

O'Missile

Official Newsletter of the
OM International Sideband Society

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Internet Home Page: <http://www.omiss.net>

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Let me say "Thanks" to those of you who remain active during these summer months when the band conditions and nice weather make it easy to find other things to occupy your time. We're enjoying good check-in levels on most bands, and the QSL Card business is still thriving. We could still use a little help on the late 40M net, and of course the 75M net, so if you have the time - please jump in and participate. It sure is more encouraging to those Net controllers who set aside their time to run these nets when more folks check in, so let's put 'em to work. (You might also say "Thanks" to them once in a while... they sure deserve it.)

Speaking of Net Controllers, if you have ever considered giving it a try - please let us know. We'll be glad to help you get started. It's easier than you might think, and fun too!

I'd like to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation to the OMISS Board of Directors. You, the membership, have elected a fine group of Officers to represent your OMISS interests, and it's a pleasure for me to work with each of them. They make my job easy. One of the things I appreciate the most is the fact that we don't always have a unanimous vote on all issues, but the Board members continue to support each other and the group decisions. We also have a first-rate Advisory Committee firing on all four cylinders, and they are doing a bang-up job of making sure the membership views are presented at the Board of Director's meetings. My hat is off to them and the rest of the Board for their investment in OMISS, and their volunteer attitude. And my hat is off to you, for selecting them - and for letting them know your views on issues. You ARE well represented.

OMISS is in **great** shape. Our growth continues - and YOU are the ones responsible for that. Pat

yourself on the back. Our Awards Program is functioning efficiently. The QSL Bureaus are staying busy. All OMISS needs now is a slight increase in participation - and we'll be able to reach for the stars.



Have a fun and safe season! CQ Check-ins, CQ Check-ins... and bring a friend!

73, *Greg*

2000-2001 EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND APPOINTMENTS

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BAND COORDINATORS

10M – WM0M, Larry, 2848
15M – N7FUD, Ron, 1914
17M – OPEN
20M – KC9NN, Fred, 324

40M – WA0VZH, Dorothy, 3649

75M – W4TOJ, Bill, 3762

160M – N7VU, Tim, 3916

JULY BOARD MEETING

The QSL Bureaus reported that operation “Homeless QSL” is complete. The new QSL card holding policy is in place and will help avoid future build-up of unclaimed cards. A recap of the new policy appears elsewhere in this newsletter as do the reports of the Treasurer and the Awards Manager.

The All-band coordinator is still seeking a 17M Net Coordinator, and the 75M Late Net is on hold until fall to get conditions favorable to find a good frequency. Based on input from the membership, the Advisory Committee recommended and the Board approved the change in the requirements for the WAS, DX, and Canadian awards. This change provides an alternative to mailing your QSL cards to the Awards Manager. You may now get two general class or higher amateur operators in your area to review your cards using the same criteria the ARRL uses to verify you have all the required, correctly filled in, QSL cards. The two amateurs will then sign a form (designed by OMISS and available on the OMISS web page) with their name and call sign. This document will then accompany the member’s award application to be sent to the Awards Manager. This change is intended to supplement the current system and NOT replace it. Mail-ins are still acceptable.

The OMISS Web Page has been redesigned to be compatible to more browsers.

TREASURER REPORT

For the period ending July 20, the Treasurer reported income of \$74.82. There were no expenditures, leaving a balance of \$2,271.83 as of July 20, 2001. \$20.78 of this amount is contributions to The O’MISSILE which is not supported by member dues..

QSL MANAGERS REPORTS

The OMISS QSL Bureau split into two bureaus is complete. OMISS now has two QSL bureaus. Here's how it will work:

Manager QSL Bureau #1
3482 Valley Woods Dr.
Verona, WI 53593

All call signs with the numbers 6, 7, 8, 9, 0 and all DX calls will send their #10 SASEs (for return QSLs) to Bruce at QSL Bureau #1. All of your outgoing cards with call sign numbers 6, 7, 8, 9, 0 and DX must be sent to Bureau #1. All of your outgoing cards with call sign numbers 1,2,3,4, and 5 must be sent to bureau #2. Sort cards by call sign number.

Manager QSL Bureau #2
1880 Derby Dr
Oregon, WI 55046

All call signs with the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 will send their #10 SASEs (for return QSLs) to Greg at QSL Bureau #2. All of your outgoing cards with call sign numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 must be sent to Bureau #2. All of your outgoing cards with call sign numbers 6,7,8,9, 0 and DX must be sent to Bureau #1. Sort all cards by call sign number.

Remember do NOT sending any QSL cards, member or non member, to the bureaus unless the contact is very specific in telling you that they will be using the OMISS QSL bureaus. If you send cards to the bureaus and the ham it is intended for does not have #10 SASEs in the bureau, the card will be returned to you. Once again a reminder, all SASEs should be #10 business size envelopes.

AWARDS MANAGERS REPORT

Following is a full awards report since the beginning of the year. Any award not listed either has not been applied for or it not an award for which we maintain any records, such as Net Control of the Quarter. New membership to membership certificates are not included:

AWARD	ISSUED ENDORSE- TOTAL		
	2001	MENTS	
Counties4	4	75	
5X25	5	4	16
6X25	1		1
7X25	1		1
5X50	2		2
GRID SQ	0		22
1000 POINT	2		6
KING&QUEEN	5	4	159
MBRSHIP	7	5	171
POSTAL	0		2
SPELLING BEE	2	1	46
TOP OP	7		214
TWIN CO.s	2		6
VIP	6	4	254
WAS	6	4	166
WAS/MOBILE	1		1
WAS/QRP	0		2
WAS 1X3	2		4
WAS/5 BAND	2		10
WAS/6 BAND	0		1
WPX	1		51
Y2K	18	14	18
MERTORIOUS	2		9

OM OF THE YEAR

Following is a list of "OM of The Year" beginning with 1986.

1986	WL7LTB	0876	
1987	N9FPW	1939	
1988	KC9NN	0324	
1989	W0PXE	1711	
1990	N7FUD	1914	
1991	WA2QEC	1563	
1992	W0MWU	2603	
1993	KA0MGM	0675	(TIE)
1993	WA4ICK	2031	(TIE)
1994	WB2ERQ	2271	(SK)
1995	WB6QVI	2215	(TIE)
1995	WA2QOM	3013	(TIE)
1996	N/A (Insufficient votes)		
1997	WG1Q	2781	(SK)
1998	W3YJM	2904	
1999	KB8NTG	3376	
2000	KL7IHK	185	

Net contacts with any OM of The Year and members of the Board of Directors may be applied toward the VIP Award. Additionally, past presidents, holders of the Meritorious Service Award, the quarterly Net Controller and the Top OP announced for the previous month is

a VIP until the 5th of the following month when the new Top OP is announced.

TOPS OPS

Members receiving the monthly top op award were:

Jan, 01	K4AQD	Bill
Feb, 01	KK7AW	Kelsey
Mar, 01	W0VD	Dan
Apr, 01	WG0Y	Dave
May, 01	AE9W	Greg
Jun, 01	WA2DEU	Bruce
Jul, 01	KH6IDU	Earl

Net Controllers:

1 st Qtr	KC0FRL	Dan
2 nd Qtr	N7FUD	Ron

ART & DOROTHY, WA0VZG, WA0VZH. 3737, 3649

On July 7th Art and Dorothy took off the antennas, unplugged the radios, picked a suitcase and drove to Loma Linda, Mo, where Art had rented a condo for the week. We just needed to get away for a while, on mentioning it on the air, Don, W5RL, said he wasn't far from there and suggested we should have an eyeball, so on Sunday they drove over to Neosho and Don drove up from Springdale, AR., and they met and had a 2 ½ hour eyeball right there in WalMart and Mickey Ds in Neosho. They told Don they wished they had scoped out other OMISS members in the area for eyeballs.



Don remembered KT5RR lives in Bluejacket, OK., only 30 miles over the border, so the next

day they looked it up on the map and after lunch set out to find Sparky. Bluejacket turns out to be a small place and the Get & Go Shop knew him and right where he was located! Dorothy called ahead and the XYL said, "Come on down", they did and Dorothy says it was an enjoyable visit! Sparky's shack was featured in the February, 2000 QST, but Art & Dorothy got to see it in person, wow! He has a new log cabin home which was also interesting to the Holloways. Dorothy says seeing Sparky's place, the 100-degree weather and meeting his XYL, who is a peach of a gal, made it a memorable day. Next they visited Carthage, Mo., and the historical sights there and the Precious Moments Museum. Also the Har-Ber history farm in Grove, OK. They report it was a nice week and one they will always remember the eyeball contacts.

BUCK, W3YJM, 2904



Buck sent a short note saying he hopes to be on the air in his mobile (he has been on 20 recently) and wanting everyone to know his temporary mailing address:

Charles S. Gilbert
P.O. Box 622
Marmora, NJ 08223.

DICK, KL7IHK, 0185

By way of introduction Dick Zenge is a

MEMBER WHO WEARS THREE HATS

With a number like 185, you may have guessed he joined OMISS in the first year of the organization in September, 1981. He doesn't remember the date because they didn't issue a membership certificate, he was just informed that he was member and what his number was.

In all the years he has been a member, he never desired to become an officer, as he figured it was too much of a headache, time consuming, and beside who would listen to someone who lived up in the cold State of Alaska! Little did he know that this would change in the years to come.

The first impact Dick had on OMISS was when he asked and received permission to issue a certificate of appreciation to members that he had contact on different bands. So in 1982 he began issuing a KL7IHK 5 BAND OM CERTIFICATE. That was the prototype of the present OMISS 5x25 award which was approved in 1991, and first issued in April, 13, 1992.

So you're saying, what has this got to do with members who wear three hats? It's just background to bring you up to the next decade. In 1992 Dick moved from Alaska to live in the State of Washington and got back to being active in OMISS as just one of the members checking into the different nets. Of course by this time he was retired and could spend more time on the radio. :-)

In 1998, Harry, N5VTP, who was the Society President at the time, asked him to act as chairman of the nominating committee to put together a slate of officers for the upcoming election. If you want to find out what frustration is, just volunteer to be on the nominating committee or be the chairman of such a committee. In spite of his frustration Dick and the committee did an excellent job (as he says, "at least I never heard many complaints about what we came up with for that nominations that year"). It was a difficult to get anyone to agree to run and they finally came up with a slate of officers consisting of one candidate for President, one for VP, one for Secretary, and three Board members. The only position left to fill was Treasurer, and no one wanted to do that job. Dick's comments today are, "so foolishly, I volunteered". That became the FIRST HAT he wore.

After being 'elected' to the job of Treasurer, he found out that included being Membership Chairman. He knew from listening to the previous Treasurer, Charlie, WOMWU, that the Treasurer gave out membership numbers, but he didn't realize all the other things that went along with the job. :->) Thus he got to wear the SECOND HAT.

Recently Dick wrote, "Now comes the foolish part and the THIRD HAT that I wear". In the middle of 2000 the awards program was having problems. The previous Awards Manager relocated, and in the process was having problems getting set up to handle the job due to computer problems, and several other things. Members were complaining and saying they weren't receiving the awards for which they had applied. Dick volunteered to take over the program if the Awards Manager wanted to step down. Today he says, "This was the foolish part, because I didn't learn from the first time when I volunteered to take on the job of Treasurer". :->) However, he admits to finding that neither job or both jobs combined are not that time consuming and they are actually enjoyable.

So what has this guy who didn't want to take on any responsibilities been instrumental in accomplishing for the society during the time he has been an officer?

One of the first things that has been done is that twice each year the roster is checked for call changes, expired licenses and other information so it can be kept up as accurately as possible. This is done on a volunteer basis, and if anyone would like to help, just contact Dick. Next there was the revision of the Society By-laws – some additions, deletions, and clarifications made to bring them up-to-date. Thanks to the help of Warren, WA4ZOP; Mike, KE4ISW; and Jim, KF4HW, our Business Agent, and who was responsible for writing the first set of By-laws; this effort was accomplished and over quickly.



As Membership Chairman, Dick felt the year 2000 was a historic event and that OMISS should have a special membership certificate issued to the amateurs that became society members during the year. The Board approved and a new membership certificate only for the year 2000

was issued to those members. OMISS issued 205 certificates and the certificate was discontinued at the end of the year.

After reviewing the total awards program, Dick recommended and the Board appointed a committee to review the entire program. At the result was several awards were eliminated as no longer obtainable, and several new ones were added. Among those added were the Y2K award, the Canadian Providence Award, 6 and 7 Band WAS, and 5x50 and 6x25 awards. Others were reworded to improve the language in the awards and a couple that had been listed as endorsement were made into awards.

Dick says the last and he thinks the best accomplishment he has been instrumental in implementing in the awards program is the use of volunteer QSL checkers to verify QSL cards for those awards that require QSDs. One of the prime concerns and reasons for his supporting this alternative was the increase of postage in sending and returning the required cards.

Dick's closing comments were, "I would like to say that any member can make an impact on the OMISS organization, all you have to do is be foolish enough to volunteer your time to the organization and wear one of the hats. At times it has been lots of fun, and other times it has been frustrating, but being a member of this organization has never been dull!"

KELSEY, KK6AW, 3830

Kelsey joined OMISS in 1999 and achieved WAS on 10, 15, 17, 20, and 40 !

He is the Net Control on 20M on Thursdays, and 10M on Sundays when Larry, WM0M is unavailable. In addition he graciously acts the relay function on almost every net he checks into because of his GREAT signal.

In addition to OMISS, he is also a member of FISTS, GERATOL, QCWA, 1010, WAS, DXCC-230 Mixed, and 6BWAS-SSB. He was first licensed in 1962 as WV6WXX, then KC6EVJ and finally KK6AW.

Equipment in his shack includes: Yaesu FT 1000mp, MFJ 962c Tuner, KAM ALL Mode TNC for DX cluster, Rigblaster for PSK.

Antennas: KLM KT34a triband beam, 10-160 Carolina Windom, Force 12 Vertical for 40 meters.

Key: Kent Iambic paddle with logikey K-3 Keyer.

Computer: Homebrew PII 450 128 megs
Ham Program: Logging – Logic 5, WA4ZOP – Netcon, Digipan.

And what makes all this work so well is the fact that he lives on 7 acres some 2000' above sea level!

His military service included the National Guard, the active army reserves, signalman in the Navy, NAAS in Japan and, aboard the USS Merrick.

After 2 years as a letter carrier for the US Postal Service, he spent 27 years with the Fresno Fire department retiring as a Captain, then he drove 18 wheelers for 2 years.



Kelsey and Susan have been married for 33 years and have two grown sons, Jayson and Scott. He presently is working on a personal web site that will be split between amateur radio and family.

BRUCE, WA2DEU, 4186

Bruce is the QSL Bureau #1 Manager, and he has been a HAM since 1975 when he was licensed as WN2DEU. He upgraded to Tech about a year later. Shortly afterwards college and graduate school became his main interest and he received a BS in Biology in 1979 and a MS in 1982.

During college and for several years afterward his main "HAM" interest was in 2M FM and FM packet. He also became interested in ARES and COM support for public service events (PSE).

Bruce became involved with OMISS shortly after getting his first HF rig (ICOM IC-718) last January. He uses a broadband folded dipole (B&W) at about 18 feet – He says some day he will increase the height. Except for 20M, he uses an MFJ antenna tuner to help out.

He stumbled across the OMISS 40 meter net (NCS was Linda, N0KI) one evening when he was ‘playing’ with his new toy. Shortly after that, he got a very nice phone call from Greg (AE9W) welcoming him to OMISS and offers of help should he have any questions. A few months later, Greg asked him if he would consider becoming QSL Manager for Bureau #1. He accepted and says he is really enjoying the role.

Bruce is also an American Red Cross (ARC) volunteer Badger Chapter in Madison, WI., in the communications function. His main ‘duties’ are doing inventory and making sure the cell phone batteries are charged. However, with help from another volunteer, Chuck Forster, WA9ACI, they keep the ARC ‘HAM shack’ (W9JZ) running.

In ‘real life’ Bruce works in the Anatomy Department at the University of Wisconsin as a Research Specialist (fancy way of saying Research Technician). The XYL is employed at the Forest Products Laboratory (USDA).



Bruce closed with ‘four shameless plugs:

1. Support your local American Red Cross.
2. Thanks to members for all their help and support of the OMISS QSL bureaus.

3. Please check out the free QSL Bureau page on the OMISS WEB site to see if you are ‘good’ in the bureau.
4. When you QSL, please include the OMISS number of the station you are sending the QSL card. The QSL managers will (and do) thank you.

You can visit Bruce’s home page at <http://www.geocities.com/bmicales>

JOE, W4NSA, 4036

Before Joe became a ‘HAM’ (again) last year his main passion was old or antique radios. He has been collecting them for 30 years, mainly broadcast receivers (Zenith, Scott, Philco, Crosley, etc.) and he has over 200! He enjoys restoring the chassis and some years back started doing the cabinets and has gotten better and better. Some are a far cry from applying polyurethane with a broom! I think you will find Joe’s *Radio Reminiscences* which has been published in several journals interesting.

Radio is an integral part of my early memories, as it was the major media that entered practically every home in the 1940s. Like today, people would reserve certain time periods to hear the news and commentary or a favorite program. Radio, however, forced the listener to conjure up the images rather than being spoon feed as we are today with its successor.

I spent my pre-teen years in Charleston, WV, the state capital, which probably had a population in the 50,000 plus range at that time. It also had two rivers) the Kanawha and the Elk which joined the Kanawha at Charleston), two newspapers (the Gazette and the Daily Mail), and five radio stations! These were to be a constant source of wonderment and pleasure for me.

The beginnings of my lifelong interest and later obsession with radio probably started here. Mom and Dad purchased a spanking new 1940 Philco Model 40-180 console radio at Woodrums Department Store in 1939, a few years before I came along. I spent countless hours captivated by that wonderful machine with all the red push buttons and the four impressive knobs. Many an hour was spent on the floor in front of the familiar friend, running my fingers up and down the wooden bars covering the grill, and listening to anything and everything, the Saturday morning Children’s programs (forerunners of today’s

cartoons), the Sunday afternoon and evening programming that kept the family together on the day of rest. This radio dominated the living room, and later the dining room, and entertained for countless hours. As I grew older I learned to tune in all of Charleston's stations and many others around the state, country, and world. I remember the excitement of listening to the police departments communicate on frequencies just above the broadcast band. Sometime in the late 1940s my parents bought me a crystal radio set – I had to know more and experiment. A neighbor, Howard Burns, worked for the telephone company and knew electronics. He broke open some old tubes, probably type 80 rectifiers, to explain filaments and plates, and a few others to show and explain grids.

Many of the radio stations of the era used their call letters to describe something. Our stations were WCHS (the CHS had to stand for Charleston, at 580 kcs) and this was probably the number one station in town – Dad always tuned to it for the evening news and certainly some of the network programming. Another station was WGKV (1490 kcs they actually stated the GKV mean "Great Kanawha Valley"). WTIP at 1240 kcs was practically in my back yard. Their transmitter tower was in a cow pasture maybe a quarter mile away. I spent many nights in bed with the earphone on my pillow looking at the tower lights of WTIP – "Tops In Performance". WCAW was located across the Kanawha River from the state capitol building, right next to the old Morris Harvey College. Since they were in the valley they may have had a slightly higher tower, and I don't recall what "CAW" stood for, if anything. WKNA is somewhat of an enigma to me. It was located on the top of a mountain overlooking Charleston from the south side and wasn't too far from my old friend WTIP. The "KNA" in the call letters stood for the KaNawha River and Valley. I seem to remember that the frequency as somewhere around the middle of the dial. WKNA-TV (they used to list the calls that way) was Charleston's first UHF television on channel 49, while WCHS-TV was the city's first VHF television station on Channel 8.

I can well remember some of the network programming, we always listened to Gangbusters, Suspense, Inner Sanctum, Mr. District Attorney, Lights, Out, Mister Keen – Tracer of Lost Persons, The Whistler, Big Town, The Great Gildersleeve, and Duffy's Tavern. At home from school on a sick day I was treated to the somewhat less interesting The brighter Day,

Ma Perkins, When a Girl Marries, Helen Trent, and the more interesting Red Ryder, Cisco Kid, Bobby Benson of the B-BAR-B Ranch, and Sky King.

My dad's "religion" came from a program on Sunday morning with the Coffee Pot. This program was called "Renfrow Valley" and supposedly originated from a church in Renfrow Valley, KY. It wasn't local so it must have been on a network. Dad was a creature of habit, got in a routine, and always did the same things and listened to his programs. Renfrow Valley and the Evening News were his musts. One other program comes to mind, one that my Dad made a point of listening to. It was called "The Sugar Creek Gang" and I'm not sure of the origin. I think there was a Sugar Creek, either a stream or a community somewhere in Kanawha County or in a neighboring county. I am left with the impression that Dad listened to "The Sugar Creek Gang" some time before I came along.

My neighbor chum, Peter Hensler, was few years older and was well versed in electronics and even had a chemistry set. We once tried to make guncotton, but that's another story. Peter helped me come up with a one-tube radio, with that wonderful 1S5 tube that would glow in a totally dark room. Armed with 1.5 and 22.5 volt batteries the one tube brought in all the stations with much greater clarity and volume. One Christmas brought a 5-tube radio kit that allowed me to discover my lack of soldering skills, and a few years later Santa delivered a wonderful Hallicrafters S-76 that picked up the world and had a beautiful purple voltage regulator. This was the beginning of a life-long interest in Ham radio. I remembered that the hams talked about everything, but particularly their stations, and I got the sense of a courteous fraternity. Most of the calls were "W" calls and I always wanted to be a ham and have a W call, but that was to be quite a few years in the future. Meanwhile, I would drag home every old radio I could find, including a few rusty metal Atwater Kents and a wonderful old Majestic Chassis and speaker that made Gunsmoke sound so good.

We moved west of Orlando to Clermont in central Florida in the mid 1950s. Orlando was small city then with streets that rolled up by 10:00 PM, and it had about 5 radio stations. WLOD (Love Orlando Florida?) was about 940 or 950 kcs, and WHOO (We're High ON Orlando – a pure guess?) was 990 kcs. There was a WORZ and Orlando's oldest station was

WDBO (Way Down By Orland?), coined in a time when it was way down there. I was entering the age when Randy's Record Shop in Gallatin, TN., was calling on a fading Tennessee station as we cruised through the warm Florida nights, listening to Rhythm and Blues and Rock and Roll. Yeah! The Border Blasters across the Rio Grande from Texas came booming through the night with high power and neat offers to purchase gadgets. Remember XERA and XERF? Really neat, stations with call letters starting with an X, and programming in English, not like the interfering Cuban stations that plagued the Florida airways! Soon it was Elvis and Jerry Lee Lewis and Chuck Berry and all the others that followed and I, like everyone else, became interested in other things, and television was the new fixture in the living room. As a teenager I destroyed the old Philco, and years later I found a picture of a very young Joey Koester with the radio in the background. That caused the resurgence in interest of radio from days gone by, and within a few years I had three Philco Model 180s, acquired in Alexandria, VA., Laurel, MD., and Iowa. Before I knew it I had 80, 150, and finally 250 old radios! It has been said that I never met a radio that I didn't like.

Living in the Washington, DC area for nearly 30 years, I spent most of them in nearby Laurel, MD and enjoyed the old radio programs on WWDC, 1260 AM, and a few Baltimore radio stations, WITH, WFBR, and a couple others. When we moved to Texas in 1995 I found my music from the Golden Years of radio on KLUP, 930 AM in San Antonio. Since retiring in 1998 and moving to small town Tennessee I miss the many different types of music I had available in a larger metropolitan area. Regardless of where you are, AM radio is today a far cry from what it was. Dominated, like everything else, by the quest for the almighty dollar, if enough don't come in it's time to try another format. I can't believe that so many people appear to be interested in Talk radio, but then look at the dribble on daytime TV, not unlike the daytime dramas that preceded it during the waning days of the golden Age of radio. Ah, Progress...

EPILOGUE

After many childhood adventures of broadcasting as far as I could with phonograph transmitters I finally took the Novice test in 1962 while stationed at Shema Island way out in the Aleutians with the Air Force. I received the call WN4HHL, but it was only good for a year and I

never got on the air. In 1975 my interest was rekindled and I again took the Novice test and was assigned WN3AEE, and although it was good for 2 years I never made a contact. A little over a year after retiring I picked up a Gordon West book a colleague had given me and took the Novice and Technician Exams and received the call KG4GRO. I was legal and on the air and had time for it. I upgraded to general and got the old "W" call I had longed for. I wanted to have a 4 call since I lived in that area, and I'm not telling where the last three elements came from! I absolutely love amateur radio and I am kicking myself for not doing it 20 years ago – I could have had so much fun, learned so much, and would have met so many nice people with interests similar to mine. So I have to make up for lost time!

WARREN, KM5EW, 3198

Warren wrote that he is settled and it was wonderful to be back on an OMISS net. He also reports that he lost his large collection of QSL cards several years ago in a major house fire. And if any of our readers had a contact with Warren prior to 1998 and you have a record of it, Warren would appreciate receiving a 'duplicate' QSL card for the contact. How about it Folks?



ANTENNA RAISING INCIDENT

Author Unknown

I'm writing in response to your request for additional information for block number 3 of the accident reporting form. I put "poor planning" as

the cause for my accident. You said in your letter I should explain more fully, and I trust the following details will be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and materials into the barrel. I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of tools. You will note in block number 11 of the accident reporting form, I weigh only 155 pounds.

Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down; this explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of the pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer again to my weight in block number 11. As you might imagine, I started a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up; this accounts for my two fractured ankles and the lacerations on my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools, and fortunately only 3 vertebrae were cracked. I'm sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind....I let go of the rope.

EDITORIAL, N5VTP, 2869

THE O'MISSILE, WHAT'S IT WORTH?

Thanks to our President, Treasurer and several of the net controllers, the word got out that we needed articles for the 'Annual August Issue' of the OMISS newsletter. For the first time since I became editor, I didn't have to scrounge for 'fill' material to publish a 3 page 2 sided newsletter! WOW!

The OMISS bylaws state that the society will publish a newsletter annually in August. They do not address distribution. This years 10 page newsletter is beng posted on the OMISS web page and will be sent to everyone on the editors 'subscription' list at an approximate cost of \$108. Contributions for the newsletter are in a deficit state and unless member contributions in articles and dollars increase, the O'MISSILE will become an 'ANNUAL NEWSLETTER' published on the OMISS web page and mailed only to those who have made a monetary contribution unless other action is taken by the Board of Directors.

THE DECISION IS YOURS!

Harry

NET TIMES AND FREQUENCIES

Approved net times and frequencies effective with the change from daylight savings time to standard time are listed below. All times are UTC.

160 meters, 1.880, Fri & Sat 0400

75 meters 3.940.5, 0200 daily

40 meters, 7.263.5, 0100 daily

40 meters late net, 7250, 0300 Fri & Sat

20 meters, 14.29, 1800 Mon through Sat

17 meters, 18.165, 1900 Sat and Sun

15 Meters, 21.360, 1700 Sat & Sun, and Holiday Mondays.

10 Meters, 28.665, 1800 Sat and Sun
