SSBARA I believe, is its creation of a new atmosphere among large groups of radio amateurs. This atmosphere makes operation on the bands and attendance at meetings (especially the famous S.S.B. Dinner) one of real heartfelt comradeship. For the common ground on which the s.s.b. enthusiasts walk is something more than just owning and using s.s.b. equipment or just being a radio amateur.

The SSBARA publishes *The Sidebander* which is edited by our own s.s.b. columnists, Dot and Irv Strauber (K2MGE and K2HEA). This newsy little publication keeps sidebanders abreast of what the Association and its members are doing. And because Irv and Dot participate actively on the bands and are up to their necks in s.s.b. in all of its phases, including DX, contests etc., they are able to produce really fine material not only for the *Sidebander* but their column in *CQ* as well. How they manage to do all they do, I do not know; but they certainly are real fine people and fine hams.

Observed: SSBARA needs more members and more support for its very worthwhile objectives. If you are interested in s.s.b., and want to join the Association, drop $3.00 in the mail with your name, address and call to: SSBARA, 12 Elm St., Lynbrook, N.Y. I recommend it!!

Questions

6 Meter Antenna—"How about a recommendation for a 6 meter antenna (not the run of the mill) that has been tried and proven its worth?"

There are a number of good v.h.f. antennas that work fine on 6 meters. Personally, I'm partial to the Yagi.

Something just a little different? Well, why not try K4CJS's take-off on the "Wonder Bar?" He swears by it.

See Figure 1 for construction details. George says that it works very well with his Heath "Sixer."

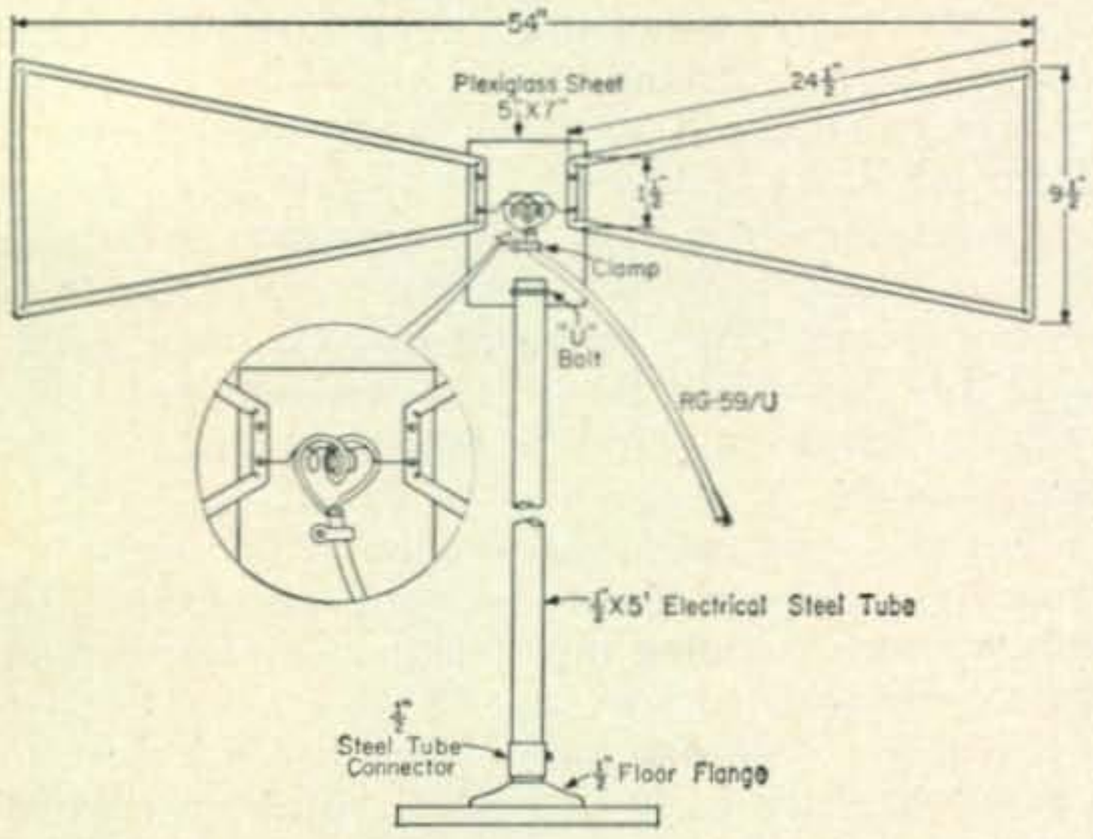

Fig. 1—A six meter version of the famous "Wonderbar" antenna. The center insulator is a 5" × 7" piece of plexiglass or similar insulating material. TV antenna elements or ¼" copper tubing or rod may be used to construct the "bowtie." The center loading coil consists of 10 turns of #14 bare wire 1" diameter and spaced ⅛" between turns, with a 2 turn link of #14 plastic covered wire around the center. Adjust for minimum s.w.r. by varying turn spacing.

Thanks so much for the info George and 75!

Viking Ranger—"Of late, I noticed that my Viking Ranger "down modulates." What should I look for?"

First thing to do is to check the excitation to the final. Make sure that you have enough drive—around 2½ to 3 mils. Next, check your final p.a. loading to make certain that your antenna is taking power. Check band switch connections and finally the 6146 tube in the final.

6146 Oscillation—"I built up a final (all band) using a 6146 in Class C. I use a pi-output network. On the higher bands the 6146 takes off. Any tips?"

Yes. Be sure you have a parasitic choke in series with the final plate of the 6146—about 6 turns of number 18 enameled wire wound on a 100 Ohm ½ watt resistor. Put a 47 Ohm ½ watt resistor in series with the 6146 grid. Make certain that input and output circuits of your final have sufficient separation or are shielded from each other. Make sure that you do not have excessive plate and screen voltages.

If neutralization is necessary, try a piece of #14 copper wire (connected to the outside of the plate parasitic choke)—near it, another piece of wire connected to the 6146 grid input circuit (above ground). Use an isolating capacitor for the cold end of your tuned grid input circuit. Try 2½" lengths of wire over which you have slipped a piece of insulating tubing (spaghetti). Follow normal neutralization procedures as given in the handbook, i.e., plate voltage off of final—excitation on—and grid dip meter used in diode position to detect rf in final output circuit. Adjust wires against each other for minimum rf reading on the g.d. meter.

Fuses—"Take another look in the various radio handbooks and you will see that most of the rigs described therein are *not* fused. I'm just a Novice and don't know too much about anything yet, but it seems to me that all rigs should be fused. What's your opinion?"

I did take another look at some of the handbooks I have and you are 100% correct! My opinion? Well, I think *every* rig should be fused too. Let us hope that those who prepare the various radio handbooks will indicate the *proper* fusing for the rigs described, in future issues.

Stored Shock—"Sometime ago when building up a linear final power supply, I used a number of electrolytic capacitors of very high value. Well, after trying a couple of these surplus 'goodies' I put them on the shelf and then forgot about them. One day my mother came in to tidy up my shack (as many mothers do), and in dusting the shelf where these two capacitors were stored, she brushed her hand against one of them and received a nasty shock. This happened about 3 days after I had used the capacitors. Tell me, how long do condensers generally hold their charge in open air?"

It depends upon the size and type of condenser. However, I have known a 100 mf electrolytic capacitor to hold a very large part of its charge after 60 days, my left hand will attest to this! In areas where the humidity is high, there will be a very gradual leak-off of the stored charge, but very much faster than in a very dry atmosphere. Be safe, not sorry! Discharge those capacitors when you store