

HAM HUM

AK-SAR-BEN
RADIO CLUB
INC.

WØEQU

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WØISV (I Smell Violets) - Fay Powell

"Ham of the Month" - see page 3

Ham Hum

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APRIL MEETING

The April meeting of the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club, Inc. will be held at the 4-H Building, Ak-Sar-Ben Field on April 8th at 8:00 P.M. We have an interesting program which promises to be of interest both general and from the standpoint of amateur radio.

Our speaker will be Frank Minar who formerly held the call OK1DY in Czechoslovakia. Frank will tell us of his experience with the amateur operations in Europe. With the low power regulations existing Frank has done considerable DX work even on 80 meters which is his favorite band

and worked all but one section for WAC on 80 meters with 15 watts. Frank has had many experiences on how the Communists regulate amateur radio in Czechoslovakia and other countries under Communist rule and can tell the story about the government putting a 10 kilowatt ham station on the air to increase Communist prestige at the expense of knocking out TV reception over an entire DX weekend for Prague, Czechoslovakia.

We will have the usual refreshments and gabfest after the meeting.

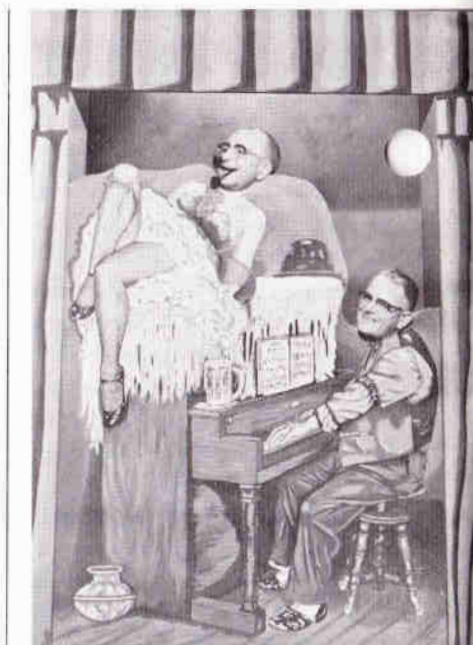
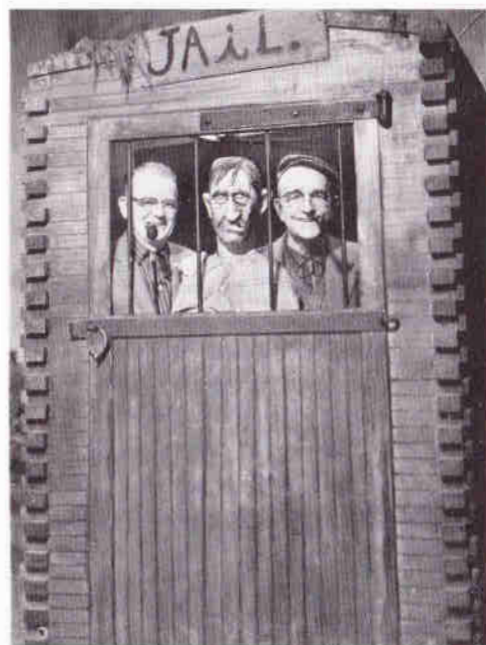
Ham of the Month

With this issue we will start on a new series of "Ham Of The Month," beginning with Fay Powell, W0ISV (I Smell Violets), whose picture graces our cover this month. As you can see from the picture, he operates with a Viking Valiant and an HQ 170. His mobile equipment consists of an Elmac AF 67 and a PMR 7 with a Johnson Whipload 6 antenna. When we asked Fay what bands does he work, his only comment was "Any band I can hear'em, mostly 10 meters." Fay has been a general since 1953 and hangs out about two-thirds of the year at 9801 Florence Heights in Omaha. Fay is one of these migratory animals, fortunate enough to be able to go and come with the ducks and geese. He took off last year on December 20th for Albuquerque, New Mexico. However, he made one little misjudgment on weather and returned here on March 4th in time to see quite a bit of snow. He'll watch it

more closely next year as he seems to be allergic to the stuff. He stayed at Albuquerque until the holidays and then went over to Tucson and finally to Long Beach where his vacation became so exhausting he needed help, Elmer, K0DFJ, went out to help him visit Marineland, Knotts Berry Farm, Disneyland, and other points of interest. They also visited George Hladik and Jim Noland. On the way back they managed to cover 3,275 miles including stops at Las Vegas where they would not let Fay take any pictures and then on to Albuquerque, El Paso and Juarez, Mexico. Fay reports that they had dry roads all the way until just before they hit Omaha and the land of ice and snow.

Fay also loaned us a few pictures taken out in the wild and woolly west. We can figure out Elmer and Fay in the jailhouse scene but what we wonder is who is the pretty one in the middle.

(See pictures on following page)



DX NEWS

Mac, YVV has really been getting that old bug back, the fifteen meter band has really been his hunting ground. How about a VS9 for a sample.

The long skip has been in frequently for that rare stuff. Yours truly about 0900 after working a VS6 has never heard so many Russian signals as was on that day on phone; also XW8AL and AXZ, so point that old eggbeater up north once in a while in the mornings.

Fat Jerry, KKP has got JA's coming out his ears but still lacks one district for worked all Japan. He has got some new QSO's and QSL's from South America. This month Jerry called CQ five times and each time had a DX contact right after another. Nice work Hi. That 65 watts was really hot.

John KWB, and NKG got a ZS7 and a VP8 in the Falkland Islands NKG also got a FQ8.

On March 20, I heard a station in Southern Rhodesia calling CQ on ten meters and six meters at the same time. I have heard this from other places also. It might pay to have a listen to the DC bands for a little help some time.

VVO has been putting a nice signal on the air and has had some nice contacts. What gives OM?

Mac and John heard a AC3 and a UJ8 on 20 meters and were really brushing up on CW.

K8DLG/O worked ZS6ABL an old ragchewing buddy while at CN8FV. George worked AKX6CG, W8JWU/KG6, and a KM6. Not too bad for a vertical and low power.

Mac reports that a ZD8 might be active the week of April 4 for three days if he can get the license on 15 meters.

NNW has not been heard as of late but knowing Lee, he is still looking for the good ones with that new Mosley he has up.

John has worked a FB8 on ten meters around 1130 for a long rag chew.

It has been reported that in the afternoon the boys are hearing and trying to work FF8, FB8, 9G1, CR6, VE2/SU, VQ6GM Don, ZD2AMS Angus. There is a GW3ITD/MM Roy on board the the warship Puma who is looking for QSO's All are on 15 meters.

Any of the boys who need a card from the Montsarrat expedition VP2ML, may send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and a possible contribution to K4SXO for the same.

How about an airplane ticket, hotel and expense money for two for sunny Bermuda for a week's stay for the winner of annual Bermuda contest. Contact or listen for VP9WB Walt for rules. It is in May, I think.

73 and DX,

Jerry

ADDRESSES

Several of the papers we have read lately from Hams all over the country have mentioned the bad address department. Our local postoffice here, when receiving a bad address for amateur mail, pops the card or whatever it might be into Box 626 where we do our best to take care of them. It would seem that in the enlightened era in which we live that amateurs wasting postage on QSL cards would understand that in a city of any size at all, including even those as small as Omaha, you cannot expect delivery by merely putting down the call and addressing it Chief Op Rich, Jim, Bob or whatever name it happens to be, followed by Omaha, Nebraska. In fact, we get some every month addressed just that way.

Two of the cards received within the last two weeks without any address give a 589 signal report and yet do not have the address. It might lead one to think that you didn't send it. So when you give your QTH why not send along the street address as well and when you do, slow down so they can be sure to copy it. This applies particularly to the new fellows who may not be in the last two years' Call Books as the fellow you are talking to might be a poor one who cannot buy a

new Call Book each quarter. The same goes for you fellows on phone. Go ahead and give the QTH. If you get in trouble with TVI the committee will help you. The number is PR 0136 and ask for John.

Dear Friends,

I certainly want to thank you for "Ham Hum" and to assure you that it brings a lot of joy being able to read about all of you.

Thank all of the fellows for looking for me on ten. We sure have enjoyed these fine QSO's.

Jim Noland
WA6JBB

CRIPPLED CHILDREN DRIVE

Plans have been completed for assisting in the Easter Seal Crippled Children Drive. It is planned that on April 3rd a net control station will be established at the headquarters in the Omaha National Bank using a ground plane antenna on the roof. We expect 14 or so mobiles to be in operation throughout the city picking up contributions that are missed and making the collections as directed by the headquarters of the Easter Seal campaign. Additional details on this likewise will be available at the April meeting.

ADVANCE NOTICE MAY MEETING

The Board is working on new ideas for programs so look for new and bigger surprises. The first of these was the pancake supper. The next one will be the May meeting which will be held at SAC Headquarters on May 13th. This will be a DINNER meeting, the dinner being arranged at the Officer's Club (dutch) followed by a trip through headquarters and the single sideband station. Arrangements have not all been completed but it is the intention to have the dinner around 6:30 with entry to SAC arranged for again at 8:00 for the purpose of admitting those who cannot by reason of time limitations make it in time for dinner. If you will need transportation and cannot arrange same with a neighbor Ham, send your name and telephone number to Box 626, stating that you do need transportation for the May meeting at SAC. Full details will be mailed to Omaha and vicinity members or subscribers as soon as possible so you can plan to attend this meeting. You fellows

of town who might be in Omaha this particular date and desire the information, please send in your card requesting further details. We don't know

the price of the dinner yet but it will be as reasonable as we can get it consistent with having a good meal.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

At the time of going to press, all of the local operators, particularly those with mobiles, are alerted that trouble can develop as the result of the flood condition throughout eastern Nebraska to the point that communications may be needed. We can get a report of these operations at the April meeting and we will hope that the water goes down soon.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN 744 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS WEST HARTFORD CONN MAR 11 1960 TO ALL RADIO AMA- TEURS BT

Effective March 17, amateurs of Honduras and the United States will be permitted to exchange messages on behalf of third parties. Details will appear in May QST. Other countries with which the United States has similar agreements are Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Haiti, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela AR

TRUE MEANING OF "HAM"

(Florida Skip, Florida R.A. and C.Q. Bulletin)

C. F. Otis, W7AMC

Just a line to try to clear up a myth that seems to be growing in its wide acceptance. I refer to the term "Ham." I do not wish to appear to contradict the boys who have come up with the rather romantic origin of the name, but that term was very old when I was a youngster trying to learn to be an Operator for Western Union, that was before Marconi came up with "Wireless Telegraphy."

Being close to 70 years of age, I know that there are not too many of the old W-U Ops around who can verify my statements, but Ham was also a term among Railroad Operators. It is a thing that I feel should get into the records before we old buzzards are all gone and no one left who really knows about the origin of the word "Ham."

You did not get paid for learning to be an Operator in those days. Instead you paid for the instruction. A kid has no money, so he exchanged work for instruction. I swept the office, cleaned and filled the coal oil lamps, delivered messages, and generally made myself useful. In return, the man who was the agent for Wells-Fargo and Western Union

Telegraph Co., taught me to be a telegraph operator. I never completed the course but I got a lot of fundamentals from him.

To get the thing in focus for today's Hams, let me remark that at that time the telephone was not yet in general use. (Just in the large cities). Electricity for power was not yet here, and for lighting it was only a sort of curiosity. We just had the telegraph for communication between cities. The trans-continental circuits were a relay set up similar to the ARRL NTS. Now, all you needed was either a full beard or a good handlebar mustache to be the Telegrapher to whom all eyes were turned when there was some big event in the public mind. The Sullivan-Corbett fight, Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight, Sinking of the Battleship Maine, Assassination of President McKinley, San Francisco earthquake, these are just a few of the big news events that were first released to the public by the W-U Operator who would tack the message on a small Bulletin board outside the office. That was the glamour that surrounded the Telegraph Operator of my kid days.

The Operator who undertook to teach me the fundamentals was quite a man. He was quick with a gun and very good shot, as this was the heart of the California Gold mining country and our transportation was still by stage coach, with such operators as "Black Bart" on the lookout for the Wells-Fargo strong box that carried the bullion from the mines to the Mint in San Francisco. Wells-Fargo wanted good gunmen as their agents, and Western Union had the same men as their Operators.

He was patient but a very strict drill-master on technique. I think he was of German descent as his conversation had an accent similar to Lawrence Welk's. His name was Smiley. There were two words that he used to describe the kind of "Fist" you should not develop, "GLASS" and "HAM." The first was the brittle type of sending you hear in which it is hard to distinguish dots from dashes. The later term was applied to the slow heavy type of sending where it sounded like you were hitting the key with a ham instead of using the hand.

I have heard the term applied to many operators on the Railroads. The "Ham" operator could hold down a job on the railroad or for Western Union in places where traffic

was light, but you never heard a "Ham" fist on the main-line where manifests were handled. It has always been my belief that the term came to Amateurs as a result of the early days of Spark, when you broke the primary thru the key and had to have a good gap on the contacts to prevent arcing on the break of the key. This type of sending sounded exactly like the heavy fisted "Ham" of the landline telegraph.

This has stretched out to some length but thought you might want some side lights of the times of which I am writing, as it might sound like a fairy tale to people who have been born since 1910 or so.

As a personal note, I will add that I finished my training as an operator on the railroad and was getting to the point where they trusted me with train orders, when the Agent for whom I worked and the dispatcher for another R.R. went outside the Depot office for a chat in private one morning. Shortly after their departure I heard RA-RA-RA-RA (The station call) from the Dispatcher. Thinking it was a train order I grabbed my pads and brike him. What came over the wire was that the Titanic had sunk with great loss of life. I OKed the message and then for the first time realized what I had taken. I don't know

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if you were around then or not, but that ship was heralded as unsinkable. My first thought was that I had pulled a boo-boo in copy, so I ran outside and got the Agent and told him what I had done. He and the dispatcher both thought as I did, that I had made a mistake in copy. When the Agent got our Dispatcher, he asked for a repeat on the message and got the same thing I had. It was unbelievable until verified by the papers that came the next day from San Francisco with a little detail. WOW, was I relieved!

(Editor's note: The above interesting story was sent SKIP by the editor of Pacific Area Net News, Vic Gish, W7FIX. Many thanks, Vic.)

**OFFICIAL BULLETIN 746
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
WEST HARTFORD CONN MAR 24
1960 TO ALL RADIO AMA-
TEURS BT**

Attention is called to those applying for the Worked All States certificate that as of March 15, 1960 confirmations from all fifty states, which includes Alaska and Hawaii, must be submitted with application. Applications received without all fifty confirmations will be returned without certification AR

THE UNPRINTED RETURN CARD

We were very glad to receive one of our return post-cards on which the local member asked the purpose of inserting this blank card in his Ham Hum each month. We are very appreciative of this question as at long last one of the local members has noticed that we are putting the card in his magazine each month. This gives us the excuse to remind you again that the purpose of the card is to make it as easy as possible for you to submit news items. We do receive them from our out-of-town subscribers but only a very few from the local members. In fact we got one just the other day from Jim Noland in which he states he was certainly happy to read the local news in Ham Hum. If you fellows will send in the local news, fellows like Jim Noland and many of our other former members who have moved out of town will be able to read of the local happenings.

So, when something important or even something unimportant happens at your ham shack or when you hear of something that would be of interest to the members, jot it down on the unprinted side of the business reply card and drop it in the mail. The Club even pays the postage.

TREMENDOUS EVENT

Johnny Orr, WØPHW, visited this editor the other day and came in looking as if he had swallowed the parakeet. Before he could even get his coat off, he reached in the pocket and fished out one of those special kind of cigars which is always given with a great big grin, accompanied by the statement, "It's a girl." XYL and new daughter are doing extra fine according to John. The baby's name is Tay; however, the middle name I've forgotten. Guess you'll just have to come to Club meeting and find it out direct from John.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN 745 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS WEST HARTFORD CONN MAR 18 1960 TO ALL RADIO AMA- TEURS BT

Experimental slow scan facsimile signals will be transmitted over the First Army MARS SSB Technical net on 4030 KC on March 30, April 6, and April 13. The transmissions will follow immediately after the regular technical program, which concludes between 2200 and 2230 EST, and will be sent first on SSB and then repeated on AM. Interested amateurs are invited to tape the transmissions and send tapes to WA2BCW for transcription. Further details on slow scan appear in April QST AR

NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING

The Board has just gone over our list of members to eliminate from our membership list those who have not paid their dues. It is therefore time to print a new roster. If you have a new address or a new phone number since the last roster, please jot it down on the card enclosed and return it to us so that our roster can be as complete and correct as possible. To see all the names possible on this list we might suggest that should you not have paid your dues, please do so at once. Any of you who have not received your membership certificate or the proper stamp, please contact Russ Rutherford, KØSBS, or drop a note to Box 626.

After studying the dues habits of the members, it was found that only a very small number paid dues for less than one year at a time. It was decided, therefore, that in the interest of simplifying the treasurer's job that we accept only annual dues. This motion also included a change in the dues for college students, throwing them over into the adult status. The dues thus are \$6.00 per year for regular members and \$3.00 per year for high school students and below. New members, both regular and

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student members, must pay a \$1.00 initiation fee in addition to the regular dues.

The DX club convention for the zero district will be held on April 9th in Kansas City, Missouri. For further information see W0NKG.

That long looked for six meter transmitter hunt which was delayed as the result of the heavy snow will be coming up as soon as the weather permits.

Dave Hollander's new address is 2112 South 49th Avenue.

A FEW FACTS

(CQ News Service Special)

FCC disclosed that there were 570,000 radio station licensees at the end of 1959. There were an increase of 85,000 stations and 300,000 transmitters for the past years. Half the UHF TV permits issued since 1952 have been surrendered. FM broadcast station licenses increased by 60 since 1958 and FM commercial authorizations showed a gain of 95 over the previous year. Educational FM stations increased to 10 more than 1958. AM broadcasting had 100 additional authorizations and numbered 3500 operating outlets.

RADIO DUCTS DISCOVERED

(CQ News Service Special)

Conclusive evidence has been produced to show that a high level atmospheric duct exists between the coast of West Africa and the coast of Brazil. The duct is capable of guiding radio waves over great distances.

The duct, 500 feet thick from top to bottom and at an altitude of 5,000 feet, was likened to a leaky radio wave guide. It was created by a temperature inversion layer. From ground to 500 feet the atmosphere temperature becomes gradually lower until at about 5000 feet a sharp temperature rise occurs. At 500 feet above this point the temperature drops sharply again. A double reflecting surface is created by this temperature change.

The duct is present all year with slight changes in height due to seasonal changes. It is believed that other ducts exist in the North Atlantic, North Pacific and South Pacific areas.



SIDEBAND DOWN-UNDER

(Sidebander, SSBARA and C. Q. Bulletin) - Ray Salter, ZL1ATQ
Brind Road, Russell, N.Z.

The American Amateur is often astonished at the equipment used by his brother hams here in ZL; this article will present the worst of the many difficulties a ZL encounters in the process of getting a sideband rig on the air. The only commercial gear currently available is an Italian VFO and a kit set receiver; a few English AM rigs and receivers and a small range of sideband gear marketed by a local ham. U.S.A. has recently become represented by a well known kit set manufacturer. As all these items are expensive and the supply irregular, most ZL's "roll their own" and depend heavily on the supply of surplus equipment.

Small parts such as receiving tubes, condensers, resistors, pots, etc., are in fair supply, though shortages are not unknown. Transmitting tubes are available in a limited range of about 30 types, including rectifiers. Current prices are \$40.00 for an 813 and \$13.00 for a 6146. Beam antennas are home made with the Quad being perhaps the most popular.

Getting going on AM presents little difficulty, but sideband had its own peculiar problems. The greatest difficulty is without doubt the reception side; if you can't hear them you can't work them. Such requirements are stability and good bandwidth can be attained by good design and construction, but all the patience and ingenuity in the world cannot give the selectivity and the IF bandpass characteristic needed in a good sideband receiver without adequate gear.

Mechanical filters are rare, and the fortunate individuals who possess them are greatly envied. A small number of surplus crystals became available some time ago but were soon exhausted. The writer has been trying to obtain some 1400 KC rocks to build a two stage lattice filter utilizing the excellent IF transformers from a 3 to 6 MC ARC 5 receiver, but even crystals at the frequency are all gone, it seems. The BC 343 used as a Q5er is a Godsend but good though it is, its skirt selectivity is not adequate for the overcrowded American Phone band.

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WATER-COOLED TRANSISTOR

(Collector-Emitter, Aeronautical Center A.R.C. and C.Q. Bulletin)

Pacific Semiconductors, Inc., have delivered to the USAF a supply of transistors one inch in diameter and three-eighths inches high, water cooled, that delivers a 10 Mc output of 110 watts with 202 watts input. The de-input is 4.5 at 45 V. It will not be available on the commercial market for several months.

3 3/4%

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS
PAY BIGGER
THAN EVER
NOW!

Zeke Zekley

BUY THEM
WHERE YOU
WORK OR
BANK....



"— that's the trouble, my wife understands me perfectly."

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

NEXT MEETING
AK-SAR-BEN 4-H BUILDING
AK-SAR-BEN FIELD
APRIL 8, 1960
8:00 P. M. SHARP