HAM HUM

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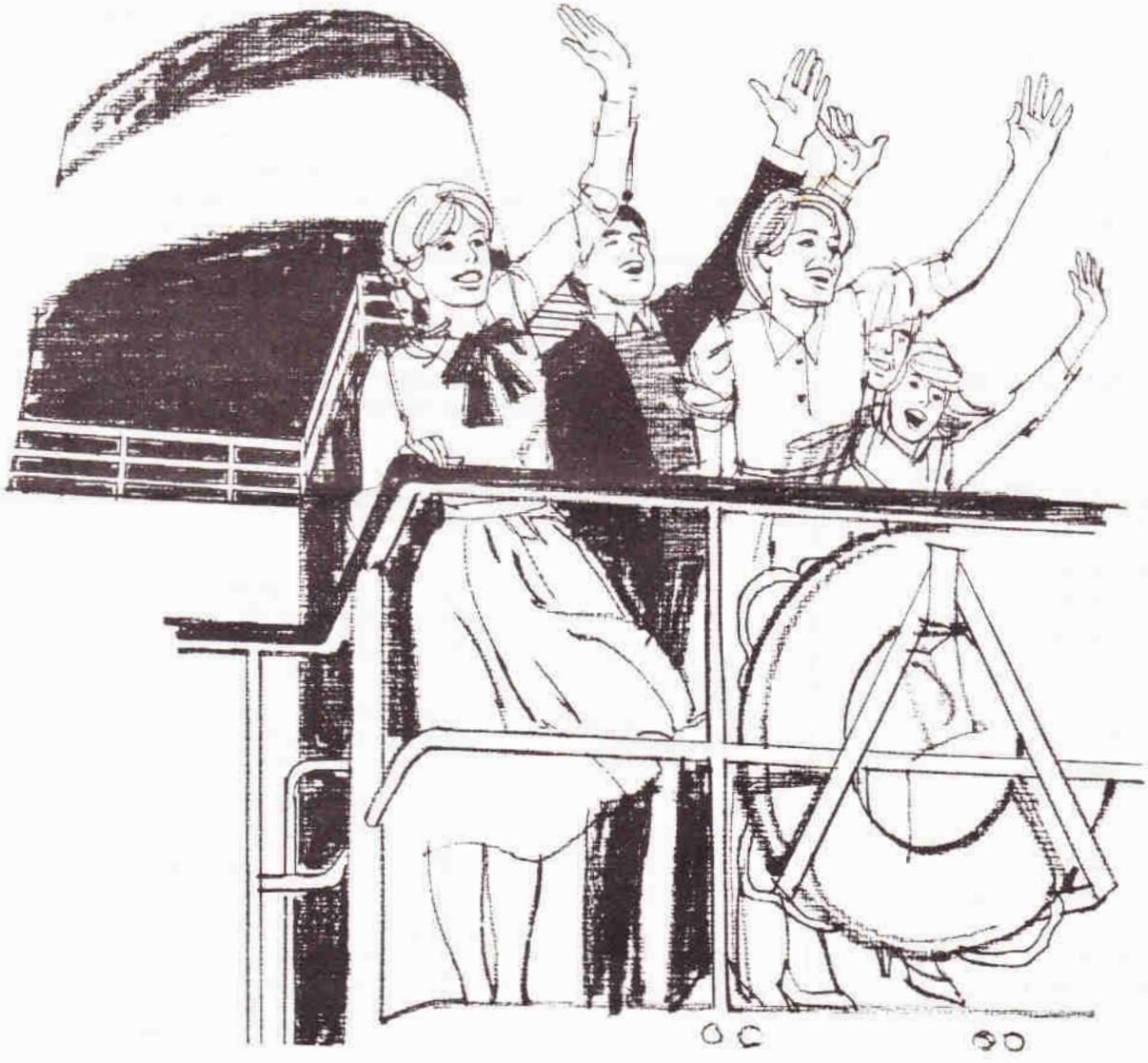

Welcome Aboard!!!

3rd Annual Riverboat Cruise

AUGUST 29, 1986

7 - 10:30 p.m.

Sponsored by The Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club

(DETAILS INSIDE)

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

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Dues — Annual Basis

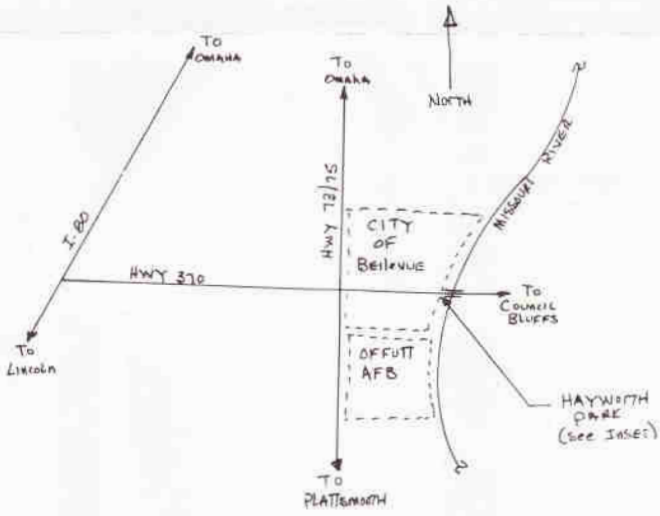
Full Member $10.00
Spouse . . . . . $ 2.00
Student . . . . . $ 4.00
Life Memberships Available

PREZ SEZ

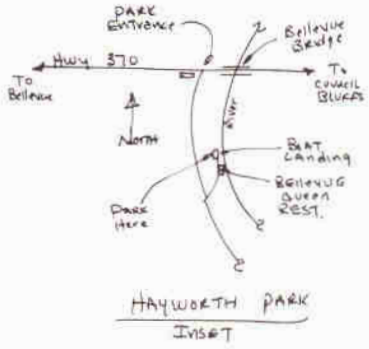
BOAT RIDES PICNICS AND SOFTBALL

Once again, the riverboat cruise and pot-luck dinner will be on August 29. You should be on the dock by 7:00pm. If your LAST NAME begins with A-J, bring a large meat dish; (if you want to bring a warmer to keep the food hot, 120 VAC is available on the boat); Letters K-L, bring a dessert; and letters M-Z, bring a salad. Each person should bring their own table service, cup and plate. A cash bar is available on the boat, and you can bring your own tea or pop, or purchase it on the boat. A map appears below to guide you to the park. We will have a talk-in on 34/94 and 52 simplex for those that need assistance. I would like to extend a special invitation to all area radio clubs to join us on this years cruise. The boat is limited to 150 passengers, and reservations are on a first come basis. You can reserve your table by calling Jim Peterson, WBØQGV at 558-0643 in the evenings, or by signing the reservations book at the August club meeting. This evening is mainly for adults. It is recommended that you leave small children with a sitter or a friend.

We still do not have a firm date for the AARC/LARC picnic and softball game. Summer activities continue to pose a problem with scheduling. I will continue to keep you posted on this event. DE NØAIH



AREA MAP
NO SCALE



HAYWORTH PARK
INSET

On Line . . .

By Scott Persson WB0QPP (SYSOP)

Last month we discovered how to use the mailbox. It really hasn't been used much so far but I suppose that is due to the fact that we hams have so many other means of communication available to us that a bulletin board has limited uses for passing messages. But, no matter! I'm sure it will be handy for leaving change of address messages and items of information so that club records can be updated on a timely basis.

WHAT NOW?

Text files are the topic of this month's mutterings. The system (I will refer to the bulletin board itself as the "system" from here on) uses text files to send you the System Bulletins, the Main Menu and the Message Base Menu, and the various news files that you can select for reading.

The text files used by the system are created by a word processor. Only the normal printable characters you normally use when writing someone a letter are used. These include upper and lower-case A-Z, numbers 0-9, and punctuation symbols. There are also special keys on computer keyboards called CONTROL keys. A special key labeled CTRL or CONTROL is pressed at the same time a normal key is pressed and the result is a special character, normally a graphics character. In word processors, these control characters are used to tell the printer to print in the underline mode or in italics or some other special printer function. For bulletin board text files, these characters are a no-no!

Different computers have different ways of interpreting and using these control characters. Let's say that a control character appeared in a system text file and you wanted to see that file. You sit down with your slick little COLLOSUS-XT and select the file for reading. When the control character is sent to you, WHAM!, your computer locks up, your screen blanks out and you start "blessing" the guy who runs that #$%*&!! board for ruining your hardware.

Of course, this is an extreme case and your hardware won't be damaged in any event, but the point is that only normally printable characters (Not CONTROL characters) should be used in the system text files.

BUT WHY?

"Yeah, so what?" I can hear you mutter. Well, YOU can actually add information to the system in the form of text files.

A while ago we conducted a user's poll on what Amateur Radio magazines each user subscribed to. From this list, I asked several users to prepare text files with interesting information from these magazines and upload them to the board so that all who use the system could read them or download them.

This is why there is all the hoopla about text files. If you prepare an information file with your WORD-Pro Turbo Enhanced

Accelerated SuperSpeller Turbo (did I say Turbo?) AutoActuated word processor so that it prints diagonally on your printer and looks real neat framed and hanging above the TV set, no one on the board will be getting too much out of it because there are control characters imbedded in it to tell the printer how to do all those fancy things.

SO HOW?

Well, there should be a way of generating a simple text file without all of those control characters. For word processors like MultiMate (R), there is a utility called CONVERT that will remove all of those control characters and produce another file that is simple text. In other word processors like AtariWriter (R), all you have to do is avoid typing any control characters to begin with. The word processor itself will not insert any automatically so what you have when you save your file is what you need for uploading.

Whatever method you might choose to use, there are two important rules to follow when creating a text file:

1. Don't use control characters!
2. Remember that although you may have a 40 column screen, some guys have 40 columns so if you are creating a table or a list, it may look good to you but that guy with 40 columns is going to see a mess so use carriage returns when you think best.

Be sure to document your upload with a Comment To The SYSOP before you log off.

I should be back from vacation now and the system should be back in operation. I hope no one forgot about it! Next month, we will cover where the system is going from here and what the future holds in store for digital communications so until then, see you OnLine!

In Search of the Hunters

The regularly scheduled transmitter hunt was not held due to lack of participation. Two hunters were at the starting point but John's cooling system sprung a leak (his car actually) so there was only one able hunter. Equipment failure strikes again. Come-on Dennis, Doug, Rich, Duke, Bill, Jay, Don, Bill, Brian, Kim, Darwin, Bob, let's all make it for the August hunt. It's scheduled for August 10th at 3pm (remember we have them on Sunday so everyone can be there).

The starting point is UNO parking lot X at 61st and Dodge (South side of Dodge). Listen on 146.52 Mhz. for the Transmitter. Check-ins on 146.52 and 147.00 repeater. (either plus or minus offset). DE WA9ASD

SUGGESTION BOX

Try using grass-whip plastic string for tying down the ends of wire antennas. It's almost invisible, nonconductive even when wet, easy to tie, strong, and impervious to the effects of weather and sunlight. A 100 foot spool sells for about $15 at most hardware stores.

N0AIH

Next Meeting

August 8 — Red Cross, 7:30 p.m.

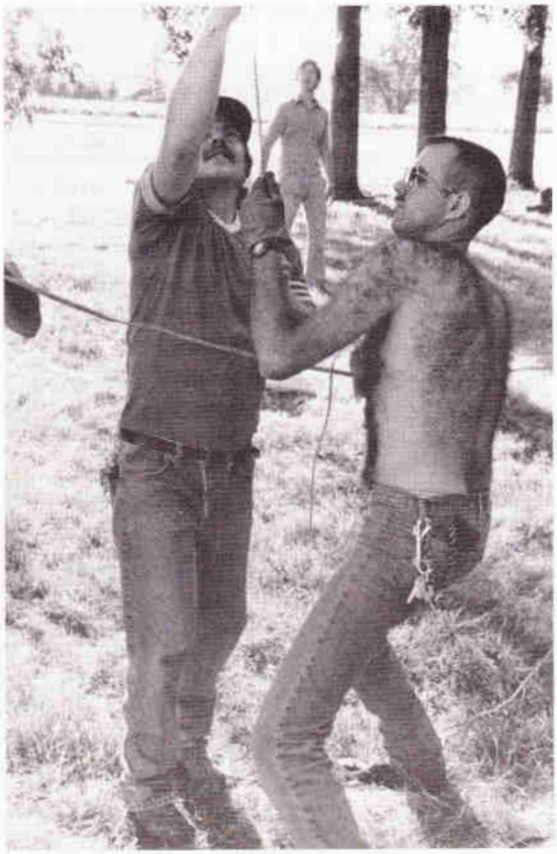
Deadline September Ham Hum

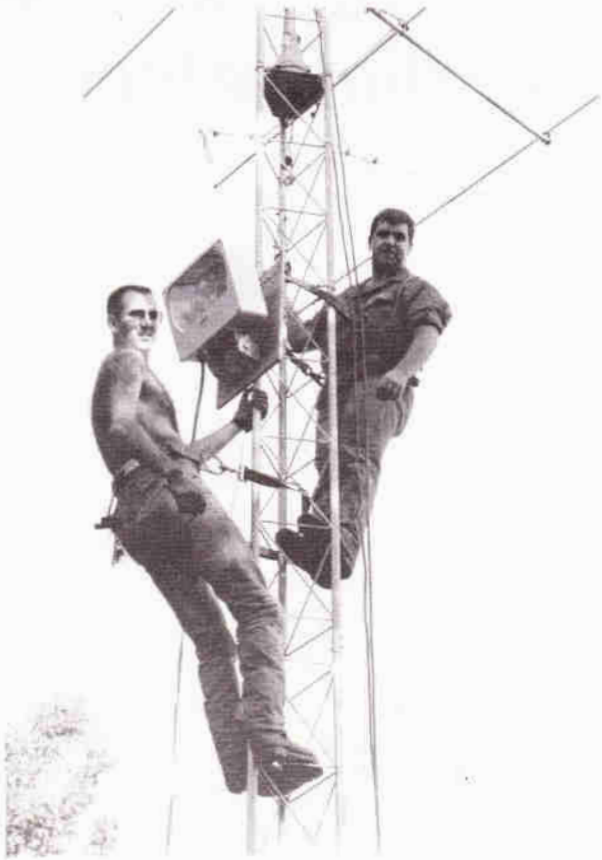
August 15

Coming Attractions

AUGUST		
5	Ak-Sar-Ben ARC board meeting Red-X 7 pm	NØAIH
7	CW net 21.125 Mhz. 8 pm	WA9ASD
8	Ak-Sar-Ben ARC meeting Red-X 7:30 pm	NØAIH
10	Transmitter Hunt UNO parking lot X 3:00 pm	WA9ASD
10	Rocky Mountain Div. Convention - Denver	QST 7/86 p74
12	RSCB meeting C.B. IA.	WAØZQG
13	Lincoln ARC meeting 7:30 pm	146.25/85
14	Bellevue ARC meeting Sarpy Cty. Courthouse 7:30 pm	147.81/21
14	CW net 21.125 Mhz. 8 pm	WA9ASD
21	CW net 21.125 Mhz. 8 pm	WA9ASD
22	Pioneer ARC meeting Fremont Library 7 pm	146.07/67
28	SWIARC meeting Red-X C.B. IA. 7:30 pm	146.22/82
28	CW net 21.125 Mhz. 8 pm	WA9ASD
29	Ak-Sar-Ben ARC 3rd annual river cruise. Hayworth Park Bellevue NE. (All area clubs invited). See Prez Sez this issue.	
SEPTEMBER		
2	Ak-Sar-Ben board meeting 7pm Red-X omaha	NØAIH
4	CW net 21.125 Mhz. 8 pm	WA9ASD
9	Radio Society of Council Bluffs meets 7:30 pm	WAØZQG
10	Limcoln ARC meets 7:30 pm	146.25/85
11	Bellvue ARC meets 7:30 pm	147.81/21
11	CW net 21.125 Mhz. 8 pm	WA9ASD
12	Ak-Sar-Ben ARC meets 7:30 pm Red-X Omaha	NØAIH
14	Transmitter hunt 3pm UNO parking lot X 146.52	WA9ASD

NOTE: The lack of operating events listed in the month of August is due to the lack of operating events in August.





THE WANT ADS

FOR SALE: 40 mtr. 2 element Hy-Gain beam. $50.00.
Call Jim NØAIH 571-2704

FOR SALE: 140 ft. roll of 75 ohm hardline coax. 3/4 in. diameter. $7.00. Heathkit IM-36 transistor tester. $14.60. 15V. 75 amp power supply. $82.00. VFO-520 remote VFO for Kenwood HF rig. $94.00. Prices accurate within 1 kc.
Call Rich WAØZQG 366-1735

WANTED- Have a grandson who wants to get into amateur radio and he's a whale-of-a-lot smarter than his granddad. Want to buy or borrow some code tapes so we can see if the kid is serious.
Call Hugh Tinley, KØCHK 397-3872

Hi

AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT
ALAN McMILLAN WØJJK

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FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AND RELIABILITY. WE STOCK A VARIETY OF ANTENNAS FOR MOBILE & H.T. UNITS. A SPECIAL SAVINGS ON ANY "gain" MOBILE ANTENNA with MOUNT-- NOW WE'LL INCLUDE A "FREE" LM-Q ANTENNA-- (1/4 WAVE ON ANY FREQUENCY, 140 TO 500 MHZ).

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YES, WE HAVE THE POPULAR ATV CONVERTER BOARD. JUST PROVIDE AN ANTENNA AND 12VDC--CONNECT TO TV ON CH. 4 AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON.

GOOD BUYS IN USED GEAR

SWAN MARK II (2KW WITH PR. 3-500Z); GALAXY V & AC; SWAN 500CX & AC; 175W DSB/CW/AM "WRL METEOR" TX WITH PS/VFO;LAFAYETTE HA225 RX; OTHER VARIOUS ITEMS.

HI - 140 VINE ST. (just E. of Midlands Mall).PHONE (unlisted) 328-8636, during open hours only. OPEN: Tues./Fri.=noon/5PM and Sat.=10AM/3PM.

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