



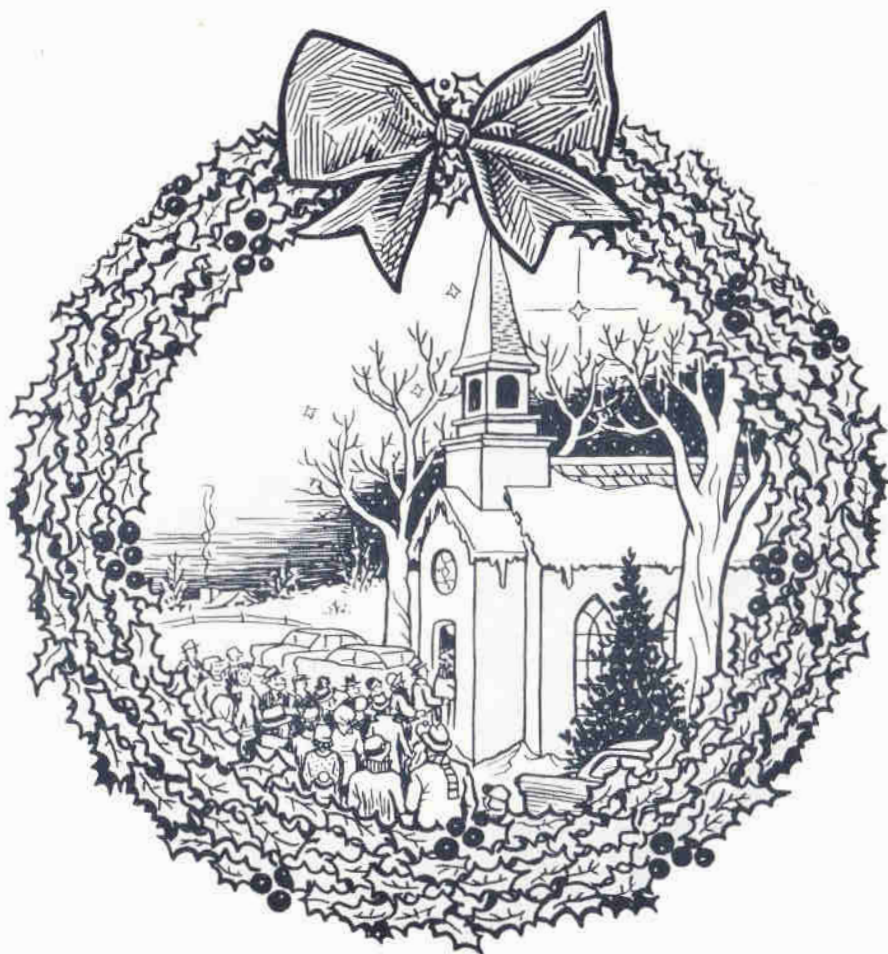
HAM HUM

Published by
AK-SAR-BEN RADIO CLUB, INC. - Omaha 1, Nebr.
Post Office Box 291 - Downtown Station

December 1962



Vol. XII
No. 12



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU

Annual Christmas Party

December 14, 1962

Full particulars on Page 14

HAM HUM is the official organ of the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club, Inc., of Omaha, Nebraska, mailed monthly to all members and to others upon request.



Holly and Mistletoe

Holly was first used in English windows to indicate Christian worship, as the red berries were supposed to represent the blood of Jesus. The Holly was believed to keep evil spirits away.

Mistletoe was sacred in many ancient religions. The Druids of England cut it with a golden knife and hung it over their doors, believing that only happiness could pass under the branch. They also used it in their marriage ceremonies, originating the custom of kissing under the mistletoe.

LAND MOBILE USE ASKED FOR TWO CHANNELS

(from Electronic News, October 8, 1962)

The Electronic Industries Association asked the Federal Communication Commission to assign UHF TV Channels 14 and 15 to two-way Land Mobile Services.

This move would relieve frequency congestion which is "seriously impairing" communications of public safety agencies, health services, and industry, the EIA's land mobile communication section said.

Published by
AK-SAR-BEN RADIO CLUB, INC.
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Omaha 1, Nebraska
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The organization said channels 14 and 15 are now very sparsely used in the USA (there are eight TV stations on these channels) and that a change would involve a minimum of shifting.

EIA also said that the issue should be determined now so that all-channel TV receivers which will be on the market in the next few years may be properly designed so as not to include these channels.

Land Mobile Services now occupy the 25-50 mc, 152-175 mc, and 450-470 mc bands, with the latter the most frequently assigned. It is said these frequencies in several big cities are now being saturated.

Re-allocation of channels 14 and 15 would make available 240 new land mobile channels.

28 mc to 29.7 mc would make available many channels also, how about a little more activity so that we can show the amateurs need the ten meter band?

The O. M.
de "GROUND WAVE," Nov. 1962

Editor's note: Could this also apply to the upper 3 megacycles of the 6 and 2 meter bands? Give this some serious thought fellows.

WØWRT

NOMINATIONS FOR 1963

The annual meeting of the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club, Inc. will be held the second Friday in December and its main purpose is to elect our officers for the following year.

Our Constitution calls for the election of a president, vice president, and four members of the Executive Council each year. The president and vice-president are elected for a one-year term. The Executive Council members are elected for a two-year term. The president stays on the Board of Trustees as the immediate past president for one additional year.

This means that four members of the Executive Council and the immediate past president remain on

the Board of Trustees for one more year and they, together with the six new ones, constitute the eleven-man Board for the operation of our Club.

A nominating committee is appointed each year by the president, said nominating committee composed of the president and two past presidents. This nominating committee is to nominate the officers and members of the Executive Council to be elected at the next annual meeting.

At the meeting on December 14, 1962 the nominating committee will place in nomination the following names and we give you a brief write-up on each:

For President

Joseph Berounsky, KØQDB (Presently Vice President of the Club)

Age: 32

Address: 3227 Seward

Phone: 551-0647

Wife: Mary

Children: Joey, age 15

Mary, age 10

Employment: Sales Engineer, General Communications Service

License: General - 4 years

Second Class Radio-Phone - 3 years

First Class Radio-Phone - 2 years

Hobby: His family

For Vice-President

Louis Cutler, WØVLI (presently Secretary of the Club)

Age: 58

Address: 6227 Florence Blvd.

Phone: 455-7143

Wife: Minnette

Children: Four - all married (Lou has 6 grandchildren)

Employment: Architect (Self-employed)

License: General - 8 years

Hobbies: Hamming, on almost every band, very active mobile

(NOMINATIONS FOR 1963 - Continued)

For the Executive Council

Ralph Erts, WØSMY

Age: 37

Address: 5018 Burt Street

Phone: 556-5625

Wife: Margaret

Children: Helen Anne, age 1

Employment: Insurance Service
New England Life Insurance Company

License: Tech - 7 years

Hobby: (Other than Ham) Model Railroads

Robert Dickson, KØIAM

Age: 33

Address: 822 So. 35 Ave.

Phone: 341-4867

Wife: Rita

Children: Paul, age 6; Beth, age 5; Bobbie, age 3; Bill, age 2;
John, age 1

Employment: Dispensing Optician, Modern Eye Wear, Inc.

License: General - 6 years

Wendell M. Larsen, WØNPA

Age: 32

Address: 4508 No. 112th

Phone: 393-5728

Children: Pamela, age 6; Wendy, age 5; Eric, age 2

Employment: Customer Engineer, IBM

License: General - 10 years

Hobby: Ham Radio

Robert Margritz, WAØBIE

Age: 36

Address: 3021 No. 50 St.

Phone: 451-6652

Wife: Vi, WAØBID

Children: Richard, age 11; Janice, age 8

Employment: Letter Carrier, Post Office Dept., 18 years

License: Novice and Tech - 1 year

Hobby: Ham-Ham-Ham

In selecting these men for nomination, the Nominating Committee has attempted to select members who are representative of all types of members. In other words, we have a combination of VHF and HF and old members and new members. In particular though the Nominating Committee feels these six along with the five remaining on the Board will operate the Club in a manner satisfactory to all and that with this group the Club will prosper and be of service to both the members and the community.

11/14/62

Hi OM

The Kansas State College Amateur Radio Club has been re-organized recently. The officers are:

President - KOUSY, Jack
Vice-President - WA0AIF, Jim
Sec.-Treas. - KOIRL, Dick

Meetings are scheduled for the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 4:00 P.M.

Meetings are held at the Audio-Visual Center of the KSC, Pittsburg, Campus.

Novice classes are in progress. Any visitors are welcome.

73,
Ken, WOVL D

THE OMARC RADIO CLUB

Congratulations to Fred Kujawa for achieving the rank of General Class F.B.O.M.

Box 2834
Wurtsmith AFB
Michigan

Dear Editor:

I agree with you about these so-called Technicians who achieve their ticket by false means, but more so the Generals who give away the privilege. I think there should be a stop to this thing before the F.C.C. takes away our privilege because of those few "rotten apples."

73,
Joe Lofreddo
K2PVB/8

11-6-62

Have 6 volt, Schauer battery charger for sale or trade. Good condx. Forgot to cart this out to the auction in October.

Also hv. 6V. auto spotlight.
John Snyder
556-1538

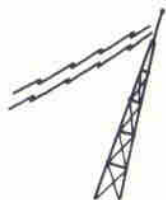
OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 872 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS WEST HARTFORD CONN NOV 8 1962 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

Canada and Chile have agreed to permit amateurs of the two countries to exchange messages on behalf of third parties. There must be no pecuniary interest, and messages so exchanged must not be important enough to justify transmission by commercial means. Canadian amateurs may also exchange messages with amateurs in the United States, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Honduras and Mexico \overline{AR}



PREXY

SEZ—



By Royal Enders, KØLYO,
1962 Club President

At the November membership meeting we were happy to welcome and honor the Past Presidents of Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club, Inc. and some of the Old-Timers in Amateur radio. Strangely enough some of the Past Presidents are also "Old-Timers." Each one gave a resume of his activities and we had a real old fashioned rag-chew which was most interesting and informative.

Let's do it again - you are always welcome at Club meetings and we'd like to see you more often.

The Christmas party chairman, Dick Eilers, WØYZV, is going all out this year to make this an unforgettable event. Read the announcement elsewhere in this issue and plan to bring the whole family.

73 BCNU
Royal, KØLYO

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 873 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS WEST HARTFORD CONN NOV 15 1962 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

Radio amateurs of the United States are reminded that communications on behalf of third parties may be exchanged with amateurs in the following countries only: Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Vene-

zuela. Permitted prefixes are CE, CO, CM, CP, EL, HC, HH, HP, HR, K except KA1 through 9, OA, TI, VE, VO, XE, YN, YS, YV, and ZP. Other personal or technical messages important enough to justify use of commercial circuits should be handled by amateurs internationally AR

CLUB LIBRARY

Through donations we have received a number of magazines among which are some QSTs. The present library of QSTs includes the issues listed below. Any of you who would like to clear off your shelves and who wish to donate QSTs to the Club, please bring them to the Club meeting in December or drop a card to Box 291 and we will arrange to pick them up.

NOW IN THE LIBRARY

1925 July	1932 January February March April May June July August September October December	1936 December
1926 June August	1937 November	
1927 January	1938 February March April June August September October November December	
1928 February April	1933 January April May June August September	
1929 March June September	1934 January through December	1939 February March May June July September October
1930 April May June July August September November December	1935 January February March April August September	1945 February April May June July August
1931 January through December		

(1945 - cont'd)	1951
September	January
November	March
December	April
	May
1946	June
March	August
through	September
November	October
	November
	December
1947	
January	
through	1952
December	January
	March
1948	April
January	May
through	June
December	July
	October
1949	November
January	December
through	
December	1954
	January
1950	April
January	
through	1955
December	January

AVIATION ENTHUSIASTS

Have a number of back copies of the Air Force magazine. Anyone interested may have same by contacting me at 556-1538.

Tnx. John Snyder
W0WRT

REPEAT BUSINESS, AMATEUR THAT IS, SUH!

I wonder how many people remember when you used to dig down in the junk box and come up with a tuning condenser that had been there for years. Capacity unknown, insulation good, contacts fair, pretty easy to mount although some special hardware would have to be made. After counting the plates, calculating the area, the spacing and a dozen more considerations, you finally come up with what you think is the approximate capacity of the condenser.

Having decided this you calculated the number of turns to put in the tank coil for 160 meters. You stretch the wire across the back yard, (the neighbors after much curiosity decide you are nuts) put 70 turns on the 3 inch form, stick it in the rig and nothing happens. Oh! for a grid dipper. Whatsa grid dipper.

After much cut and try you finally got a nice dip. Fine business, so you fire up. A chap calls and says you are out of the band, the eighty meter band that is, not 160, so you do it all over (that is, if you have the fire) and find out that you only needed 76 turns to hit 160. A measly 6 turns more. This This was an era when you built a rig with what you had.

I still have my three sta TRF receiver built from a MAR-MON automobile door. (Who remembers a MARMON with the all aluminum body?) Looked pretty good, too.

This was an era when you sawed across the base of your 81 rectifiers and made an X air gap so you could put more than the rated hot stuff on them. When you took

IAs and tied the grids and plates together and used them for rectifiers cause you didn't have anything else. You wound nice thousand (more or less) R. F. chokes on broom handles. Yes, this was an era.

It was certainly welcome when it became possible to buy R. F. chokes, plug-in coils, vernier dials and tubes made especially for transmitting. However, the era of being able to buy the proper components and build a rig according to your own ideas has almost passed.

There is still mobile, VHF, CW, and lots of AM where this era still holds forth but for many it is in the past. I own my 3rd store bought transmitter.

You can buy anything except a wife in kit form and from anybody. There are many factors which have brought this transformation to "store bought gear" about. Probably the biggest contributor is the fear of TVI. That little phase "TVI suppressed" has influenced lots of people including myself.

The unfortunate part about this transformation is that it has placed the "ball" in the hands of the manufacturers. There is terrific competition for the amateur dollar. That's the first amateur dollar. Seems to me there is very little bid made for the second dollar or repeat business.

I own a receiver made by one of the oldest and here-to-for, most

respected names in amateur circles. Some four months ago I sent a two-page type-written letter to them in which I stated my reasons for selecting their product over a close competitive make. I wrote further of the nature of the trouble I was having and asked their suggestions. I was forwarned by one of the largest distributors on the Atlantic coast that I wouldn't hear a scratch from them. He was correct, I haven't heard one word.

I had occasion recently to see the instruction book of a well-known manufacturer on their sideband transmitter. Three quarters of a page was used in calling out the test equipment necessary for servicing this transmitter. This test equipment would cost easily three times the price tag of the rig, or three thousand dollars. I contacted the authorized service agency for this manufacturer and was told that they had given it up because they couldn't afford the test equipment. This same manufacturer took a solid month to send a replacement power transformer. Woe be unto the owner who develops trouble with this rig.

Moral to this is, if you buy on, try to be a millionaire because the most painless way, if you develop trouble is to get rid of the pesky thing.

Contrast this with the manufacturer who makes a quality product and calls out a scope, a vacuum tube voltmeter, a 100ks osc. and and an audio generator (if you have it) for their sideband rig of the same power. This gear with the

exception of possibly the scope is in most ham shacks. Which manufacturer do you think really has the amateurs interest of heart and wants repeat business?

An after thought, better read the instruction book pages dealing with servicing ole buddy before you select that piece of gear. This serves as a pretty good indication of whether they are taking for granted that everyone is a millionaire. The gist of this whole thing is this. Since we have put the ball in the hands of the manufacturers, it behooves us to seek out the ones that really want the amateur business, especially the repeat business and select their equipment, even if maybe it doesn't have some of those fancy do-dads that you like. I am for the manufacturer that wants to sell more than once. Thems my sentiments.

73 - Heady Harper
de--Florida Skip

The Best to You...



All Year Through!

(Here is some information which we all have known and have probably forgotten. The comments are from WØMDL in SPLATTER from Minneapolis) -

First, what the types of emissions are:

AØ unmodulated carrier, and not keyed as in c.w.

A1 unmodulated carrier, broken up, or keyed by c.w.

A2 tone modulated c.w.

A3 amplitude modulated carrier, and also narrow-band f.m.

A4 facsimile, the art of sending pictures, etc., on a.m. or f.m.

A5 television (which takes up several megacycles of bandwidth and therefore is restricted to the higher bands.)

F1 frequency shift keying, such as in Radio Teletype.

FM frequency modulation, (including nfm narrow frequency modulation)

Second, as you all know, the lower frequency bands which about 99.9% of the hams operate:

3.500---4.000 mcs A1 emission (c.w.)
3.500---3.800 " F1 " (rtty)
3.800---4.000 " A3 " (fone, also ssb)

7.000---7.300 " A1 "
7.000---7.200 " F1 "
7.200---7.300 " A3 "

14.000---14.350 " A1 "
14.000---14.200 " F1 "
14.200---14.350 " A3 "

21.000---21.450 " A1 "
21.000---21.250 " F1 "
21.250---21.450 " A3 "

28.000---29.700 " A1 "
 28.500---29.700 " A3 "
 29.000---29.700 " FM " (narrow
 or wide)

The next two bands are getting
 the operators in the past few years,
 but still room for more.

50.000---50.100 mcs A1 emission
 50.100---54.000 " A1, A2, A3, A4
 51.000---54.000 " AØ
 52.500---54.000 " FM (narrow or
 wide)

144.000---147.900 " AØ, A1, A2,
 A3, A4, FM
 144.000---148.000 " A1

And last, but not least, the old
 timers band, and one which is still
 much in use: the 160 meter band.

For Minnesota we are allowed
 to use 1800-1825 KCS, with a maxi-
 mum power of 500 watts at day and
 200 watts at night (input). (Varies
 in different parts of country.)

The power input on all bands
 above, for general class, is 1000
 watts maximum.

Novices have their own set of
 ratings and frequency allocations
 which are listed here:

3.700---3.750 mcs A1 emission,
 75 watts maxi-
 mum input to
 final

7.150---7.200 " " "
 21.100---21.250 " " "
 145.000---147.000 " A1, A2, "
 A3, FM "

For the Technician Class all
 amateur privileges in the 50mc band,
 the 145-147 mc band, and in all
 bands from 220 mcs and above.
 NOTE: See later charts and find out

how many THOUSANDS OF MEGA-
 CYCLES YOU TECHNICIANS HAVE-
 N'T BEEN USING.

Adding up all the permitted
 megacycles in the bands below 6
 meter band we find that several hun-
 dred thousand hams are operating on
 1.6 megacycles in the 80 through 15
 meter bands. A few are using the
 1.7 mcs in the 10 meter band, and
 some are using the 4.0 megacycles
 in the six meter band. Also there
 are the 4.0 mcs in the two meter
 band on which there are about 15 to
 20 hams in this area.

THE BANDS BELOW SIX
 METERS ARE JUST A DROP IN
 THE BUCKET THOUGH, in relation
 to what bands above two meters we
 have. For instance, the 220 mc band
 has 5 whole megacycles to play
 around in. Think of it, three times
 as much space as the amount taken
 up by the 80, 40, 20, 15, meter bands
 all added together!!!!

So, here are the listings of the
 bands "of the future" to some, and
 should be the bands of today for
 most.

220---225 mcs A1, A2, A3,
 A4, FM (same as 2 meters)
 420---450 mcs A1, A2, A3,
 A4, FM, also AØ, and most important,
 A5. A5 is television, and this is the
 lowest frequency television operating
 is authorized for hams. An inter-
 esting note is that this band is 30
 megacycles wide!! Maximum power
 input is still 50 watts, but looks as
 though it may be lifted to 1000 watts
 soon (we hope).

1215---1300 mcs Same emis-
 sions as 420 band, and note that
 there are 85 megacycles in this band.
 I doubt if there will be any QRM for
 a year or so on this band!

2300--2450 mcs Same emissions except pulse transmission ok.

3300--3500 mcs Same except band may be from 3500-3700 mcs. (The band has been moved back and forth between these two ranges in the past few years). In any event, there are 200 full megacycles here to "get lost on." Lots of room for experimentation in antennas, waveguides, parabolics, "G" string feed lines, etc., etc., etc.

5650--5925 mcs Same emissions as above, 275 mcs to use here.

10,000--10,500 mcs Here are 500 mcs and all emissions except pulse allowed here. Note, there are quite a few pieces of surplus radar sets and antennas which will work in this range - and pretty cheap too.

21,000--22,000 mcs Well here we have a whole THOUSAND mcs of our own to work in, and if you have a chirp no one will complain!

de WØMDL in "Splatter" Minneapolis

*"What have you done for the Public Interest lately...What guarantee do we have that in the future the Public Interest will be served by your continued operation"...*F.C.C.

(The following is an excerpt taken from a talk presented by Mr. Leonard Kolsky, representing the F.C.C. at the National A.R.R.L. Convention. It is quoted, with permission, from the October, 1962, issue of AUTOCALL.)

"...One further word on the AI vs A3 subject may be in order. While the amount of frequency spectrum space available for amateur operation has

remained relatively constant, there is no assurance that this situation will continue indefinitely. The competition for frequencies in every spectrum has become more intense with each passing year. In the various land mobile services, we have been splitting channels over the past five years in an effort to accommodate more users. Certain of these users, such as the Public Safety group, which in the past have enjoyed a priority position in the allocation of frequencies, are now finding that they can no longer merely say "We are engaged in Public Safety and we need frequencies. Take care of us." They are now facing serious competition for every frequency and are being required to justify their needs in great detail and with hard cold facts. If this service is faced with such challenge, it should be obvious that the Amateur Service is not immune. Of course, it is recognized that in the past amateurs have contributed significantly to the art of radio communication. Recently such undertakings as Project Oscar have demonstrated anew that amateurs are making important contributions. However, the demands from all quarters for frequencies have put the Commission in the position of having to ask not only, What have you done for Public Interest lately? but also: What guarantee do we have that in the future the public interest will be served by your continued operation? It is not my intention to sound the voice of doom but rather to give a note of warning: if appears to many of us at the Commission that too much amateur time and energy are being dissipated in quar-

reling among yourselves over the merits of CW vs Voice, or whether a W prefix is preferable to a K instead of concentrating on demonstrating to the Commission that you are utilizing your assigned frequencies in an efficient intelligent manner and that it is in the public interest to have frequencies available for ham operation..."

de Minneapolis "SPLATTER"

**OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 875
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
WEST HARTFORD CONN NOV 28
1962 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT**

Effective January 2, 1963, the Federal Communications Commission has granted ARRL request for full kilowatt input on the 420-450 megacycle band subject to certain area restrictions generally as outlined in June QST where the 50 watt limit still applies. January QST will carry full details. The Commission also has issued a notice of proposed rule making in Docket 14853 to ease mobile logging requirements in response to ARRL petition as published page 77 November 1961 QST. Comment date is December 31 AR

MARS NEWS

by AFAØLYO

Our own Club Treasurer, Ed Donze, AFOYEV, has just been appointed as Air Force Mars Director for the State of Nebraska. His address is 2926 South 21st Street, Omaha, and we are sure that Ed will appreciate hearing from all the Mars members.

Paul Babinete, AFAØMMS, who has been Director for both Nebraska and Iowa, will now be serving Mars in Iowa only.

All Mars members of Nebraska Mars nets who reside in Iowa or South Dakota will continue to be members of Nebraska nets and will be considered to be under the directorship of Ed Donze.

We are quite sure that AFØYEV will begin to organize new additional Mars nets. All Hams who are interested, regardless of their FCC status, should contact him or any of the Nebraska net managers or Net Control stations.

It is expected that this will be a regular monthly column in Ham Hum and contributions are requested. Send them to Royal Enders, AFAØLYO, 7625 Meredith Avenue, Omaha 34, Nebraska.

Next month this column will answer some questions, such as:

- What is Mars?
- What does Mars do?
- What can Mars do for the amateur?
- What can you do for Mars?

Merry Christmas



CHRISTMAS MEETING

The meeting on December 14, 1962 is the annual meeting of the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club, Inc. In addition to the election of officers it is our custom to have a Christmas party for the members and their families.

The meeting will be held at 8:00 P.M. in the Cafeteria of the World Insurance Company, 203 South 18th Street.

Each member is requested to bring a gift of a dollar value for exchange with another member. In addition, the Club will bring such other Christmas presents as can be procured and added to the pile of gifts so that each member will have one or more gifts. Guests also will be welcome and may bring a present or not as they please. There will be a special drawing of a gift or gifts for guests only as well as a special drawing of a gift for the XYLs and some special goodies for the children.

And something new has been

added! For your entertainment we have arranged for "The Hi-Lites," a group of talented youngsters between the ages of 13 and 16. This will be a variety show as they sing, dance, play piano, twirl baton, do pantomime, acrobatics and comedy. They will also help us carry the tune on some Christmas carols. To wind up the evening we will have refreshments of a festive nature.

For the benefit of the new members, this is the well-attended meeting of the year. Unless you are sick or out of town it's a must. This is the time to get to see almost all the members at one time as well as their families. So to the OM - bring the XYL so she can sympathize with the other XYLs. And to the XYL - bring the OM because this hobby is good for him and much better for you than some other hobbies we could think of, at least you know where he is.

We'll see you on December 14th.



SPEAKING OUT

Last month we pointed out (as if it were necessary) the almost total inadequacies of available frequencies on some of our ham bands and we offered one helpful suggestion - get the local rag chews off of the airwaves and put them on the groundwaves.

Another matter that deserves attention is the phone patch business. Let us grant for the moment the real feeling of satisfaction bordering on ecstasy when we can put friend neighbor in touch with his Uncle Fudd down in Arkansas. All of this by amateur radio so that friend neighbor and old Fudd can sit in their easy chairs and gab back and forth just like downtown. Ham radio and ourselves - particularly ourselves - get a real strong boost. How our ego builds up as we sit at the control panel and switch back and forth as these two happy individuals go at it. We can forgive ourselves a little extra flourish as we identify with OUR call sign occasionally. Life is good and ham radio is the best of life!

How often have you heard this on twenty:

"Calling CQ (name of town) or vicinity with phone patch traffic..."

(This guy is using our frequencies with a very limited directional type call. He is going to be occupying the spot for quite a while before someone in that town picks him up - quite a while longer yet waiting for

a particular someone who has a phone patch...and longer still before the goat on the other end decides that he has an hour or two to spare for this job.)

"This is (call) working phone patch with (call) we would appreciate a clear channel...etc."

(Several tries at several numbers are sometimes involved before the phone patch gets going. Sometimes - yes, sometimes - there are other numbers our boy just happened to think of. All the while - "we would appreciate...")

"OK, Joe, you go ahead and try those numbers, I'll keep the frequency busy..."

(This dog in the manger means he will keep it cluttered up so no one can use it while Joe is playing around.)

Fellow hams! Let's keep this garbage off the microscopic share we have of the spectrum. If we want to do friend neighbor a favor with his phone bill, let's mail him a couple of bucks so that he can pay for the kind of private conversation he thinks he's getting but really isn't. Emergencies? Phooey! Telephone is faster, surer, more readable and the operator gets paid for running down and locating Uncle Fudd.

- WØDQL, SPLATTER -
Minneapolis, Minn. RC

A Ham's Christmas

This poem was copied from two different amateur magazines and actually we do not know to whom the credit should be given. In "Pack Rats Cheese Bits" from Mt. Airy, Pennsylvania, the author is given as W9SUL, Robert "Little Bob" H. Schaeffer, R.F.D. 3. Newcastle, Indiana; in "Florida Skip" from Miami Springs, Florida, the author is given as K6ATX, Walter A. Tompkins. So, our thanks to both magazines for the material and to either author or both if by chance they worked together.

"Twas the night before Christmas,
and in the Ham shack
Was the warm glow of tubes in
the transmitter rack
The log book was brought up to
date with great care
In case the FCC might someday
be there.
XYL and harmonics were snug
in their beds
(No Tennessee Indians to addle
their heads)
I plugged in the mike and the
VFO
Getting all set for a nice QSO
When from the relays there rose
such a clatter
I yanked the big switch to see
what was the matter.
Then up on the roof by the two-
meter beam
There came QRM like a hetrodyne
scream:
"On Gonset, On Babcock, On Viking
and Elmac!

On Ranger, On Collins! On Heathkit
and Eimac!
Bias to the grid and volts to the
plate,
Just watch that S-meter while we
all modulate!"
As I tuned to the rig and reached
for a dial
From the antenna tuner Santa
slid with a smile.
An RF choke, he held tight in his
teeth
And coax encircling his head like
a wreath.
A bundle of Hamgear he had flung
on his back -
Was that my name on a new
power pack?
He had a stub nose like an egg
insulator
And his cheeks glowed bright red
like a hot oscillator.
He spoke not a word, but went
straight to his work
Laying out all the gear, then
turned with a jerk
And laying a wave meter alongside
his nose
Said "Pse QSL" and up the feeders
he rose.
He climbed up the dipole, to his
team gave a whistle
And away they all flew like a
jet-propelled missile.
But I heard his last signal from
the ionosphere:
"Seventy-three: Eighty- eight!
And a Merry Xmas!"
