



HAM HUM

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AK-SAR-BEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
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August 1984

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No. 8



Scott, WB0QPP
One of the voices from NWS during severe storm activity.

(See story page 5)

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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Published by:
AK-SAR-BENAMATEURRADIOCLUB,
INC.

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Dues—Annual Basis

(Due and Payable each January 1.)

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Student member \$4.00

Dues—Quarterly Basis (For each quarter or part thereof for balance of calendar year.)

New member initiation fee \$1.00
Regular member \$3.00
Regular member and spouse \$3.60
Student member \$1.05

NEXT MEETING

(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE)

WHEN: Friday, August 31, 1984

TIME: 7:30 P.M. SHARP

WHERE: SPIRIT OF BROWNVILLE RIVERBOAT
HAWORTH PARK, BELLEVUE, NEBRASKA

PROGRAM: CRUISE, POTLUCK DINNER, CASH BAR, DANCING
(SEE ANNOUNCEMENT PAGE 8)

PREZ SEZ

This month's meeting will be moved to the Spirit of Brownville Riverboat located at Haworth Park, Bellevue, NE. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 P.M. aboard ship and will adjourn shortly thereafter to begin a potluck buffet style dinner. Besides the dinner there will be dancing to the jukebox and a cash bar. The river cruise will last three hours and cost \$6.50 per person. Make sure you bring the handhelds and operate maritime mobile.

Last month's meeting proved to be one of the biggest turnouts we've had this year, and one of the most rewarding projects our Club has ever tackled was shown off for the first time. For those who were unable to make the meeting, the E.O.C. station is a real knockout. It contains an Alpha 76, Icom IC-720A, and Dentron tuner for H.F. use and an Icom 271H 2 meter station, Midlands synthesized 220 for V.H.F. and all this is linked together by a Zenith H-89 computer complete with dual disk drives and dot matrix printer. The computer is used for computerized Morse Code and RTTY message handling. To complement the station there are backlit transparencies suspended above the operating positions containing color maps of the World, U.S. Call Zones, Nebraska, Nebraska Counties, and Omaha and nearby communities. To top off the night, Walt Brown was presented a plaque dedicating the new station in his honor. Without Walt's tireless efforts persuading the City Council members of the important role amateur radio plays during disasters, the funds to build this operating center never would have been secured. Numerous volunteers gave of their time and skills to complete this station. Thanks to all who participated. Mitch Gagne tells me he will have a bunch of photos in the next Ham Hum of the tour and meeting.

Walt Brown is working on a program with Father Moran, 9N1MM, for the October meeting. He will keep us informed as the date is confirmed with Father Moran.

73's and hope to
CU at the River

Dave — NØCLW

TRANSMITTER HUNT REPORT July 15, 1984

The Transmitter Hunt on July 15 was won by Kim Kirwan, WDØBGT. The winning time was 52 minutes. Second place went to Doug, KØBOY, one hour and 2 minutes. Third place went to Jay, KB8TR. Next hunt is scheduled for August 12.

de John Gebuhr, WBØCMC

FIELD DAY, JUNE 23, 24, 1984 HELD ON BOYS TOWN SITE

Walter J. Brown, Jr., KAØDMB

John E. Bruckner, NØAJU

Frank Clayton, WDØESL

Megan Clayton

Seth Clayton

James C. Faulkenberry, N5DZZ

June E. Gagne, KAØRYM

Mitchel H. Gagne, NØAZF

David B. Hamilton, NØCLW

Wm. A. (Duke) Humphrey, WDØEWH

Dick Jugel, KØDG

Marlene Jugel

Michael S. Lennen, KDØEV

Douglas L. Marsh, WAØCQS

Lawrence R. Merriman, KVØG

Ellen Morrissey, WBØHWF

Jay Nichols, KB8TR

Dr. Charles Rush, NØAZ

James E. Sanford, NØAIH

Gregory C. Zimmerman, NØBTN



Folding up one of the tents —
Mitch, NØAZF and David, NØCLW.



Lowering of the antenna — Mike Lennen, KDØEV;
Jim, NØAIH; Frank, WDØESL; Dave, NØCLW;
Greg, NØBTN; and not in view, Mitch, NØAZF.

Photos by Ellen, WBØHWF

MIDLANDS ARES NET REPORTS

March 11	32 Check-Ins	8 Counties
March 18	44 Check-Ins	8 Counties
March 25	37 Check-Ins	7 Counties
April 1	43 Check-Ins	9 Counties
April 8	22 Check-Ins	7 Counties
April 15	34 Check-Ins	6 Counties
April 22	30 Check-Ins	5 Counties
April 29	43 Check-Ins	5 Counties
May 6	40 Check-Ins	5 Counties
May 13	41 Check-Ins	9 Counties
May 20	41 Check-Ins	8 Counties
May 27	29 Check-Ins	5 Counties

Also May 13, one formal traffic

Also May 27, one formal traffic

de WØEWH "Duke", Net Mgr.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DURING SEVERE STORM ACTIVITY

WØEQU/National Weather has changed. It used to be a mysterious element of every weather watch, removed from the decision making role of Net Control, with the real gutsy stuff taking place on some secret UHF frequency.

There were valid reasons for doing it that way. It was impossible to run a net from the NWS Library. The blinkies would show up with half-a-dozen people ready for a party. The background noise was around +60db. The amateur equipment was too far from the WX area. By the time a runner got the message to the Lead Forecaster, it was old news. As for the gutsy stuff---it wasn't really secret. It's just that we didn't know what we were doing. We figured if we were going to pull a dumb stunt, it would be better to do it where no one else could hear it!

Well, pretty soon we got so good at looking good, we were asked to expand our area of coverage. Then the hydrologist asked us to take charge of a host of river staff gauges. That worked so well we were asked to distribute official NWS super-accurate rain gauges to every corner of Radioland. Amateurs just ate-'em-up. Why---they're so accurate they'll even measure high relative stupidity.

The fancier we got, the more we were asked to do. What with the rain gauges, river gauges, tornadoes, and professionally trained blinkies with their rotating rain reports, one step forward meant two back! Something had to change.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Impromptu discussions invariably yielded the same conclusion. We needed to change the NC situation. We know Net Control should stem from NWS, but how to get away from the noisy blinkies? Not so easy... You see, for years we've been sentenced to the NWS Library. It was impossible to relocate to another part of the building. Everyone said so. Everyone except the NWS Boss. A request was made, some cussin' and discussin', and zip-zap we were moved. Then to everyone's surprise, the eagle flew over. Equipment needed for total modernization started to pour in. A tower from a Silent Key, antennas from somewhere else, a new 220 radio, co-ax, and custom two-position operating dias. Phoo! Large work crews volunteered to install the equipment. The Corps of Engineers couldn't have done better!

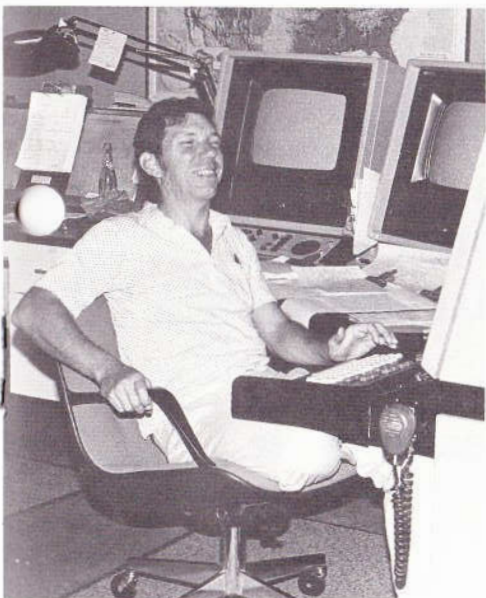
Let's examine the results of the effort. Net Control consists of two operating positions. The operator on the right is EQU. He has two-meters and two-twenty both on Hustler G-Series antennas. The fellow on the left is a wanderer. He has two-meters and two-twenty both synthesized. He also has stacked eleven-element beams to access the far-out stations. His job is to communicate with other NWS areas. He is also Alternate N.C. The third person is the radar observer. He coordinates radio reports with radar observations. The station is located on the operating floor, adjacent to the radar room. The Lead Forecaster can hear everything going on, and can advise Net Control without leaving the room. The close proximity fosters coordination and training.

Everyone assigned to NWS receives training on radar observations, bulletins, and Net Control procedures. The training is furnished by the 27-man NWS staff whenever possible. Slow-moving severe weather systems provide ideal opportunities for observing radar interpretations, NAWA's procedures, and behind-the-scenes weather forecasting.

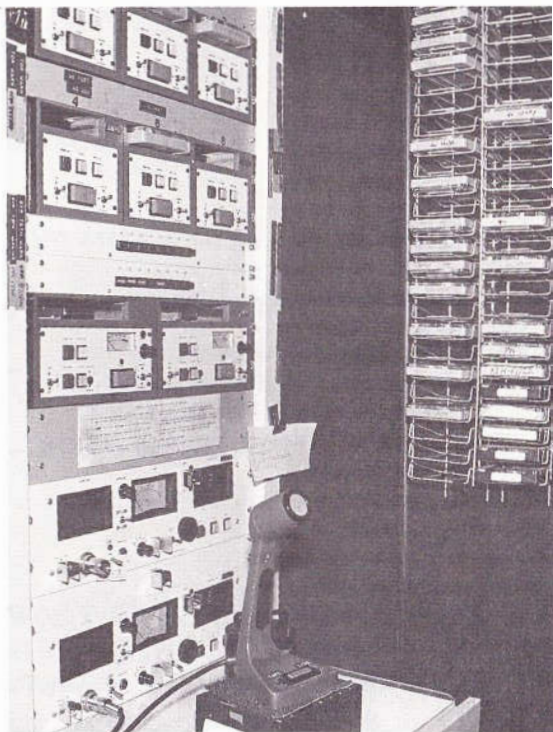
How does all this work? Quite well, actually. Alert spotters sit on hilltops watching for the first sign of something severe. More important though, is what the spotter doesn't see! Remember the story about the little pest that cried wolf just to see what would happen? Well, NWS and the 911 Center get countless reports from the public of funnels or tornadoes in the Omaha area. When the Lead Forecaster gets one of these reports, he'll request confirmation from one of our UNtrained spotters. Our response, combined with radar observations, will weigh heavily on his decision to push the button. Does the system work? Well, how long has it been since you've heard the sirens in Omaha?

de NØAIH

SEE PHOTOS OPPOSITE PAGE



Steve Byrd, Meteorologist, National Weather Service , Omaha...Steve shows us once again how he predicts the weather with his eyes closed.



A look at N.O.A.A. Weather Radio.



Scott, WBØQPP, (top) and Jim, NØAIH, at the console.

Photos by
MITCH, NØAZF

COME AND JOIN US

FOR A FUN EVENING ON THE

"SPIRIT OF BROWNVILLE RIVERBOAT"

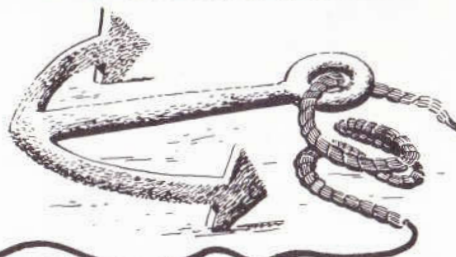
AT

HAWORTH PARK — BELLEVUE, NE.

CRUISE BEGINS: 7:30 P.M., AUGUST 31, 1984.
THIS IS A THREE-HOUR CRUISE ON THE
RIVER FEATURING A POTLUCK DINNER
AND A CASH BAR.
BRING YOUR XYL AND FRIENDS FOR A
FANTASTIC FUNFILLED EVENING.

COST PER PERSON \$6.50
CALL SANDY AT 493-1390 FOR YOUR
RESERVATIONS AND DETAILS ON THE
DINNER.

P.S.
BRING YOUR H.T. AND OPERATE MARITIME
MOBILE



DONATIONS

34/94

Walter J. Brown, Jr., KAØDMB
Dave Hamilton, NØCLW
Jay McAleer, WAØLLQ

22/82

Walter J. Brown, Jr., KAØDMB
Dave Hamilton, NØCLW
Jay McAleer, WAØLLQ

Ham Hum Postage

James D. Lafferty, Sr.

40/00

Betty Pinkerton, NØDGM

NEW MEMBER

Thomas P. Pillow, KAØJVR
2213 Coventry Dr.
Omaha, NE 68123
292-4487

ADDRESS CHANGE

Bill Fehrman, KAØAAA
4519 25th Street
Columbus, NE 68601



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HAM HUM SWAP

NO CHARGE FOR HAM RADIO ADS (NON-COMMERCIAL) SUBJECT TO SPACE LIMITATION. MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO P.O. BOX 291. SEE COPY DEADLINE PAGE 2.

FOR SALE

OR TRADE: 2 meter DX120 Beam by Cushcraft, \$20.
Ten-TEC 18 AMP 12V DC Power Supply, \$75.
Call WAØLLQ Jay, 339-3448.

FOR SALE: UHF Repeater, complete with manual.
Make offer. John Gebuhr WBØCMC, 553-5296.

* * *

For Sale from the Estate of A.H. Maller:

- 1 — ICOM solid state HF SSB Transceiver IC 701
- 1 — ICOM — AC Power Supply 701PS
- 1 — ICOM Computerized Remote Control ICRM2
- 1 — Digi Max 1.2 GHz Frequency Counter D-1200
- 1 — Micronta 3 Range Power/SWR Tester
- 1 — CDE transmit/rec Direction Control (antenna)
- 1 — Kenwood Phone Patch Controller PC 1
- 1 — Kenwood TR 2400
- 1 — Kyokuto FM 144-10SXR II Transceiver
- 1 — CES Automatic Dialer Mod 251
- Plus Misc (tower, antenna, dummy loads rotor, junk)

We have priced a few of these items but probably would list them as Best Offer. Call 553-1724.

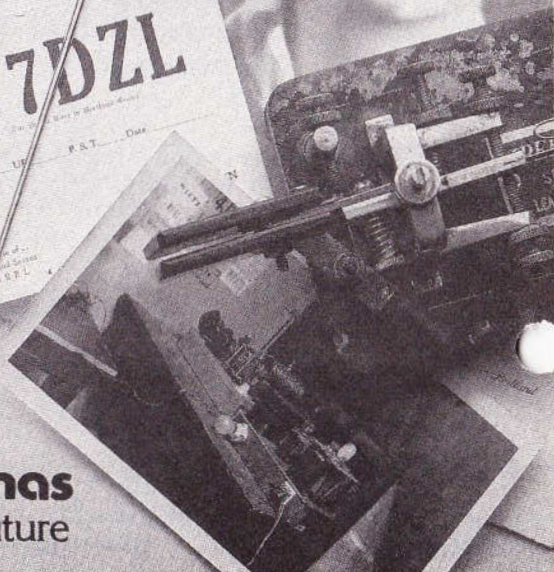
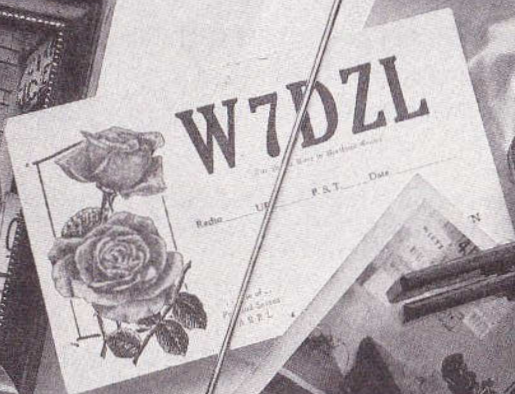
I N 1933, FDR WASN'T THE ONLY ONE MAKING RADIO HISTORY.

While the country gathered around the radio to listen to President Roosevelt's fireside chats, Jim Larsen was already working on a converter to pick up police calls on the family radio. When he found that he could pick up ham signals too, he was soon roaming the air waves as W7DZL, or "Dizzle," to his fellow hams.



A perfectionist even then, he kept taking his radios apart and rebuilding them, and designing antennas to go with them... each time making improvements and each time thinking of more improvements to make.

Now after 50 years as a ham operator, Jim keeps reaching out further — both as an antenna designer, and as an amateur. Because although his call sign has since changed to K7GE, and his QSL cards include nearly every country, he's still dreaming up more improvements... and putting his dreams to work.



Larsen Antennas
The Wave of the Future