contact with KH6UK in the Hawaiian Islands via CW on 2 meters. The distance, 2600 miles, truly a fabulous record VHF propagation.

Here in the midwest a considerable number of openings to the south have been noticed this past month and we're hearing Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma stations and managing to work some of them.

One of the most active stations to the south of us is W0QDH, Don at Salina, Kansas as well as W0IAY, Lowell at Pawnee City, Nebraska. Lowell is now using a new Tecraft converter.

We had a fine aurora opening on Sunday, June 30 during the afternoon between 5 and 6 p.m. and as per usual the only type of signals used for aurora contacts is C.W. Phone would ordinarily be too garbled to be usable.

Several eastern call areas were heard during the aurora opening and these were mainly W's, W8's and Frank W0EMS even reported hearing W4's!

Don, W0TRK is now on the 2 meter band with a larger xmtr than before; an ARC-

5/T23 surplus xmtr. This surplus xmtr can be bought for a very modest price (around \$10.) Not many hams have taken advantage of this ARC-5/T23 for VHF use. Other surplus VHF transmitters commonly used on 2 meters are the SCR-522 and also the ARC-4.

With a little bit of modification, most of these make a pretty nice low powered 2 meter rig. One extra word of advice though; the receiver sections of this surplus gear are rather dated by today's standards. Best bet is a low noise crystal controlled converter into your regular communications receiver.

73,

John, W0WRT

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Dear Editor:

Please publish this notice in the next (August) Ham Hum: VHF Contest: Sponsored by CQ Magazine.

When: From 8:00 p.m. local standard time Saturday, August 24th, to 8:00 p.m. local standard time Sunday, August 25th.

We sincerely hope that all stations able to work any of the bands above 50 mc. will participate in this interesting contest. See the August '57 CQ magazine for further details



regarding log forms etc.

Also, the next ARRL VHF contest will be coming up in September. See QST for details.

Tnx. John, WØWRT

\*\*\*\*\*

### ROSTER OMISSION

Edward Lawler - WØTHA  
2338 N. 71 St. Omaha,  
Nebraska. Phone GL 6649

\*\*\*\*\*

### ROSTER CORRECTION

Jerry Armstrong, WØNKG, 842  
No. 75 St. Omaha, Nebr. GL821L

Dick Eilers correct phone num-  
ber is TE 2255.

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### NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome to the club as members; Jim Herbert - 5510 Poppleton - WA 3720 - WØZPG, Richard Kragh 5642 No. 28th Ave. - KE 0446 - KNØIJC, William Duffy - 2615 Camden - KE 0160 - KNØKEU

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### OUT AND AROUND

Dale, WØGUD, out Conway, Iowa way tells us that 2 meters is still alive and kicking, evidenced by a good opening recently to the South for Texas and Oklahoma contacts.

\*\*\*\*\*

A.R.R.L. OB #602--JUNE 13,  
1957

FCC has extended the time for filing comments in the dockets of interest to amateurs. For docket 11994 dealing with proposed assignment of the amateur 11 meter band to Citizens Radio Service, the new date is Sept. 3 ARRL will file in opposition to this proposal. For docket 11997, a study of frequency assignments from 25 to 890\*Mc., comments can now be made until Sept. 6 AR

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### AROUND THE TOWN

Art, QMD, does not have a crate for his 500 Globe King and says he will get a new 500B, fresh in the crate for that new QTH in Minn.

\*\*\*\*\*

So help me, if I ever get another new buggy I'm going to put in a handy talkie and let it go at that. Changing these mobile rigs is getting me down-

JJK

\*\*\*\*\*

Donna, KNØKEN, XYL of EQK is going hot and heavy on 15 CW. Put a little steam in the code, Donna, and drop that N from the call so you and Dottie can chew the rag on phone.

\*\*\*\*\*



4-OMA 155

## *Omaha and Douglas County*

### CIVIL DEFENSE DISASTER CONTROL

PHONE AT 8122 · OFFICE · 402 CITY HALL · OMAHA 2, NEBRASKA

W. M. DEAN NOYES  
CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

July 31, 1957

TO: All Members of the Omaha-Douglas County  
Civil Defense Communications Division.

This is to express our sincere appreciation for the fine effort put forth by all the Amateur Radio Operators participating in Operation Alert 1957 at Fremont, Nebraska, July 12-14, 1957.

Again the Amateur Radio Operators demonstrated their willingness to assist in any operation dedicated to public safety and welfare.

Due to the extended distance from Omaha and the very hot weather, we doubly appreciate the fine attendance record of the Omaha-Douglas County Amateurs who manned their assigned positions continuously and most efficiently.

This demonstrates that the Amateur Radio Operator during an emergency, real or simulated, ceases to become an Amateur and in reality assumes the professional status of an Emergency-Disaster Communications Operator when operating in the interest of Civil Defense. It also demonstrates that each Communications category, namely, Public Safety, Amateur, Federal and Industrial, can, when each service has their duties defined, operate in complete harmony during an emergency.

We sincerely appreciate your past efforts and we want you to know that Civil Defense depends upon your future cooperation and assistance.

*Wm. Dean Noyes*

Wm. Dean Noyes,  
Chief of Operations

*George E. Winkler*

George E. Winkler,  
Communications Director

**AK-SAR-BEN RADIO CLUB INC.  
P. O. BOX 626  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA**

**NEXT MEETING  
AK-SAR-BEN 4-H BUILDING  
AK-SAR-BEN FIELD  
AUGUST 9, 1957  
8:00 P. M. - SHARP**

**Form 3547 Requested**

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Omaha, Nebr.  
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