



# HAM HUM

Published by  
AK-SAR-BEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
Post Office Box 291 — Downtown Station  
Omaha, Nebraska 68101



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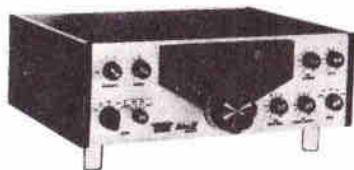
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**HAM HUM** is the official organ of the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club, Inc., of Omaha, Nebraska, mailed monthly to all members and to others upon request.

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AK-SAR-BEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
Post Office Box 291  
Omaha, Nebraska 68101

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**Deadline for September issue is August 22nd**

**Dues-Annual Basis**  
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New member initiation fee . . . . . \$ 1.00  
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### NEXT MEETING

**WHEN:** TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1978

**TIME:** 7:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER  
333 South 132nd Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68154

**PROGRAM:** John Williams and Timothy Sisson from the Byte Shop will introduce us to the wonderful new world of microcomputers. Computers will soon become a fascinating new addition to many Ham shacks! Bring your questions and join the fun!

73s WBØPHP

\* \* \*

VISITORS WELCOME - REFRESHMENTS - EYEBALL QSOs  
\*\*\*\*\*

## THE PREZ SEZ

A favorite saying where I work is "With increased flexibility comes increased complexity." The flexibility of deregulation by F.C.C. appears to be a means to an end. A real end. The Communications Act of 1978 is upon us. And the bill, HR 13015, by Rep. L. H. Van Deerlin from California proposes to abolish the F.C.C.

Who will our affiliate, the A.R.R.L., communicate with then? Preliminary information indicates a five-man committee making the decisions. The new Act may be good or it may be bad for the amateur community. Certainly, the Act of 1934 needs to be brought up to date. Many advances in electronics have occurred since then. I am attempting at this time to get a copy of the document as originally presented. This Act does bear watching as it will affect us all. Final approval is expected within the next two years.

Again, the World Administrative Radio Conference of 1979 comes to mind. The timing of the two is uncanny. Getting complex — you bet.

Best advice so far, I believe, is to keep your eyes and ears open for further information and be willing to communicate. Be willing to write your Congressman. Be willing to use your talents for community service. And be willing to illustrate what a fine hobby this is, through your enjoying our bands and sharing with others the amateur philosophy. In other words, be active in amateur radio. Every one of us in the past has been active. If your hobby ever needed you, it needs you now — revitalize.

Several inquiries have been received during this year from Iowa and

Nebraska amateurs about plates on vehicles. I have passed the question to WØFQB, Art who was involved with the original legislation in this state. His opinion appears in this issue.

We wait for the availability and purchase of a new receiver, authorized previously by the Board, for positioning on the Woodmen of the World building as part of our split site repeater. At that time it is expected that the crystal filter, recently acquired and being used on our single site repeater, will be transferred to the split site receiver. The single site repeater will then be moved to a different location and benefit the community as an additional club repeater.

For those of you who wish to keep sharp on hidden transmitter searches, I suggest you write for information to HAPPY FLYERS, Hart Postlethwaite, WB6CQW, 1811 Hillman Ave., Belmont, CA 94002.

The direction finding equipment is available assembled or in kit form; also from other sources. From what I gather, this instrument can take the fun from contest searches as it finds the transmitter first all the time.

Possible contributions to the Club of equipment should be offered to the Board for approval. It isn't that we don't want them, but rather that we have a storage problem. Since we have no building to call our own, we must be selective in what we inventory. Accumulation of duplicate equipment will just raise insurance costs and take the piece out of use. Necessary back-up units in some cases are helpful. Keep offering — we are appreciative that you think of the Club.

## FIELD DAY 1978

An apology is due WDØEFZ, Marty as he was not listed last month as a co-participant in providing the Printed Circuit Boards program. Please accept, Marty. Thanks to WBØCMC, John and Marty for a fine demonstration of "how to." It appears the timing is right for new life in electronic construction. The advent of reasonable cost digital components has reopened the door for those of us who are appliance operators to get into building.

The Club has been offered and the Board has accepted a new 80 meter dipole. Also, we intend to replace the towers held currently. Please see our ad in the swap column. Two of our rotors and control boxes need overhauling. May I have a volunteer to rework them?

I have hopes of setting up a Nebraska QSO party in the near future, using the refurbished trailer of course. Further details will follow if it looks feasible.

If you are not on vacation, join us if you will for the August meeting — same time and place.

Jim, WBØQGV  
\*\*\*\*\*

## 1978 HAWKEYE HAM & COMPUTERFEST

Sponsored by Des Moines Radio Amateur Association, Box 88, Des Moines, Iowa 50301.

Will be held at Veterans Auditorium — downtown Des Moines — August 19 & 20, 1978.

\$4 admission/\$3 advanced registration — Buffet \$8 at the Ramada Inn Saturday night.

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It was billed as a 24-hour operating event. But for at least nine members of the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club, Field Day 1978 turned out to be nearly a 48-hour marathon.

Beginning shortly after work Friday, June 23, Gerry WBØPPF, Butch WØNGD, Dick WØHXL, Bob K9BL, Phil WBØWYE, Marcy WDØHPK, Bob WBØLYU, Mike WD8LOQ, and Jim WBØQGV arrived at the site to help other volunteers with the setup of equipment. They were still there Sunday at 1 p.m. when transceivers were turned off and the tearing down of the various shacks got underway.

For the 24 hours of operating, beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday, it was a smooth operation. But, as only Murphy would have it, there were problems earlier.

As an example, the club's new 6 element, 6 meter beam will now be easier to handle. Also, it probably will be a 4 element beam in the future. The beam was damaged in what was a near tragedy Friday evening.

Dave, WDØDLN and Frank, WAØIWF were on a 20-foot tower installing the 2 and 6 meter beams when a guy wire gave way and the tower came crashing to the ground. Dave, who was not wearing a safety belt, jumped clear. But Frank, who was attached to the tower with his belt, rode the tower to the ground. Fortunately, he was only shaken by the damaged beam helping to cushion the impact.

There was trouble on another tower, too. The 20 meter beam became operational just in time to

begin the Field Day event. First, it was discovered that a balun was needed for the beam. Bob, K9BL drove back home to obtain one. It was installed, the rotor was checked, and all seemed to work perfectly. It was 1 p.m., starting time, and we were on the air on 20 meters. Guess who came sneaking back in. It was our good old buddy, Murphy. The beam wouldn't turn! "Strange," said the operators. The beam had worked when it was first tested. While experts were analyzing the problem, some enterprising volunteers climbed the tower to turn the beam by hand to allow the 20 meter operation to continue. Then the problem was discovered. The rotor was wired backwards. Terminals 1-8 were wired 8-1. That was corrected quickly and the rotor was back in operation.

Unfortunately, the only satellite operation was the green, one-hole variety (often called "comfort station") at the 144th and Pacific Streets site. Club members had planned to use "Oscar," the amateur satellite, to make some additional contacts and points. However, for some reason, the linkage was shifted to 432 MHz. "That put us out of business," said Jim, WBØQGV.

Two meters went well. During a one-half hour period, six states were worked.

Ten meters went down early, followed not much later by 15 meters. Twenty was good most of the night. Forty and 75 were crowded.

One of the 20 meter contacts turned into a short QSO. As he was in the past, former club president "Rip" Riportella, now WA2LQQ of Vincetown, New Jersey, sought out and made contact with WØEQU. Both

Bob, WAØDHU and Jim, WBØQGV had short conversations with Rip.

A sizeable number of contacts were made on CW, with Mike WØMQ, Charlie WØQQN, Lou KØLST and Joe KØKES as some of the hot operators.

Not all hams on the bands were interested in Field Day, as those who attempted to operate RTTY on 20 meters discovered. The RTTY effort was abandoned when other operators made it clear they were interested in QSOs, not Field Day contacts.

The YLs were out in force this year, and a number of them stayed through much of Saturday night operating on the various bands. Among them were Jean WBØQAY, Amy WBØUQI, Rita WDØFOX, Loretta WBØMNL, Sandy KAØBAK, Irene WBØMPC, Ellen WBØHWF, and the previously mentioned Marcy, WDØHPK. Amy, by the way, operated Saturday night and early Sunday morning, and quit only when her voice gave out.

Credit for being the youngest operator, also a YL, goes to Lisa, KAØBAA. The 11-year-old Lisa spent a good deal of time operating in the novice shack.

Field Day Chairman, Gerry, WBØPPF, estimated that about 65 signed up to operate. Not all got to do so, however. There just wasn't enough time to permit them all a chance at the mike or key.

Gerry also credited the shack chairmen with doing a "fantastic job." Special recognition went to Phil, WBØWYE who was chairman of the cook shack for the first time. With new cooks this year, the cook shack "really put out a good product," said Jim, WBØQGV.

Communications between the various shacks and the registration desk was through the use of low-power 220 MHz rigs.

But what probably attracted the most attention, and comments at the Field Day site was the rebuilt equipment trailer. Ted, WBØUEB and Bob, WBØTVD each put in about 200 hours in the rebuilding effort. Their welding talent and mechanical genius was evident to those who inspected the trailer. Special time saving tools and some steel were provided by Mike, WBØBMV. Other metal siding and hardware, valued at about \$100, was donated by Mac, WAØBMJ.

The trailer was the subject of several photographs in last month's HAM HUM. However a personal inspection is necessary to appreciate the hours of labor and the talent of the volunteers.

By Joe Niemann — WBØFWB  
\*\*\*\*\*

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## LICENSE PLATES

I was asked for my thoughts regarding the possibility of obtaining "amateur radio license plates" for trucks, recreation vehicles, trailers, vans, etc. I suppose this was brought about because I was a lobbyist along with Dave Ablowich, WØDW, Chief Engineer at Grand Island FCC, during our successful effort in obtaining present amateur license plates, during that legislative period.

Without question, such "identification" would be most valuable and important during any emergency where communication could provide service. The point should be made that this amateur radio service can be and is capable of not only local (attention 2 meter and CB), but can serve county, state, national, and/or international levels, as has been demonstrated many times.

Such license plate identification could provide passage into an effected area without a hassle, and be most important from the standpoint of these vehicles providing housing for equipment and manpower, plus protection from the elements. Also, such a vehicle could be designated as a command post for the immediate effected area, and would be easily identified by others needing communication or liaison service within the perimeter.

As you are aware, our amateur license plates are not a vanity or prestige plate and this point should be emphasized in any legislative approach, stressing "identification for emergency communication service."

I don't think our legislature or the vehicle license bureau would waive the description of the vehicle type and/or

tonnage restriction identification from such a license plate. As a result, two or more separate records would have to be maintained, all of which would add to the bureau's operating expense. This would then no doubt command a increase in cost of all amateur license fees to safeguard their budget.

An increase in license plate fees has been attempted in other states; however, in Iowa any vehicle not exceeding 4½ tons can acquire call letter plates for \$5.00. Initially this fee was to cover the cost of production, but such plates are now issued every third year, with tabs issued for the two intervening years in both Iowa and Nebraska, yet we are being assessed for license plate fabrication each year which is a rip-off.

In the negative sense, I am concerned with the possibility of "opening pandora's money box." As most of us are aware, Proposition 13

has caused considerable thinking as regards taxation and operational budgets at all government levels. The various divisions of our state government have been instructed to hold down operation expense, even if it means layoffs, in order to stay within their budget allotment.

Any club or sponsor should realize that it will take an allout state amateur participation, with personal legislative contacts, including endorsements by Red Cross, March of Dimes, etc. Also, state statutes now require careful accounting of any expenses occurred in lobbying efforts, with a report of same following the given legislative session.

What am I saying then? I am of the opinion that the timing for legislative action next session, plus the risk of an increased license fee, does not appear to be good.

Art, WØFQB

\*\*\*\*\*

## ARRL MIDWEST DIVISION CONVENTION OCTOBER 13, 14 & 15, 1978

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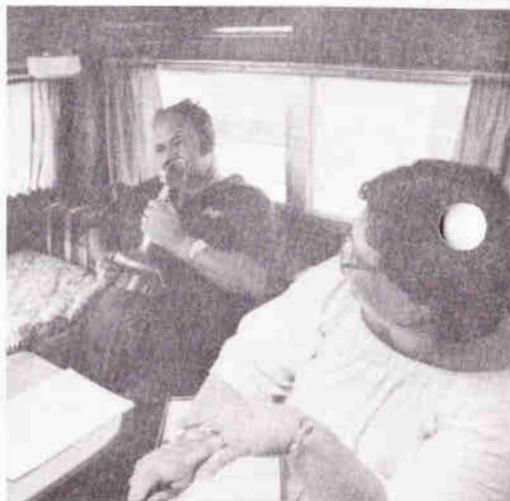
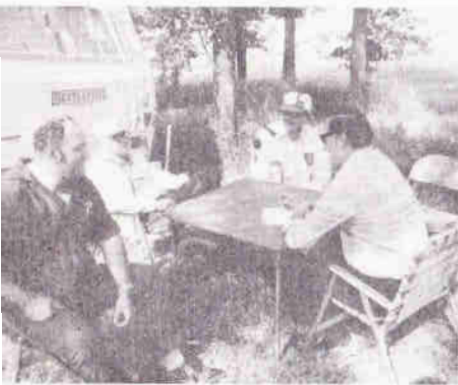
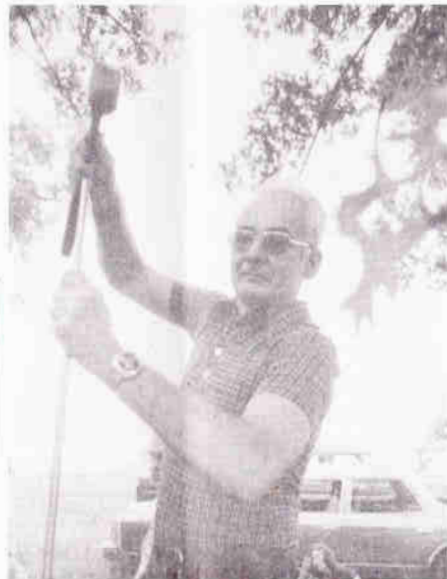
Don, WØHG

Mail checks to: MO-KAN COUNCIL OF AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS,  
P. O. Box 704, Kansas City, MO 64141

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MORE FIELD DAY PHOTOS  
BY  
Dave Hamilton, WØDOLN & Jon Penner, WBØGQT





## LADIES ONLY

CQ FIELD DAY...or was it CQ FUN DAY??? "Hey, I think there should be a frequency for every woman to get on and operate, hi-hi!"....."It was so much fun... everyone had fun and we weren't so worried about whether we made the most contacts...just learning and having fun in the novice shack."..... "Fun! And I got on when Sandy got tired."....."Amazing...impressive...the efficiency of the operation...the set up for a possible emergency situation... just to think so many contacts could be made in that manner within 24 hours!"

Those comments are from four of the fine YLs who worked Field Day. All of them are first-timers since becoming amateur operators.

"CQ field day???...came an almost hesitant, questioning voice in the 40 meter shack. The first contact was exciting, because after all, Jean (WB0QAY) is a Technician and hasn't yet had the privileges of 40 meter phone, but with a control operator there, she jumped right in. The next call was a little easier...the pace stepped up and before anyone could believe their ears, Jean was operating in the 15 meter shack and was heard sending "CQ FUN DAY" in a most self-assured voice, taking command of the situation, with Prez Jim (WB0QGV) as control operator. In fact operating 15 and 40 meters was so much fun, she forgot to stop to eat...till the food was all gone. So she drove to meet the family at the cabin and settled for breakfast.

Our teen-age novice shack chairman, Marcy (WD0HPK) admits that

she didn't know quite everything about setting up the shack on Friday evening, but that Bob (WB0LYU) kept a close eye on the operation as novices did all the work. "Everyone wanted to work" and if there was a lapse, she stayed up all night Saturday to pinch-hit. "It was just so much fun for the novices, but at first it was hard for some operators to get used to using a new call," Marcy observed. Sounds as if she did her "homework" well getting all the novice volunteers out!

Eleven-year-old Lisa (KA0BAA) said mom (alias Marlene Jugel) took her to Field Day and she had lots of fun. She got to operate when Sandy (KA0BAK)...whom she knew from novice classes...got tired. According to Lisa you don't send too fast or the other person will send so fast that you can't copy. (Ed. note: How true!!) A "nice man" made sure she could copy alright and logged her contacts, which she thinks were all from Texas.

Sandy also had a good experience and from an adult's viewpoint was awed by everyone's willingness to work all hours and the efficiency of the operation "portable." The potential in an emergency is fantastic, in her opinion. (Ed note: Since Field Day, Sandy has become the proud owner of the certificate from the FCC that she has passed her 13 wpm code...for many that's a very enviable position!!)

Thanks to all the YLs for such marvelous accomplishments, participation and upgrading. Without them I have little to write about.

33s Jill, WB0NYH  
\*\*\*\*\*



This month do yourself and your loved ones a favor — put together and install a HEATHKIT electronic garage door opener. It really pays off in time and labor savings, not to mention the convenience and extra security it will provide. An important safety reverse feature is standard so that even if your little ones get in the way of the door when it is closing, it will stop and reverse direction without harm. Assembly is really easy and installation can be accomplished by one man in less than eight hours. The digital design, factory assembled receiver and transmitters are state of the art, and programmable to maximize security and minimize false triggering.

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## NOTES FROM JULY 18th BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Mr. Jim Sanford, WDØCSC, and John, WBØCMC, were present and discussed things that have to be done with the equipment in the old Red Cross building. Mr. Sanford says the new building should be ready for occupancy by March, 1979. We are expected to make the moving of our equipment a coordinated move so everyone involved can place their antennas on the 60-ft. tower. When the crane sets the tower in its location, no other antennas can be erected on this tower until the Red Cross accepts the new building from the contractor.

The seven board members present unanimously decided to sell the two crank-up towers that have caused two of our Club members injuries on past field days. These towers cannot be stored properly. They are dangerous and replacing them should eliminate most of, if not all, the problems. The old towers will be available to all Club members in Ham Hum on the highest bidder basis, so good luck bidders!

A motion was made by Jim, WBØJPN, to give Ted, WBØUEB, \$25.00 to help pay the \$75.00 electric bill he encountered while welding the antenna trailer for the Club. Motion Seconded by Bob, WØUQJ, motion carried.

Secretary's Note: The 60 watt motorola transmitter strip and power supply given to the Club shall be returned to Leo F. Connolly, at such time when the Club has no further use for these items.

I would like to thank everyone who responded to the Club's call for help with Field Day activities. A job well done!

Our Club will grow and prosper if all contribute a little of our time, as many members have in the past. If you haven't had the chance to get involved on a Club project, my suggestion is with the Red Cross moving of equipment coming up. Also the Douglas County Building work to be done. If you have some spare time the Club would appreciate your participation toward completing these projects.

Club Secretary

Robert R. Chereck, Sr., WBØTVP

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## RECENT CONTRIBUTORS

Ham Hum Postage

Lawrence Hiltner, WAØQCI

Repeater 34/94

Edward J. Hoffmann, WDØHBY

William E. Kiger, WBØYRK

Repeater 22/82

William E. Kiger, WBØYRK

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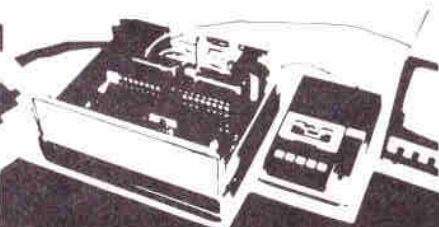
Edward J. Hoffmann, WDØHBY

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Thanks to all!

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Lisa A. Jugel, KAØBAA  
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FOR SALE: One 40-foot crank-up tower; also one 30-foot crank-up tower. The towers are owned by AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club and have been used for field day operations. Please submit bids by mail to: AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club Inc., P.O. Box 291, Omaha, Nebraska 68101. For more detailed information contact club president Jim Peterson, WBØQGV. Phone evenings 558-0643.

FOR SALE: OR TRADE for 220 rig: P&H Linear Amp. 10 thru 80 with full set of extra tubes, and owners manual. \$125.00 or will consider swap + \$\$\$.

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Omaha, NE 68104; 451-1443 evenings.

FOR SALE: Heathkit HR-10B Receiver and 100 Kc Calibrator, 80-10 meters. Excellent for novice - \$60.00. Also have Heathkit HD-1410 Electronic Keyer built and tested for \$40.00. Call Sherman Cold, WBØTEB; phone 291-4698

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-511S, 500 watts, 80-10 meter Xcvr; noise blanker, rit, Vox, selectable sidebands. With manuals and matching power Supply/speaker - \$375.00. Call Chuck Sudds, KØTVD, 3507 Lee Terrace Road, Omaha, NE 68112; phone (402) 455-9916.

FOR SALE: Hallicrafters HT-46 Transmitter, 180 watts, SSB/CW, 80 thru 10 meters and matching SX-146 Receiver. Use separate or transceive. Mint condition - \$400.00. Dick Newsome, WØHXL, 5437 Franklin St., Omaha, NE 68104; phone 558-8855

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