

How do I?

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An occasional series

This week: *Betty Botter* and Voice Training, or
What do auctioneers and hams have in common?

Long time readers of this space will see there are many articles on radios, antennas, and other tips and tricks for operating. See <https://www.radioclub-carc.com/resources/> for more articles.

Some may recall *Betty Botter and her Bitter Butter* as a childhood tongue twister. How can that be relevant to Amateur Radio?

Auctioneers learn the Betty Botter story in auctioneering college and “practice it every day for the rest of their lives”.

Auctioneering is like amateur radio. You need to do it on a regular basis to be good at it. Most auctioneers only do a few sales a year. There are just not enough art and collectible auctions for one auctioneer to do a sale a week. Automobile and livestock auctioneers get the most chances to do auctions. If you see a “world championship” contest for auctioneers, almost all will be active livestock or automobile auctioneers. If you don’t get to auctioneer multiple days a week, or if your radio activity is limited a couple weekly nets, voice training may help keep “mic fright” at bay.

There are many versions of Betty Botter. The original, in my opinion is too difficult. Your brain is very focused on the words and less focused on how to say them. I prefer this version, found on an auction school website. The lyrics are much easier. Hint - it is actually harder to say it slowly.

Betty Botter at Auction School <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C04Y7HDA3ME>

Betty Botter bought a bit of bitter butter
Betty said her bitter butter made her batter bitter
Betty bought some better butter to make her bitter batter better.
Betty said her better butter made her bitter batter better.

ten-ten
twenty-twenty
thirty-thirty
forty-forty
fifty-fifty
sixty-sixty
seventy-seventy
eighty-eighty
ninety-ninety

ninety-ninety
eighty-eighty
seventy-seventy
sixty-sixty
fifty-fifty
forty-forty
thirty-thirty
twenty-twenty
ten-ten

To see some of the best auctioneers in action:

Blain Lotz 2014 World Livestock Auctioneer Champion WLAC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBEGo3QpwT0>

Young Cattle Auctioneer Champion - America's Heartland

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ea7gn8hhEFA>

Blaine Lotz Western College of Auctioneering Selling the Rake

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0He49j_5-g

Auctioneer Clucking a Tune

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHCP9vvz9AI>

In preparation for contesting or emergency communications, the object is NOT to talk as fast as an auctioneer. The object is to condition your vocal cords and build up stamina so you can talk for up to 8 hours. Talking clearly will help you be heard and result in fewer repeats or busted QSOs.

The YouTube video of Blaine Lotz selling the rake makes me think he would be a very good Amateur Radio SSB contester.

Catch 'ya on the air!



Side note: I have been bidding at auctions since I was 3 years old. For some reason they would not take my bid on feeder cattle. Made my first purchase at 6 years old. Started buying cattle on my own account at 16.

A good auctioneer is fun to watch. "Old Man" Maurer at Maurer Auctions near Pottsville quit when he was about 90 years old. He ran a cataloged auction and if he didn't sell two lots a minute in the first hour, he picked up the pace.