QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo February 3, 2021 Update

QSO Expo Announces Integration of GroundBreaking Video Technology

The QSO Today Virtual Ham Radio Expo (https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com) scheduled for March 13-14, 2021 is proud to announce that it is partnering with Airmeet, a groundbreaking conference technology company, to dramatically improve the virtual interaction and networking experience for all attendees.

By integrating Airmeet’s technology into the Expo, attendees will take advantage of live round table video chat to interact with each other, with exhibitors, and speakers. This includes:

- The outside of each virtual speaker auditorium will now feature a virtual lounge with tables and chairs to facilitate live video “hallway meetups”, similar to what is found at an in-person event. Attendees can now pull up a chair and meet face to face using live video chat for a real “eyeball QSO” with friends and new friends.

- Exhibitor booths will now incorporate virtual tables where small groups of booth visitors can virtually sit with exhibit staff to share product demos, answer questions, schmooze, and take orders - all done with live video chat technology.

- The Expo team will leverage Airmeet’s technology to create virtual lounges throughout the Expo to enable high quality video networking and discussion. This includes tables on specific subject areas such as HOA Antennas and Software Defined Radio, so that amateur radio operators can discuss specific topics of interest with each other.

- Attendees can now easily search for people they want to meet up with at the Expo using their call sign and then make a plan to meet at one of the lounges.

Said Eric Guth, 4Z1UG, QSO Today host, “we are committed to improving every Expo to ensure that our attendees continue to get a world-class user experience. Based on the extensive feedback we received at our last Expo, we recognized that we had to dramatically improve the way that attendees, exhibitors, and speakers interact and engage with each other. Airmeet provides us with the technology to take our Expo to the next level.”

“Airmeet is thrilled to be chosen to partner with the QSO Today Virtual Ham Radio Expo. With Airmeet’s technology the Expo will provide a virtual experience that feels much closer to a physical event. The Expo community can now come together and engage in a powerful way that fosters more meaningful and high quality conversations with each other” said Airmeet’s Co-Founder Manoj Singh.

Early bird registration for the Expo can be found at https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com
About the QSO Today Ham Radio Expo: The QSO Today Expo offers the opportunity to learn from many great speakers, meet with exhibitors to see the latest technology, and engage with fellow ham radio operators without leaving their home ham shack. And attendees save thousands of dollars since there are no travel, food, or lodging expenses!

About AIrmeet: Airmeet is the fastest growing platform for hosting a rich variety of virtual events. From Hackathons to ice-breakers, panel discussion to workshops, Airmeet’s intuitive experience delivers on organisers’ expectations for a wide range of events. Every event on Airmeet takes place in a virtual “ballroom” which is customized in appearance and seating arrangements to deliver a specific experience and highly relevant interactions among the participants.

Press contact: Brad Grob
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(213) 577-0092

**Links For Kansas Hams**

- ARRL Main Page: http://www.arrl.org
- ARRL KS Section News Page: http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/kansas
- ARRL Midwest Director's Newsletter: http://www.arrlmidwest.org/newsletter/newsletter.pdf
- Kansas Section Pages and KAR's: https://ksarrl.org
- Mo-Kan Regional Council of ARC Orgs: https://mokancouncil.org/
- Associated Radio: https://www.associatedradio.com/home.php
- Kansas QSO Party: https://ksqsoparty.org/
- Enson Museum: http://www.ensorparkandmuseum.org
- K-Link Repeater Network: http://ks0lnk.net

Add a link to your Club to join other Kansas Clubs at the bottom of https://ksarrl.org
Contact the KAR Editor

**Supporting Our Veterans - Honorably Discharged**

*S*M*A*R*T - Special Military Active Retired Travel Club

*KCONDG Sherwin*

*or SARG; EX-K102 1960 to 1987---*

*or TOP, 1SG ; Army USAR, Retired 1951 to 1987 ---*

*final discharge 1994 final discharge 1994*

God Bless those who have served this great country AMERICA

Proud Military Veteran

SEEING THE COUNTRY WE DEFEND

SHERWIN & DOROTHY STIELOW

https://www.smartrving.org/
Western Kansas 160m Net Tuesdays at 9:00PM Central Time

The Western Kansas 160m net is held every Tuesday evening at 9pm central time on 1.960 LSB. All general class and above stations are welcomed to join in.

December Net Reports provided by Richard, KØRCJ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>club</th>
<th>net</th>
<th>qni</th>
<th>qtc</th>
<th>december 16, 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wichita Amateur Radio Club (WARC)</td>
<td>WARC DMR Nets</td>
<td>4 Sessions, QNI: 157, QTC: 0</td>
<td>4 Sessions, QNI: 29, QTC: 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>WARC Fusion Nets</td>
<td>Great Salt Plains ARC (GSPARC)</td>
<td>4 Sessions, QNI: 37, QTC: 0</td>
<td>4 Sessions, QNI: 61, QTC: 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>QCWA</td>
<td>KS SSB Nets</td>
<td>4 Sessions, QNI: 52 QTC: 0</td>
<td>31 Sessions, QNI: 745, QTC: 46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reno County KS ARA (RCKARA)</td>
<td>KS Phone Nets</td>
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<td>21 Sessions, QNI: 302, QTC: 19</td>
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<td>Visibly Inconvenienced Hams Net</td>
<td>Butler County CERT</td>
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<td>4 SESSIONS, QNI: 42, QTC: 12</td>
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<td>QCWA NET</td>
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January Net Reports provided by Richard, KØRCJ

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<th>qni</th>
<th>qtc</th>
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<td>KS SSB Nets</td>
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<td>31 Sessions, QNI: 750, QTC: 35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reno County KS ARA (RCKARA)</td>
<td>KS Phone Nets</td>
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<td>23 Sessions, QNI: 331, QTC: 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visibly Inconvenienced Hams Net</td>
<td>Butler County CERT</td>
<td>4 SESSIONS, QNI 83 QTC 0</td>
<td>5 SESSIONS, QNI 60, QTC 16</td>
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Silent Keys

As a service to fellow hams across the state, I urge all individuals and Clubs to send me Silent Key notices. Please include a link to an obituary. I watch Larry's List for announcements of hams from Kansas. If you are not on Larry's List, I will forward the notice to him. He in turn notifies the ARRL. As Larry cannot include pictures, I do my best to find images so that a face can be put with the name and call. Thank you!
Wesley Eugene Rader was born on September 20, 1941, in Alva, Oklahoma to Joe and Maxine Rader. Wesley attended most of his schooling as a child in Hardtner, Kansas. He graduated from Hardtner High School in 1959. He then attended Northwestern Oklahoma State University. He did his practice teaching at Hardtner High School and earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Education from NWOSU in the Spring of 1963.

On December 22, 1963, he was united in marriage with Sandra “Sandi” McKinney in Hardtner, Kansas. During the early years of their marriage they lived in Piedmont, Byers, and Attica, Kansas where Wesley was a teacher and a coach. They then moved to Hardtner where he became the principal after completing his Master’s Degree in Administration from Northwestern. When the South Barber Schools consolidated, Wesley remained in Hardtner and took on the role of the South Barber Middle School Principal.

In April of 1968, Michael, Wesley and Sandi’s son, was born. Michelle, their daughter, was born in February of 1971. Wesley and Sandi raised their family in Hardtner. Both children attended college at NWOSU just like their dad.

Michael has fond memories of the times he spent in the gym with his dad while he was learning to play basketball. He remembers watching the Dallas Cowboys, KU basketball, and NWOSU Ranger games with his dad. When he was a child, Michael was thrilled when his dad would bring home new brain teasers for him to solve. To this day, when Michael plays chess with his children, he reminds them that it was “Papa” who taught him to play. He credits his dad with being the one who got him into comic book collecting. Wesley would drive Michael all around Wichita to the different comic book stores, and even helped him find stores when they would go on vacation. Most importantly, Michael was glad that his dad was always “there” if he needed him.

Some of Michelle’s fondest memories of her father were singing with him at Jamborees across the street at Grandpa Joe and Grandma Maxine’s house. Wesley was a fine musician who could play the guitar and violin. He shared the love of music with Michelle as they shared that time together, Wesley playing an instrument while Michelle sang with him. Michelle also remembers having her father as her Middle School Principal. Living a block from her school was a childhood privilege. Multiple memories also involved taking Michelle to the hundreds of dance lessons. Making an effort to support her love of movies, theater, forensics, music and teaching her how to ride a bike that he spray painted baby blue. Wesley was a great teacher and shared that love of teaching with Michelle, as she shares that occupation with him.

Although some principals take summers off, that was not the case for Wesley. Over the years, summers found Wesley working at the Co-Op Elevator to help out during harvest, teaching students driver’s education, managing the Hardtner swimming pool, and teaching computer classes for Pratt Community College. He also started the very first computer lab for the South Barber School District.

Those who knew Wesley knew he was an avid sports fan. If you didn’t know Wesley was a fan of the Dallas Cowboys, you didn’t know Wesley. He made the trip to see the Cowboys play in person three times. At one game he caught Roger Staubach’s wristband after the game and another time he got to talk with Emmitt Smith in person. If there was a KU basketball game on, you know where Wesley was, in front of the television watching the game. He even had a chance to make the trip to Lawrence to watch Jo Jo White, and later, Danny Manning.

When you saw WBØUVN on a license tag you knew it was Wesley. Early on, he was interested in Morse code and electronics. He earned his HAM Radio license, WBØUVN. He was always willing to
share with people his collection of QSL cards he received from talking to other HAM Radio Operators all over the world and even from space. Through years of dedication, he had contacted almost every country in the world, a major feat for any HAM Radio operator.

Another one of Wesley’s hobbies included flying radio-controlled model airplanes. On that perfect flying day, Wesley could be found outside, wearing a cap and looking up. Building and flying model airplanes was a great delight. He would always return home with a sunburned forehead.

“Monday night Family night” was a tradition that was very valued by Wesley. His mother would cook for eleven family members, including Wesley’s wife, son and daughter, along with his sister’s family and Wesley’s father. His family could devour ten pounds of mashed potatoes in about five minutes along with everything else his mother would cook from scratch. This tradition lasted for many years, consisting of great conversations, excellent food, and the same assigned seats each week around the dining room table.

Wesley and Sandi were always attending ballgames, music concerts and traveling to watch their children’s events. Wesley had the opportunity to see his family expand through his children’s marriages. In 1993 Michelle married Shan Hanes. Together they have three daughters: Shayden Denise, Shaybree Danielle and Shaylynn Denae Hanes. Michael married Sheila in 1999. Together they had two daughters and a son: M’Cheila Danae, Traeger Harrison and Brenika Kierra Rader. Watching the grandchildren’s activities, sports events, birthday parties, musical and theatrical performances kept Wesley and Sandi on the road for many miles through the years.

On Friday, December 25, 2020, Wesley passed away at Saint Joseph Via Christi Hospital in Wichita, Kansas with his wife, children and their spouses by his side. Surviving relatives include his wife, Sandi Rader; sister, Joyce McCarty and her husband, Larry McCarty; son, Michael Rader and his wife, Sheila Rader; daughter, Michelle Hanes and her husband, Shan Hanes; grandchildren, Shayden Hanes, M’Cheila Rader, Shaybree Hanes, Traeger Rader, Shaylynn Hanes and Brenika Rader; niece and nephews, Deb Wiens, Dan McCarty, and Duane McCarty; brother-in-law, Cliff McKinney, and his wife, Gayla McKinney; brother-in-law, Randy McKinney, and his wife, Dana McKinney.

Public viewing will be Monday, December 28, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Lanman Funeral Home in Kiowa, Kansas. Graveside services will be held on Monday, December 28, 2020 at the Hardtner Cemetery at 2:00 p.m.. The public is welcome to join the family following the graveside service at the Hardtner School. www.lanmanmemorials.com Facebook: Lanman Funeral Home Inc. Memorials may be made to the Academic Scholarship Fund in the name of Wesley Rader through the funeral home.

<https://www.lanmanfuneralhome.com/obituary/Wesley-Eugene-Rader-1>

**Brian Kent Shaw, KAØRIA**

Brian Kent Shaw, age 73, died on Sunday, December 27, 2020 at St Catherine Hospital in Garden City. Brian was born in Garden City, Kansas on September 25, 1947 to Greg and Valoyce G. (Ingram) Shaw, and on November 13, 1976 he married his wife of 44 years, Sharon Kay Smart of Atchison, Kansas. Brian and Sharon Kay have two children, Carreye Jane (Carlos) Mantilla, and Taylor Douglas Shaw.

In 1965 Brian, an Eagle Scout, graduated from Garden City High School. He went on to attend Garden City Community College, graduating in 1967, and then attended the University of Kansas, where in 1969 he graduated with a business degree and as a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity.
For two years Brian served his country as a commissioned officer in the Army National Guard, and he was a long time member of Harry H. Renick American Legion Post # 9 of Garden City. Upon graduating from the University of Kansas, Brian joined his father in serving the region as owner and operator of Crazy House and C-Bar H stores in Garden City and Liberal.

Brian was an avid sailor, skilled hunter, and seasoned adventurer. In 1992, he navigated his yacht, the Cadenza, from Galveston, Texas to Nassau, Bahamas, where he, Sharon Kay, Carrye Jane, and Taylor toured the Abaco islands for over three months.

Brian is survived by his wife, Sharon Kay Shaw of Garden City; mother, Valoyce Shaw of Garden City; sister, Tamara (Shaw) Halloran of Garden City; children, Carrye Jane (Carlos) Mantilla of Garden City, and Taylor Douglas Shaw of Garden City; grandchildren, Mateo Mantilla and Luca Mantilla of Garden City; Sister-In-Laws and Brothers-In-Law, Linda Robinson of Lyman, NH, Mary Jane (Robert) Montgomery of Atchison, Peggy Lynn (Douglas) Barnes of Plano, Texas, Joyce Ann (William) Smith of Shawnee, Sarah Kim Biechele of Atchison Jim Lagomarsino of Hardwick, MA and Dan Gruchala of Leawood, KS. Nieces and nephews, Brad (Stefani) Halloran, Jeffrey Lagomarsino, Kimberly Lagomarsino, Lauren (Mick) Hundley, Xiaowei Gruchala, Summer Gruchala, Jason (Anne) Downing, Gilbert Downing, Miles Downing, Landon Downing, Laura Smith, Adam Biechele, and Rachael Biechele.

Brian was preceded in death by his father, Greg Shaw; sister, Ronda Jean Shaw; father-In-Law-Douglas A. Smart, Mother-In-Law- Pattie Jane Smart, Brother-In-Laws- Sam Robinson, Rex Biechele and Bob Halloran; and nephew, Greg Gruchala.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at Garnand Funeral Home, 412 N. 7th Garden City, between 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Funeral Services will be held at 2:00 pm on Friday, January 8, 2021 at the Community Congregational Church, 710 N. 3rd Street, Garden City, with Pastor James R. Carlson officiating. Interment will immediately follow the funeral service at Valley View Cemetery, 2901 N. 3rd Street, Garden City with military rites by Kansas Army National Guard Honor Guard and American Legion District 8 Honor Guard. Memorials are suggested to the Salvation Army or Tunnels to Towers (Veterans organization) in care of Garnand Funeral Home.

Condolences may be expressed at: www.garnandfunrealhomes.com

Cecil Joseph Miller. WBØRIW

Cecil Joseph Miller, 84, former Executive Vice President of Manufacturing at Beechcraft, died Monday, February 1, 2021. Private Memorial Rosary and Service at Church of the Magdalen. Cecil graduated from St. Joseph Military Academy (now Thomas More Prep) and was an alumni of Wichita State University where he played football for one year. He was a lifelong Shocker basketball fan. He was also a HAM radio hobbyist. Preceded in death by his parents, Adam and Alvina Miller; brother, Arthur A. Miller; sister, Amelia Meis; daughter, Jacque Price. Survived by his wife, Gloria Joan Miller; daughter, Jenifer (Dwight) Jones of Colorado Springs, CO; son, Jeff (Dottie) Miller of Orange City, IA; 9 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; sister, Alvina Miller, O.P. of Great Bend, KS; sister-in-law, Maria Miller of Longview, TX; son-in-law, Shaun Price. In lieu of flowers, memorials have been established with: Thomas More Prep-Marian, 1701 Hall St., Hays, KS 67601; Church of the Magdalen Catholic Church, 12626 E. 21st St. N., Wichita, KS 67206. Services in care of Downing & Lahey Mortuary - East Chapel. Share tributes online at: www.dlwichita.com
Kansas Net Time Change

Due to winter propagation and changing our clocks we are moving the evening Section nets up one hour. Effective Sunday November 1st the Weather net will begin at 5 PM followed by Sideband Net at 5:30 and at the conclusion of the Sideband Net the Weather Net will reconvene and pick up additional stations. Frequency remains the same, 3920 KHz or up 500 cycles to accommodate neighbors. This will be the schedule until late February or March.

ARRL Kansas Section
Section Manager: Ron D Cowan, KB0DTI
kb0dti@arrl.org

Public service nets on https://ksarrl.org/traffic.php
It's not a Begali, but....
By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

One of the questions I'm most frequently asked is, "What is a good paddle for a beginner?" My usual answer to this question is to look for a used Bencher BY-1 at a hamfest or on one of the online venues. You used to be able to get them for $60 or less. Now, however, there are few hamfests and the price has gone up. Now, used Benchers are close to $80.

Another option that newcomers might consider is the CW Morse paddle (shown in photo below). They cost $60 with a steel base ($43 without), and are available from 3rd Planet Solar and Gigaparts. I purchased one recently, and used it for a couple of days. To be honest, I was prepared to hate it, but it actually works pretty well. It's not a Begali, but it's good enough that I'd recommend it as a starter key.

These keys are mostly made from 3D-printed plastic parts. You can tell this from the finish. While not as bad as some 3D-printed parts, they do look a little rough. I wouldn't be surprised if they go to molded parts, though, at some point. In high volumes, it has to be cheaper to mold the parts rather than print them.

The key does have metal parts where it counts, though. The contacts are all brass, the base is made from 1/2-in. cold-rolled steel, and the levers pivot on sealed ball bearings. My key weighed 22.5 oz (1.4 lbs.), and was quite stationary on the silicone mat that I use for my keys. The Begali is, of course, a lot heavier at nearly 60 oz. (3.75 lbs.).

A spring between the levers provides the tension. Two screws allow you to adjust the contact spacing. Unlike the Begali, whose adjustment screws have a very fine thread to give you plenty of adjustability, these screws are standard thread screws. What this means is that it can be a bit tricky to set the

contact spacing. The screws are spring-loaded to prevent the adjustment from changing, but the
springs don't seem to be very beefy, and I can see where the adjustment might change after a lot of use.

The ball bearings give the key a nice action. During my tests, I had the speed cranked up to 23 wpm, and this key performed well at that speed. One thing I didn’t like very much is that the arms tend to flex more than I like, but I actually have the same problem with the plastic Begali finger pieces. That’s why I use the aluminum finger pieces on the Begali.

Overall, though, I’m quite happy with this key. And, for sixty bucks, which is about one-fifth of the price of a new Begali Magnetic Pro, I can certainly recommend this key to newcomers getting started in CW.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he’s not testing new keys, he teaches online ham radio classes and likes to work special event stations and state QSO parties.

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE
MONTHLY EC REPORTS

➢ Zone 4A – Brian KCØBS

DECEMBER MONTHLY ARES REPORT TO DEC & SEC

Total of ACTIVE ARES members: 150 +0

Local Net Name: Johnson County ARES

Emergency Coordinator = Brian Short KCØBS  913-638-7373
Alternate Emergency Coordinator, Recruiting = Jim Andera K0NK  913-884-6613

Assistant Emergency Coordinators:
Herb Fiddick - ECS Liaison
George Mccarville WB0CNK - Training, Drills
Matt May KC4WCG - IDs, MECC
Bill Gery KA2FNK - Recruiting, Technology
Darren Martin N0MZW - Net Manager
Brad Kelsey KUOFAN – Membership
Jesse Gonzalez KE0ECS – CERT
Chuck Simpson KC0NUG - Rapid Response
Jim Andera K0NK – KCHEART

NTS liaison is maintained with the KS SSB Net:
Jim Andera K0NK
George McCarville WB0CNK
Debbie Britain AB0UY

Net Sessions: 38
QNI: 332
QTC: 0

5 nets - 2 Meter Voice
4 nets - 440 Voice
4 nets - Fusion Digital
5 nets – CW
5 nets - 6 Meter
5 nets - 2 Meter Voice Simplex
5 nets - 1.25 Meter
5 nets - SATERN 80 meter SSB

Report prepared by:
Darren Martin N0MZW
Johnson County Kansas

JANUARY MONTHLY ARES REPORT TO DEC & SEC
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4 nets - Fusion Digital
4 nets – CW
4 nets - 6 Meter
4 nets - 2 Meter Voice Simplex
4 nets - 1.25 Meter
4 nets - SATERN 80 meter SSB

Report prepared by:
Darren Martin N0MZw
Johnson County Kansas

Zones 6A, E & G – Rod, KØEQH

Kansas ARES Net report Zone 6A, E & G for December 2020

Total Nets...............5
Total QNI...............38

Stations participating: WB0QYA, N0KQX, N0OXQ, N0OMC, KG0VA, AC0E, KØEQH, KD0LQD, KD2AAD, W0NSX, N0YK

Welcome to new member to SHARC: Stephen Madgwick, KD2AAD of Garden City...

Rod
KØEQH
NCS

The traditional Sand Hills ARC Christmas dinner meeting was cancelled this past year out of caution. Most stations reported a very "quiet" celebration this year.

SK Report.....Brian K Shaw, KA0RIA, of Garden City, passed away December 27. Brian was a student of mine in ham classes years ago....KØEQH

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Kansas ARES Net Report January 2021 Zones 6A, E & G

Total Nets...............4
Total QNI...............29

Stations participating: WB0QYA, AC0E, N0KQX, N0OXQ, N0OMC, KG0VA, KD0TWO, WD0GSB, W1GUU, N0YK, KØEQH

Rod
KØEQH
NCS

We welcome Gary, W1GUU who is new to our area. He and his XYL are both retired Air Force. They moved into a farmstead near Dighton, coming from Georgia. Welcome Gary!

Rod
KØEQH
**ARES Net Expanded Service – Radiogram Practice**

We have been doing a weather report from the roll call each week, but in February, we stepped up our game to learning how to create a radiogram. We will continue the radiogram practice on the first Thursday of each month. Are you up to the challenge? Join us on the Kan-Okla Intertie on Thursday night at 2100CST and become a part of the Kan-Okla ARES/Skywarn Net!

From WX0NET, Billy Fanska

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**The Burstein-Applebee Story**

Actually, I have a “beginning” to the B-A history I’m doing – should have personally interviewed some folks, before they passed on (like Dick Neustadt at ElecSupply)... but suffice to say that Joe & Merle started out selling parts from the trunk of a car (honest)... ultimately they rented part of a drugstore basement on Charlotte, then got the building at 1012-1014 McGee... the 2nd. Store was at Brookside, right on the NW corner of the “shopping center”... not far from the trolley tracks. The ORIGINAL “ham shack” was in the basement there (I actually visited it several times as a kid, and still have the $2.95 brass “Ambassador” key (in the original box) that I bought there).

Interestingly, my friend Bob Kaminsky (another shop rat) and I were the VERY LAST people EVER... in the store on McGee... my boss, John O. Fife (WØOSD sk) had been the shop manager for many years (it ALSO used to be in the basement of Brookside), and somebody said that they needed the small office safe from McGee, pulled out of the floor and brought back to 3199 Mercier, so he sent the two of us... The building still smelled the same, with those aged wooden floors, and the scent of capacitor wax and bakelite in the air... it was all empty with a couple of stray counters sitting askew, and the stairway up to Joe & Merle’s offices (covered with green linoleum) pockmarked with pidgeon droppings. Upstairs, Joe & Merle’s desks were still there, a few pieces of nondescript paper in the drawers, covered with pidgeon crap, and an old leather chair that had seen better days... most likely belonging to one of them. The safe was inside a closet of sorts, and mounted atop a raised wooden structure quite firmly. We then went into the basement, luckily illuminated with some light from the dirty windows, and proceeded to try to unscrew the pot metal nuts from the studs protruding from the bottom of the safe... Like the mysterious “ambihelical hex nuts” from the imaginary 2-to-3 pronged drawing that circulates, still to this day, no matter WHICH WAY you turned those nuts, they seemed to get TIGHTER.... So being resourceful young fellows, I went out to the company van, and got one of those “SolidOx” welding torches I’d brought along, and fired that baby up... (they used a stick of something that “looked like” compressed carbide, that when lighted, produced oxygen in sufficient quantity to operate the propane/oxy torch of the kit. I got in position and began to melt off the nuts, until Bob yelled at me “Holy S**t, the f****ng floor is on fire!” So there we were in the basement of this building... no fire extinguishers anywhere, and not wanting to leave this fire that we’d just begun... We both seized upon using the contents of a wooden...
barrel in the corner that was catching leaking water (with substantial forms of alien life floating atop the surface)... Bob picks up the half-barrel of liquid protoplasm and hurls it at the floor (ceiling)... of course, I am still STANDING THERE, so I get soaked with this affluvia that smells like a cross between the stockyards and Brush Creek, but hey... we put out the fire........ and manage to remove the rest of the “nuts” and remove the safe (after leaning on one of the still nearly red-hot studs, in the process)  [later, we found out the safe was EMPTY!]

After wrestling this cubic foot of solid iron into the van, and collecting our torch (and covering up as much of the fire’s evidence as possible), we walked around a bit, and ultimately locked the doors... It was sad to see the old store go, especially considering it stood empty for several years, thereafter... ultimately being razed (funny word) to become a parking lot.

Yeah, and the models were hotter, too. - Tom