



HAM HUM

AK-SAR-BEN
RADIO CLUB
INC.

WØEQU

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Pancake Supper
See Story and Pictures page 4

Ham Hum

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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.

EDITORS
Al McMillan, WØJJK
Dick Eilers, WØYZV

Program for March

With the ever decreasing sun spot activity to continue for the next few years, the lower frequency bands will become ever increasingly popular.

One of the major problems in getting a good signal on the air on the lower frequency bands will be your antenna.

Al McMillan, WØJJK, will give a talk on the various problems associated with low frequency antennas.

This talk should serve as a review of the subject to the

"old-timers" and to the "new-comer," it will acquaint him with a problem that sooner or later he will be confronted with.

Secondarily, we will have on exhibit, two of the surplus APX-6 Transpondors, that will be ultimately converted to the 1215 Mc. Band.

One of these units will be in an unconverted state, so you can see all the "goodies" that can be salvaged from the unit. The other unit will be in a semi-converted condition.

Dear Al,

Bright and early this morning I found the latest copy of HAM HUM on my desk. Believe me it is a good way to get the day off to a good start. We all enjoy the warmth of HAM HUM and do appreciate your trouble in sending it to us.

By the way, George, K6CT, will be marketing his new antenna in the Spring. Results with pre-production prototypes

have been VERY satisfactory. In case any of your members would like to have a copy of the November MODULATOR that presented George's original article I will be happy to have some printed.

By the way, we have a Novice Net operating on 3710 at about 7:00 PM our time. Be glad to have other check-ins.

73's

Frank Merritt, K6YCX

FLASH!!!

Exclusive 1215 Mc. Group Formed in Omaha

Within the past month a group of six Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club members secured the APX-6 Transponders which they are going to convert to operate on the assigned amateur band of 1215 to 1300 Mc.

This hardy and ambitious group are Dick Eilers, WØYZV, Russ Rutherford, KØSBS, Bob Downing, WØNAG, Damon Nuckols, WØUIO, Gary Greenwell, WØNRS and Ed Gutmann, WØCQX.

The prospect of operating on this extreme UHF band will open up a complete new vocabulary as they will be working

with an oscillator cavity, a T.R. cavity, duplexers, pump oscillators, lighthouse tubes, special high frequency coaxial fittings and of course antennas with gains of over 25 DB that you can hold in your hand. These high gain antennas are possible when you realize that a half-wave dipole on 1215 Mc. is approximately 4 inches long.

A seventh member, Cecil DeWitt, WØRMB, is also converting a unit to get on 1215 Mc.

There may be others, so let's hear from you.

In the meantime, CU on 1215.

New Club Members

Charles Sudds, KØTVD
3635 Olin Avenue
Omaha 5, Nebraska

Morris Costello, KØYWY
4714 North 81st Street
Omaha 34, Nebraska

Steve Parker, KØWSR
5606 Manderson Street
Omaha 4, Nebraska

John P. Kisicki, KØOJO
5031 South 39th Street
Omaha 7, Nebraska

Alvin H. Hofgaard, KØTUS
4645 Browne Street
Omaha 4, Nebraska

Earl Stultz, WØUXD
1017 Edwards Street
Omaha 47, Nebraska

Robert Dickson, KØIAM
6318 South 27th Street
Omaha 7, Nebraska

Larry Schumacher, KØSJD
5311 Redman Street
Omaha 4, Nebraska

John Wayne, W5REI
122 Bonner Road
Omaha 13, Nebraska

OPERATION HEART FUND, Sunday afternoon, the 26th of February from 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. The six meter fellows were at it again, operating on behalf of the C.D. net and Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club. They successfully aided the Nebraska Heart Association fund drive for better than six hours handling over 40 messages. Net control was set up at Heart Fund Headquarters at 42nd and Harney using one relay station and six mobile units with riders. The following are to be commended:

KØYYI Harold Gruhn w/, KØTV D Chuck Sudds; WØVLI Lou Cutler w/, KØPQP Dick Grimshaw; KØKEO Joe Roberts w/, WØBFO Clarence Steinger; WØCQX Ed Gutmann w/, WØNNW Lee Menshek; KØSBS Russ Rutherford w/, KØKKP Jerry Novotny; WØRMB Cecil DeWitt w/, KØKWB John Droscher; Relay Station KØWVF John Cook; Net Control KØUIA Duane Gerry and KØTFJ Bernie Matthews.

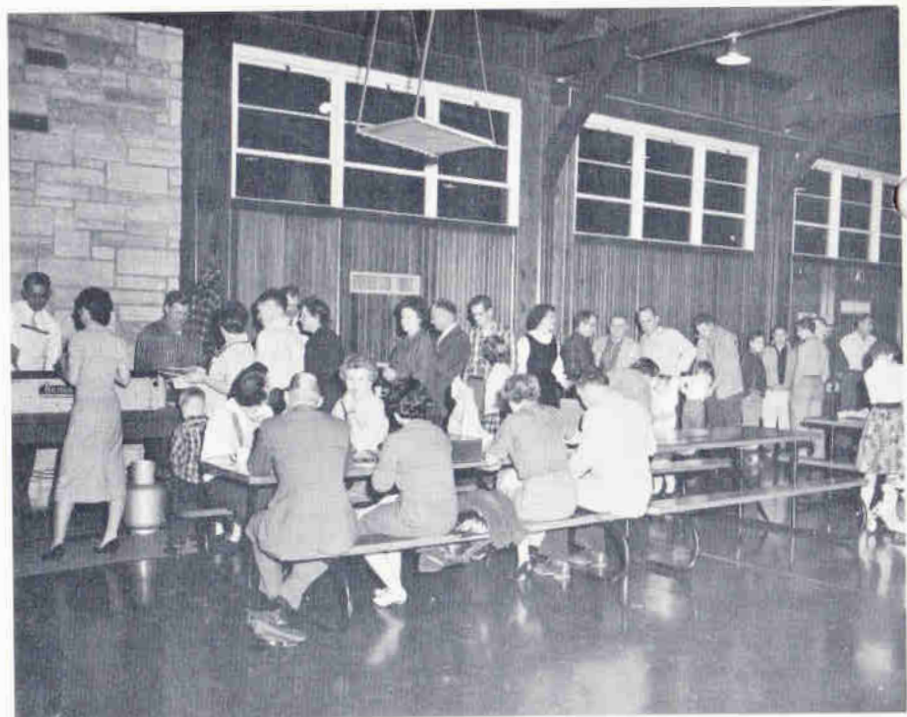
Pictures of the February Meeting

Our Pancake Supper held at Riverview Park Pavilion on Friday, the 10th.

The man pouring the pancake batter in the picture on the cover, Russ Rutherford, was late getting the story for this issue of Ham Hum, but from other reports understand it was another successful family night.







HAMS HOLD SUNDAY SERVICES ON AIR

(73 Magazine News Service, via the Collector-Emitter, Oklahoma, Okla.) Every week a ham radio operator here tunes in fellow hams in North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia and thereby opens one of the most unique Sunday Schools in operation.

Several years ago, R. V. Ramsey, the Gaffney amateur radio operator, suggested to hams in the three other states: "we've been taking the rest of the week for ourselves. We should give the Lord a little of our time—once a week at least."

The others agreed, and ever since Sunday School by ham radio has been conducted from 7 to 8 a.m., with from ten to twenty Christians of various denominations attending.

Using the standard international Sunday School outline utilized by most Protestant denominations, the hams open with a prayer. One reads the scripture; another, who may be hundreds of miles away, then reads the lessons. All take part in a discussion period.

While amateur radio men from the four states comprise the regular "class," hams from other states join in when the reception is good. On a recent Sunday, for example, a woman operator in West Virginia took part.

Mr. Ramsey says he often gets letters from hams as far

away as the Midwest, who report listening to the Sunday School sessions over their shortwave receiver although not taking active part in the discussions.

"They all say it did them a lot of good," says Mr. Ramsey.

MARS de Loyson, KØBR5

The Chiefs Mars and the Army-Air Force HQ Mars - Amateur Radio Station WAR/K4USA and AIR/K4AF invite all amateurs visiting in the Washington, D. C. area. Chief Mars Army is located in Room BE 1000 in the Pentagon. Chief Mars Air Force is located in Room 1-217 TE Building, 4th and Adams Drive, SW.

Visitors are welcome in both offices anytime during normal working hours Monday through Friday. The station is located in the Pentagon building concourse and is open 24 hours daily, 7 days a week.

FOR SALE:

Cheap - (6 meter station) SCR522 converted to 6 meters with International 6 meter converter and power supply. Needs alignment. (no phone).

L. W. Goon - W7ACO/Ø

Tower Mobile Park #25

78th & Dodge-Omaha, Nebr.

PHONE PATCHES

de Auto-Call by W3NL

This editor is probably one of the few that, in general, do not like phone patches. He's had 'em, he's used 'em, he's built 'em. No claim is made as a "first" but as far back as 1929 this ed had a phone patch in a very small town. Radio programs used to be piped in regularly to the telephone operator. There were several uses of the phone patch in connection with remotes on PA systems. Ye ed believes he had one of the first "hybrids" in Washington with canceled inputs and outputs and variable injection of the local mike. Ye ed has used a patch to great advantage, one night through the generosity of one of the neighbors a considerable amount of government business was handled with an overseas point. So ye ed doesn't dislike the phone patch as such - it's the horrible, miserable way it's handled by the far great majority of them that's got it.

Let's follow one of these phone patches and see how it works out. The phone rings and when it is answered the individual is greeted with, "Just a minute, W--- wants to talk to you." The eager beaver phone patcher just knows that you are doing nothing, that you are just twiddling your thumbs wondering what to do for the next thirty minutes and was just wishing that W--- would

call on a phone patch so you could spend this time listening to an overly-loud noise consisting of fading, interference other stations, general bedlam interspersed with, "Well, I had him S-9 a minute ago." He doesn't ask you if you're busy. He doesn't ask you if you have time. He doesn't ask you if you want to talk to W---. And furthermore, your voice is on the air the minute you answer the telephone. (One of these days it will make an interesting case when someone sues one of these fellows for transmitting his voice without permission). (A good way to handle this kind of situation is to let loose with some cuss words - not usual ones but the skid row, gutter type - that'll take you off the air in a heluva hurry).

Now suppose conditions are really excellent, you do have time, and the conversation proceeds. You need not be told, all you have to do is listen, that the conversation will go on and on for a period well in excess of a regular phone conversation until things get repeated over and over. The sad part is that this also goes on on long distance calls, in fact it has been suggested that this is one of the reasons the telephone company looks the other way on phone patches - revenue, lots of it, and that's

what they are in business for. After the patch has been completed then it is time for one or the other or both to reflect a minute. Just how much actual intelligence has been passed that couldn't have been done with a well worded ten group message relayed by the operator in less than one minutes time?

Probably the greatest misuse of the patch is in the hands of the tyro. He's got a new toy and he simply must do something with it. So help me, in the last week ye ed heard a "patch" which was a conversation between the operator and the telephone operator and the trouble board man wherein they were trying to straighten the boy out - he had connected his patch in such a manner that it hung on the line -- after he hung up the line would not disconnect. Following this came a patch to a YL which ran a full 35 minutes and it never could be determined if there was another amateur station involved - the conversation was all between the YL and the operator with no one else saying a word. It is noteworthy that at the start of the conversation the YL asked that the volume be turned down a little, that it could be heard all over the house.

Now it is a fact that a phone patch in the hands of a couple of experienced operators using SSB can be a wonderful thing, and we're in favor of these. These operators are hep enough to not permit any foolishness and everything is kept under control. But it's like a good CW operator - these kind are so rare that even George Goble would say that you can't hardly get them no more.

Phone patches seem to be an outgrowth of the present day amateur with his disinterest in technical ability. He's bought the gear, he doesn't care about experimenting, in fact he wouldn't turn a screw in the thing because it might hurt its resale value. So he's got a rig and just plain operating gets to be tiresome after a while. So there's another activity - phone patches. And somehow or other they never quite reach the goal of being a good operator.

So this editor feels that, at the sacrifice of the few good patches and the few good operators, it would be better to take the whole works off the air just to eliminate the hog wash, the inefficiency, the repetition, the wasted time, and just simply relay a message when it comes in.

Any comment, anybody?

**OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 785
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
WEST HARTFORD CONN JAN
30 1961 TO ALL RADIO
AMATEURS BT**

Judging for the 1960 Edison Award has resulted in the joint selection of John T. Chambers W6NLZ and Ralph E. Thomas KH6UK for their unparalleled series of VHF communications and propagation research experiments which culminated in the 432 Mc 2540 mile record in 1960. Special citations were also awarded to Edwin S. Van Deusen W3ECP for his contributions as Co-ordinator of the Washington Television Interference Committee, Francis E. Ireland K4UUO and Albert W. Parker W4BAW for their outstanding service during the communications emergency of Hurricane Donna, Cesare P. Cavadini W6GYH for message relaying for service personnel in the Far East, Donald Johnson W6QIE for his educational services for would be amateurs and Harry E. Phillips, Jr. W7CKV for leadership in traffic work despite a serious handicap. In addition a special commendation was awarded to CE7BC for his achievements in the 1960 Chilean earthquakes. Formal presentation of the Edison Award will be made at a ceremonial dinner in Washington on February 23 AR

U. S. NAVY STOPS QSB

(73 News Service, via Carrier, Whiting, Ind.)

The U.S. Navy exhibited its famous equangular spiral antenna in Washington last summer, demonstrating its tremendous ability to overcome fading. It works in the five to 30 Mc. range and consists of a spiral in the vertical plane measuring 70 feet in diameter. The top of the Navy job is 90 feet off the ground, suspended between towers.

On the theory that fading is due in some large part to sudden shifts in polarity in the arriving signal, the spiral is circularly polarized, actually forming polarization at many angles. It seems to receive all signals equally well and when conditions are good, its gain is not quite as high as a rhombic's. But during rapid fading when the Ionosphere is unstable, it shows a gain advantage of 10 to 20 db over a rhombic. The antenna was developed six years ago by the Wright Air Development Centre and the University of Illinois. Let's hope that a small version comes on the market with a price in the range for the average ham. This type antenna should be extremely useful on six and 10 meters, where fading is likely to be a problem during sporadic band openings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(from Auto-Call)

Numbers in parens refer to ed's comments.

Dear Mr. Editor:-

I don't know whether your article was purposely written to stir up a hornet's nest or not, but it certainly appears as such. (1). First of all, it is obvious that you are definitely a SSB operator (2) for only they, in your mind, are the "experienced" ones. My reply to this is FOOEY! I will elucidate no further as to the merits of SSB vs AM.

Regarding the use of phone patches, it also seems evident that you are not proficient in handling one (3) or you would not have "downed them as your article implies. As you should realize, phone patches are a valuable asset to the ham who enjoys this part of the hobby. It surely has established a wonderful fraternalism between John-Q-Public and the amateur and enhances better relationship and understanding. Ham radio then is more worth while and not just to annoy the neighbors TV sets or radios intentionally. Incidentally I am not troubled by my latter comment (4) but is merely mentioned here for what it is worth.

I have listened to many patches being used on the bands, particularly 10 meters, and can do nothing but praise the operators (5) ability in handling them.

More good has come out of this mode than simply operating for ones own gain. Once I was instrumental in leading a helping with a contact in Wyoming to a friend here in Baltimore. The lady was so grateful, not only to me, but wanted to know more about the wonderful hobby of amateur radio. And, my friend, I don't even have a phone patch! All I do, when the occasion arises, is hold the telephone mouthpiece to my speaker so the listening party on my end can hear, then hold the telephone receiver to my D-104 mike while they talk. While this is far from phone patch, it has proved adequate. After all, Mr. Editor, your comment on "taking the whole works off the air just to eliminate the hog-wash, the inefficiency, etc. etc." please don't judge others by your own apparent lousy operating or inability to handle phone patch work(6). Stop to analyze the situation a bit (7). Many a phone patch operator has been awakened (8) at all hours of the night to unselfishly and willingly handle this work.

Incidentally your comment as to simply send or relay messages leaves much to be desired. Wouldn't you rather hear a friend or relatives (if you have any) (9) voice via phone patch than to have some ham like yourself simply call over the telephone

and say, "Mrs. W--, your son Joe says 'hello'" (10). Now doesn't that sound cold? Come on, admit the good that phone patches offer (11). Come up out of the Dark Ages and get on the air a little (12). Even page 23 of this Jan. 1961 issue of the Auto-Call, signed Blank, W3ENU, implies "long time no-hear-from department" and your call appears (13).

I know this letter won't be published (14) because it challenges your intelligence (15), but you wanted comments (16). So here are mine for your edification.

Charlie Tiemeyer

Comments: (1) I have been accused of this before. (2) My reply to this is also FOOEY, I have never operated a SSB rig in my life. (3) Let's try to stick to facts if we can. How can one determine another's ability by reading an article? Only those who have heard me operating a phone patch can judge this. I've handled a lot of patches, and as previously stated, I had one of the slickest patches in the area. And I built it, I didn't buy it. (4) I am not troubled by the latter comment either. (5) Unfortunately I can't say the same, particularly about the one reported in the article. (6) Please re-read (3) above. (7) That's exactly what caused me to write the article. (8) Maybe one friend. Read the second word of the eighth sentence of the third paragraph. (10) It depends on whether I want information or if I just want

to hear a voice. (11) I did in the article. (12) This is a good idea, I'm in favor of it. (13) Suggest you call him and find out what he means, you'll be surprised. It won't be about phone patches. (14) Ha, Ha, fooled you! Wouldn't miss it for anything. (15) Neither original nor exclusive. (16) For which I thank you very much, wish more would do it.

(W3NL)

**OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 787
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
WEST HARTFORD CONN
FEB 9 1961 TO ALL RADIO
AMATEURS BT**

VHF enthusiasts will be interested in the following high claimed totals registered in the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes of January 7 and 8. Single operator station scores of over 12,000 points are claimed by W3HYJ W3KKN K2ITP W2EIF K2TYW W2BLV W3CKP W3HFY W9ROS W2BV W3CL W1QXX K3IUV W3TYX W2KFC W3FQD W3FSC W2PAU W2NSF K9LTC K2MLB K9QPA W1HDQ W3HKZ K8MMM K3HNP W2JAV and W3TXO. Multiple operator stations claiming over 12,000 points are K1AI W2ADE W2PEZ W2REB W3QQB/3 K2JW/2 K6TJL/6 K2MUB K2RRM/2 and K8BLS/8. A more complete listing of ARRL VHF Sweepstakes high claimed scores appears in April QST AR

VIEWS AND COMMENTS

by Owen Blankenship, W3ENU

"The Amateur is Friendly..."

I have often listened to a symphony in which the composer ingeniously brings back his basic lyric time and time again and each time in a different manner. Finally, when I'm sure that he has exhausted all possible combinations of orchestrations, once more the basic melody is heard and this time it is more beautiful than ever.

So it is with Paul M. Segal's "The Amateur Code." These six simple rules of ethics are a challenge to any composer for the number of possible combinations seem inexhaustible. Considered abstractly, they are perhaps the most profound group of ideals yet advanced in the amateur radio world. Considered objectively, they could well serve as the rule and guide of our daily amateur activities.

Let us consider for a few seconds his code number four - "The Amateur is Friendly."

"Slow and patient sending when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance and cooperation for the broadcast listener; these are marks of the amateur spirit."

"These are marks of the amateur spirit"...indeed they are! Do you have the amateur spirit?

Are you guilty of making some lame excuse to cut short a

cw contact with a slow operator? Your contact, you know, added to his experience and your patience in sending slowly would have no doubt helped him improve his ability.

Do you make a conscious effort to assist a new-comer? I'll bet you have shown a degree of annoyance at some of the basic questions the beginner has asked you. Isn't it natural that the beginner should come to us for his answers? Then why can't we give them the much needed help they seek? A word of encouragement is sometimes all that is necessary, but often a code practice session is called for... or perhaps it's a crystal they need...or maybe they need a few minutes on the whys of parasitics. In and of themselves, these are simple matters, but when did you last offer "kindly assistance"?

And how about the neighbor whose TV set refuses to acknowledge the superior engineering of your transmitter? Do you tell him that he has a "cheap no-good piece of junk" and that you are "not getting off the air for anybody"? Or do you, as a mark of a true amateur, seek methods to cure his problems? On this latter point, amateur radio as a whole has suffered as a result of a few inconsiderate individuals who shirked their responsibilities.

"The Amateur is Friendly"...Are You? Do you go to radio

Club meetings and snap the head off everyone who comes near you. I know an individual who used to check into a certain net. His presence all but ruined a good net. The reason? - he was just down right unfriendly; in fact, he was belligerent. When he was off the air, he was a different person. There must be a continuing effort on the part of each of us if we are to meet this qualification.

Vy 73, Blank-W3ENU

U. S. ARMY DEVELOPS NEW ANTENNA

(73 Magazine News Service)

The U.S. Army Signal Research and Development Laboratory has announced the development of a standardized version of a mobile antenna that differs from the ordinary variety in that it's centre fed. This results in a comparative freedom from effects upon radiation by the type of vehicle upon which it is mounted.

AIRCRAFT MOBILE

(from The Modulator)

Convair-Pomona Ham Club;

"According to Tom Cargo's article in the Jan. 21 issue of LA Herald Express, Butch Griswold, KØDWC, has a mobile installation in his C97 Boeing Stratocruiser and works QSO's around the world. Guess he uses the rig going back and forth to work like us, huh?"

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 788 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS WEST HARTFORD CONN FEB 16 1961 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

Every active amateur is invited to submit a monthly station activity report to his Section Communications Manager on the first of each month. Your SCM welcomes club, net or traffic news as well as operational data from individuals and other groups, and also invites application for one of the many ARRL field organization posts available to qualified amateurs. Appointments are available along the line of your natural interest to aid in your operating pleasure. Novice or Technician Licensees interested in VHF may be eligible for Official Experimental Station appointment, while General and higher class amateurs may qualify for appointments such as ORS OPS OO or OBS, in addition to OES. Your SCM, address page 6 QST, will be happy to furnish news and further information AR

ARRL OBS: On voice schedules, please read appointments in full, such as Official Bulletin Station, etc. TKS & 73, F.E.H.



Dear Mabel,

Dear Mabel, can you tell me
How to sugar-coat the pill
That side-band's taking over.
It won't be long until
AM's gone, like the Dodo of
yesteryear

And passenger pigeon, too
Rub the crystal ball, dear
Mabel

And see what you do view.
Anny Onymous

Dear Anny Onymous, it could
be
That in the future, Telepathy
Will take the place of present
radio.

With some powerful concentra-
tion
And some mental calibration.
Our thought waves will go to
and fro.

A beamed thought-transference
Will be an everyday occurrence
We'll just think hard to QSO.

We'll tune our mands across
the bands
And holler, "Hey, look Ma, no
bands!"
(I'll need a gain on my brain,
Anny-O).

You know those bands will
seem real big
Because if brains are the only
rig,
There's some hams won't be no
mo'.

Love Mabel

(from Florida Skip)

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 786 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS WEST HARTFORD CONN FEB 2 1961 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

The ARRL cross indexed
net directory of nets registered
up to December 13, 1960 is now
ready for distribution. Nets are
listed by name, by state in
which operated, and by frequency
from low to high. There will be
no automatic mailing this year.
You will receive the net
directory only upon request.
Drop a line or radiogram to
Headquarters giving your
name, call and complete
address. Previous requests are
now being processed AR



AK-SAR-BEN RADIO CLUB INC.
P. O. BOX 291
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

NEXT MEETING
AK-SAR-BEN 4-H BUILDING
AK-SAR-BEN FIELD
MARCH 10, 1961
8:00 P. M. SHARP