

**Brunette Amen**  
**My "Idea Guy"**  
**a remembrance**  
**Rob Sylvester AA1BS**



I met Burdette on 75 meters when I checked into a discussion of 3 or 4 local hams one morning about 3 years ago. He had been in Maine since the 1990's. He had been a ham in Virginia where he had been on the Navy ship Belknap and moved to Buxton after his wife had passed.

Burdette was a quiet man, one who was easily spoken over at times, but a man of great practical knowledge and one of sharing. Burdette and I first hit it off over antennas. He had become reasonably proficient at EZNec and he introduced me to the program and came and showed me how to use it. We then traded plans back and forth as well as sharing results of our different experiments.

During this time, we started a habit of having coffee at my house once a week. At times, there were one or two others who would show up and we would discuss the problems of the day as well as projects we wanted to work on. One, called the "Appliance" was a device in a suitcase with monitor, transceiver with Raspberry Pi control to be used for FT-4 and FT-8. Burdette has parts (I believe) at his home that were going to be for the project.

Burdette began to open up to my wife, Laura and myself during some of those weekly visits and told us many stories of growing up in Nebraska near his grandfathers farm near Lincoln. We also heard many stories about his career on the USS Belknap where he was a radar systems technician. It was in Virginia where Burdette got into ham radio.

Over the 3 years, I have benefited from his knowledge, solved some antenna issues and the chance to talk with him almost every day of those 3 years.

Burdette was a very caring individual. About a year ago, he was talking to me and mentioning that he might like to get involved with the club as a means of giving back. He has had the chance to pick up a few rigs, and had recently got himself a new radio which freed up his FTDX-1000 and he was interested in donating it so that maybe some others could get some use out of it, either as an active club rig, or as a loaner for new hams or if a member needs a loaner for a short term basis. Burdette has also made arrangements that the club may be the beneficiary of more of the equipment that he had.

Burdette was also instrumental in putting a bug in my ear to try and do some POTA activations as a way to get out and operate. The day before we were to do our first POTA activation, Burdette went

missing from the radio. After two days, we found out that he had gone in an ambulance. After a couple of phone calls, I found out he had been taken to Maine Med with kidney failure. Not a good thing for a man with only one kidney. Laura and I visited him every other day for the next 4 weeks. For a while, it looked like his remaining kidney would recover enough that he could get out of the hospital and start dialysis 3X per week. We visited him on a Sunday and he looked great. He was cracking a few jokes and asking if we were going to use his FTDX-1000 for Field Day. On Tuesday, Burdette began to have some nausea issues and on Friday, he slipped into a semi conscious state and died on Saturday.

To me, Burdette was one of those unique people: quiet, simple and honest, a teacher, mentor but most importantly a friend. He was also a wonderful local ham who was willing to share some of himself with me, my wife, and many around him.

I will miss the man greatly, but will think of him whenever I struggle a bit with a project....I hope the "Idea Man" will be there in spirit to help me out.

### Burdette's Obituary

Burdette Bruce Amen Obituary Burdette Bruce Amen was born November 25, 1948, in Kearney NE to Melvin and Elvera (Titkemeier) Amen. He graduated from Oxford High School in Oxford NE with the class of 1967. After graduation he attended Hastings Technical School and majored in electronics and while attending, he enlisted in the US Navy. On November 26, 1969, he married Carol Seberg from Hastings, NE and to this union a daughter Amy was born. After his graduation he attended basic training in San Diego, CA and later transferred to Virginia Beach, VA. He spent most of his military career at sea aboard the USS Belknap naval ship and retired from the Navy after 20+ years of service. Carol preceded him in death on May 26, 1993, and after her passing he relocated to Buxton, Maine to be closer to his oldest brother Rolland. He and Rolland enjoyed going to engine shows and tinkering with their small tractors. Another one of Burdette's passions was his daily talks on his ham radio and weekly coffee visits with his good friend Rob. He was a member of the York County Amateur Radio Club. Burdette was a quiet man with a cute sense of humor (you never knew what he was going to come up with) and enjoyed the very simple things in life. He was always ready and willing to help anyone when and with whatever he could. He was preceded in death by his wife Carol, daughter Amy, his parents, brothers Alan Amen and Rolland Amen and his wife Carol, Brothers-in-law John Novotny, Bob Edwards and Jack Wilder, a sister and brother in infancy, and his parents-in-law. He is survived by his brothers, LaRoyce (Donna) Amen of Holdrege NE, Terry (Geri) Amen of Oxford NE, Don (Linda) Amen of Roca NE, sisters Marilyn Novotny, Joyce Wilder and Cheryl Edwards all of Holdrege NE, and Lori (John) Ott of Lincoln NE. Sisters-in-law Betty Amen of Holdrege NE, and Sarah (Tim) Gotchey, brothers-in-law George Seberg and Lewis (Joan) Seberg of Hastings NE. He is also survived by a very special niece Sandy (Jay) Moody of Buxton Maine along with many other nieces and nephews. A graveside service will be held in Hastings NE at a later date this fall. To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Burdette, please visit our Tree Store.