



HAM HUM

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AK-SAR-BEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
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APRIL 1986

New Committee

On March 4, 1986, the Board of Trustees of the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club formally brought the club into the age of digital communications. After passing a resolution to actively support all of the digital modes, the Digital Communications Committee was created with Frank Wolczak WAØIWF and Scott Persson WBØQPP as Co-chairmen.

There are several hams in the area who are deeply involved in the packet modes of communications. Computers are the area that Scott is most interested. The combination of these two areas of expertise should make the Digital Communications Committee strong and innovative. The first act of the committee was to propose a club sponsored computer bulletin board system. Like the repeaters in our area, the system would be completely open to all. The proposal was approved unanimously and the club now sponsors the Message Center Bulletin Board System. With the present goal of getting a bulletin board system up and running. The committee will now be working on several long range goals. One of these goals is the marriage of packet radio and the Message Center. Plans are in the works to interface the Message Center with packet radio, allowing a ham who calls the Message Center on the phone to remotely access the Message Center's packet station and use packet radio. Inversely, a packet station would be able to access the Message Center's data base.

"Imagine being in Pittsburgh, dialing the Message Center's number and being able

continued next column

to talk to the local packet net on 2-meters from over 1200 miles away!" Frank explained. "Or being able to use packet radio when you don't have a TNC, or use the Message Center if you don't have a modem. The potential is incredible." For the present, the committee is working on perfecting the features of the Message Center. "There are still a few bugs to be worked out" Scott explained. "The line-feed menu option does not seem to be working correctly and some users have commented that they would like to see E-mail added to the system "We're always open to suggestions" added Frank. "If the majority of the users want something, we'll do all we can to see that it gets done. It's everyone's system."

Comments and suggestions about the Digital Communications Committee or the Message Center can be directed to Frank or Scott. "In the meantime," said Scott, "browse through the isles of the Message Center. You may find something interesting on one of its shelves."

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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Scot E. Thompson WBØWOT
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A Few Secrets Shared

The HAM HUM staff are often asked how we have managed to achieve such fine results regarding the HAM HUM publication. well we have decided to share with you a few of our secrets:

1. Use commas only when, needed.
2. Never use no double negatives.
3. Prepositions may not be used to end a sentence with.
4. Don't abbrev.
5. Pronouns must agree with its antecedents
6. Verbs always has to agree with their subjects.
7. Commas should separate items in a series parenthetical clauses appositives and introductory phrases.
8. Proofread carefully to make sure you have ot left out any words ro letters.
9. Check the speling of any words you arn't certan about.
10. Be sure not to carelessly split an infinitive.

(ED note: some mistakes are left in for your convenience. it's no fun proofreading a perfect issue.)

Prez Sez

Do you have a computer? well, your brain box will give you access to the Club's new bulletin board service. a complete "how to" article appears as a special insert to this months HAM HUM. The article is arranged to allow you to remove it and keep it close by until you become familiar with all of the features on the board. All questions or comments should be addressed to WB0QPP.

The education committee still is in need of "Elmers" to assist novices in setting up their shack. If you can help, contact Bill WA9ASD or Jay KB8TR.

The severe weather season is just around the calander. If you are a weather spotter, or have interest in participating in ARES activities, check into the ARES net held each Sunday at 8:00 p.m. CST on the 34/94 machine.

A hearty "well done" to John WB0CMC for his work on the ATV repeater. John gave us a look-see at the March club meeting. Information on "how-to" can be obtained by contacting John on the 40/00 repeater.

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Prez Sez (continued)

on the 34/94 machine.

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Speaking of repeaters; repeater donations are down substantially. While 34/94 requires little financial support, other area repeaters rely heavily on individual donations to pay the maintenance and telephone charges. If you use these repeaters, please help keep them operating. Donations can be sent directly to the repeater trustee, or to the club address. If you elect to send your donation to the club, please specify which repeater or repeaters you wish to support. The club treasurer will total all donations and send a check to the trustee. Thank you for your assistance.

TRIVIA - BUT NOT TRIVIAL

AK-SAR-BEN ARC has 320 members. The ARES Sunday night net follows ZULU time. Watch for the local time change one week after the daylight savings time change.

The field day chairman is looking shack chairman. Contact Greg N0BTN for details. The auction chairman is looking for a "few good people". Contact Jim N5DZZ for details.

Rumor has it that Dr. Ike may be in town sometime in April. (What is Dr. Ike?). The 1050 Hz All-call and the TSSSSSSSS weather alert feature will re-appear on the 34/94 repeater.

Frank WA0IWF and Scott WB0QPP will co-chair the new Ak-Sar-Ben ARC digital committee. It won't be long until you will be able to communicate with other "Diggies" regardless of the digital format or baud rate. And it won't matter what machine you use to originate the message. This will be a major breakthrough. Frank will provide us with the details as soon as everything is ready.

NEXT MONTH- a special article by the ARES Net Manager on how to check into a severe weather net.

Phoof - and I thought I had nothing to report.

DE N0AIH

Next Exam Session

Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club will hold an exam session on May 5, 1986 at the American Red Cross Chapter House at 3838 Dewey Ave. (use the north entrance).

Advance registration is not required. There is a charge of \$4.25 for the exam. Make checks payable to: ARRL/VEC.

You must bring your ORIGINAL and a PHOTOCOPY of your Amateur Radio License to the exam session.

You must also bring some form of photo I.D. (such as a drivers license, company I.D. and etc.).

A handheld calculator may be useful.

For more info contact: Brian Zdan KM0Y
4817 Douglas St.
Omaha, NE. 68132
553-2610

NEW MEMBERS

David L. Dingess WB8KNB
2106 Whitted Drive
Omaha, NE. 69132
292-3248

Dennis L. Martin N0GPD
1211 N. 26th St.
Council Bluffs IA. 51501
328-0977

Stanley Nick W0ADF
4915 So. 95th Ave.
Omaha, NE. 68127
339-3814

Raymond W. Start W0WZJ
1717 So. 133rd St.
Omaha, NE. 68144
333-4609

Michelle Tourek
407 N. 40th St.
Omaha, NE. 68131
551-0080

REINSTATED MEMBER

David A. Hollander W6COJ
10634 Equestrian Drive
Santa Ana, CA. 92705

NEW CALL

Gordon Deas N0GWU

Minutes of the Board

Ak-Sar-Ben Board Meeting of March 4, 1986

Meeting was called to order at 19:13 by President Jim, N0AIH. Members of the board and guests present were: Bill WA9ASD, Ellen WD0HWF,

Doug K0BOY, Scot W0WOT, Jay KB8TR, Scott W0QPP, Jim N5DZZ, Ken KD0P, Jim W0QGV.

Frank (IWF) and Scott (QPP) presented the board with ideas on ways our club could support digital communications, which they feel is part of the future for amateur radio. Frank discussed packet applications and the need for our members to be provided with a way to get together and discuss common interests. Scott spoke of a bulletin board that eventually could be cross-connected with packet, but could immediately be used for current news to members and a way to get non-hams interested in our hobby.

Bill (ASD) made the motion: "The Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club endorse and support in word and deed, the digital mode of communication." Ken (KD0P) seconded the motion. APPROVED

Jim (AIH) then appointed a digital communication committee with Frank (IWF) and Scott (QPP) as co-chairmen.

Bill (ASD) then made the motion: "The club approve start-up expenditures not to exceed \$150 to cover the purchase of BBS software, telephone hookup, and the telephone bill of the first month. The expenditure to come from capital improvement funds. Start up will be the month of March 1986." Jay (TR) seconded the motion. APPROVED

Doug (BOY) updated the Board members on the repeater controller, and advised he felt it was the best buy on the market. The MRC-100 by S-COM is a micro-processor-repeater controller. The repeater site is difficult to physically access, so this will be very useful. Jay (TR) and Bill (ASD) also indicated other advantages to installation of the controller on the 34/94 site.

Jim (DZZ) made the motion: "Accept the repeater committee proposal, not to exceed \$650 in cost, to purchase the controller for the 146.34/.94 site. Scott (QPP) seconded the motion. APPROVED

The treasurer presented and asked for approval to pay bills on hand. Jim (DZZ) made the motion for approval and Scott (QPP) seconded. APPROVED

The treasurer presented the budget for 1986 (which will be published in HAM HUM) and asked for approval. Jim (DZZ) made the motion for approval; and Ken (P) seconded. APPROVED

Norval (WA0NPF) and Connie (WA0MYF) Bowen, along with Linda (XYL of WA9ASD) applied for Life Membership. Jim (DZZ) made the motion with Scot (WOT) seconding. APPROVED

A discussion then took place on the possibility of changing where we conduct our banking. Information was produced by Ellen (HWF) about alternative businesses. Treasurer Scot (WOT) recommended that we maintain status quo for the time being. NO ACTION

Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club will be allowed to maintain filing cabinets in the VHF shack at the Red Cross building. We will be asking for donations of the needed filing cabinets in the future. Purchase of two filing cabinets has previously been approved by the board. We will wait to see if any cabinets are first donated before outright purchasing these items.

The Post Office has indicated a potential problem with the P.O. Box. Bill (ASD) was assigned to check the problem.

Mitch (AZF) indicated that Cox Cable of Omaha will begin using channel 14 in the upcoming month with a potential for leakage in the two meter band. He feels we need to consult with Cox Cable through a committee.

Bill (ASD) made a motion: "That a Cable RFI committee be formed in preparation of the upcoming transmission by Cox Cable of Omaha on Channel

14." Doug (BOY) seconded. APPROVED

Doug (BOY) presented a report from the equipment committee. He suggests we make use of the North Omaha, 72nd Street site, for storage.

At 22:43 President Jim (AIH) adjourned the meeting.

March Madness — The Transmitter Hunt

It all began with a phone call from Kim WD0BGT at about 2:10 p.m. on Sunday. Kim was supposed to hide the transmitter. It seems that help was in short supply so Kim asked me to assist him in running the hunt. So off I went to Chain of Lakes Park Southwest of Council Bluffs IA.

When I arrived, the plan unfolded. Although the park was not too far away from the starting point, Kim wanted the signal to be weak so that it could not be heard at 61st and Dodge. (Great idea, it makes the hunt more challenging when you can't hear the signal!!). Kim planned to position himself in downtown Omaha and transmit JUST BEFORE the rabbit. This would allow people to find him and now be in position to hear the rabbit. WRONG-- Once they found Kim the hunters could pick up 3 clue envelopes that would get them progressively closer to the transmitter. Unfortunately each clue had a time penalty, so if used, the hunter's time would be adjusted at the completion of the hunt.

The hunt proceeded gracefully from the planning stage right into the old dumpster! Kim's two meter rig got sick, the internal dummy load was accidentally left on, we had trouble finding the right spots so Kim and I could talk on simplex, and the hunt took so long that the battery on the rabbit ran down. Eventually we gave up and Kim left downtown to come to the transmitter sight, and I began providing transmissions (25 watts!) so people could at least get close.

Just short of two hours into the hunt (oh by the way, did I mention that the hunt started 35 minutes late?) John WB0CMC rolled into view dragging his broken antenna mast to default to first place. Just 4 minutes later Darwin WB5HZH drove up—all smiles— for second place.

At that point I had to leave. As the signals slowly faded into the noise I heard Rich WA0ZQG desperately trying to find out if anyone had found the transmitter yet. I didn't hear the answer, but I assumed that his interest in the hunt faded rapidly because no one heard from him after that.

The official results as sheepishly reported to me were:

1. WB0CMC with KA0VYT 1 hour 56 minutes
2. WB5HZH with xyl Pattie 2 hours
3. KM0Y with WD0VGB 2 hours 11 minutes
4. N0GKX 2 hours 55 minutes
5. N0GPD with WB0GXD (no time recorded)

WA0ZQG with Patsy and sister (still hunting)

There were rumors of a hunt two weeks later (March 30). Find out if there was one at the next club meeting.

DE WA9ASD

Next Meeting . . . April 11, 7:30 p.m.
Red Cross, 3838 Dewey Avenue, Omaha
May Ham Hum Deadline . . . April 18

Coming Attractions

April

10	CW Net 21.125 Mhz 8:00 p.m.	WA9ASD
11	AK-SAR-BEN ARC meeting-Red Cross 7:00PM	NØAIH
11-13	Missouri State Convention-Kansas City	QST 1/86 p.61
13	Transmitter Hunt 3:00 p.m. UNO Lot X 146.52	WA9ASD
14	ARRL 144 Mhz Sprint	73 3/86 p.69
17	CW Net 21.125 Mhz 8:00 p.m. CST	WA9ASD
18-19	Midwest Division Convention-So.Sioux City	QST 1/86 p.61
22	ARRL 220 Mhz Sprint	73 3/86 p.69
24	CW Net 21.125 Mhz 8:00 p.m.	WA9ASD
25-27	Dayton Hamvention-Dayton Ohio	QST 1/86 p.61
30	ARRL 432 Mhz Sprint	73 3/86 p.69
30	Deadline for AK-SAR-BEN ARC Artwork Contest (See February 86 HAM HUM for contest rules)	NØAZF

May

1	CW Net 21.125 Mhz 8:00 p.m.	WA9ASD
3-4	County hunters SSB Net	CQ 3/86 p.884
5	Amateur Radio Exams Red Cross-Omaha-6:30 p.m.	KMØY
6	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Board Meets Red Cross Omaha 7:00 p.m.	NØAIH
8	CW Net 21.125 Mhz 8:00 p.m. CST	WA9ASD
8	ARRL 1296 Mhz Sprint 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	73 4/86 p.78
9	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Meets Red Cross Omaha 7:00 p.m.	NØAIH
18	AK-SAR-BEN ARC Annual Auction - Radial Social Hall	N5DZZ
22	CW net 21.125 Mhz. 8:00 p.m.	WA9ASD
28-29	Clara AC/DC Mystery Contest	73 4/86 p..8
29	CW net 21.125 Mhz. 8:00 p.m.	WA9ASD



from

ALAN McMILLAN WØJJK

140 VINE ST.
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA 51501

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Want Ads

WANTED: Back issues of Rainbow magazine. Can be reached on 146.82 or 146.94 after the Sunday night ARES net.

Betty Pinkerton NØDGM Elmwood NE.

WANTED: I need someone to record HAM HUM on tape for me, because I am blind.

Dallas Sawyer KAØKLA 496-2351

FOR SALE: Heathkit FM Deviation Meter. Model number IM-4180 \$185.00

Mark Schroeder 402-529-3239 or 3550

CW Net Procedure Guidelines

The following is an attempt to help those trying to check into the Thursday evening CW net held on 21.125 at 8:00 pm CST. This net is for the purpose of helping to get your code speed up and also to give you some confidence on the air.

The net will be called promptly at 8:00 pm CST on Thursdays.

The net control station will send CQ AKSARBEN or CQ AK.

Stations wishing to check in should send their COMPLETE call sign ONE TIME!!

The NCS (net control station) will acknowledge each call sign heard, then will ask for more check-ins by sending CQ AK. If you did not hear your call acknowledged then try again.

If you attempt to check in late (after the net has started) send BK between exchanges or while net control is transmitting. I attempt to operate QSK and if I hear you I will stop and send GO AHEAD BK DE WA9ASD KN. Send your complete call once and wait to be acknowledged.

Once check-ins are completed, stations are called in the order they were acknowledged. If you checked in late your call will be added to the end of the list.

PLEASE do not check in and then turn off your radio. If you must leave the net, send BK and the NCS will send GO AHEAD BK DE WA9ASD KN. Give your call and say that you must leave. By following this procedure un-answered calls will be eliminated.

A normal exchange will consist of the NCS calling a station-the station's reply-NCS response- followed immediately by NCS calling the NEXT station on the list. Once you have responded do not attempt to continue transmitting unless asked to do so (KN).

1. Listen for your call
2. Don't get long winded
3. Please don't rag-chew on the net frequency during the net
4. Match your code speed to the NCS (this is a training net and others are trying to copy you.

About midway through the net a stand-by will be taken for new checkins.

At the end of the net the NCS will sign off with SK. At this time, if you wish to call another station, do so, but once you establish contact, please move to another frequency so that others may make their calls.

DE WA9ASD NCS Novice net Omaha and vicinity

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