



HAM HUM



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GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA 1980



Sally Ext 202

HAM HUM

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Regular member and spouse \$3.60
Student member \$1.05

NEXT MEETING

WHEN: FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1980

TIME: DOUGLAS SARPY COUNTY CHAPTER
AMERICAN RED CROSS
38th and Dewey Avenue
Omaha, NE 68105

PROGRAM: Bill Martin, N0ANQ, will present a demonstration on Slow Scan Television.

VISITORS WELCOME — REFRESHMENTS

THE PREZ SEZ

Unfortunately, the minutes of the May meeting indicated that Jim Sanford, NØAIH, had agreed to serve as the auction chairman for 1981. This is not the case, as Jim has served in this capacity for the last two years, and does not wish to continue for a third. We therefore still need an auction chairman for 1981, as well as a place to hold the auction.

Although it may seem early to be planning for next year's auction, notification to ARRL publications to coordinate the event with other Spring Ham events must be completed by September, 1980! In addition, we still have to find a place to hold the auction. Anyone who is interested in taking the auction chairman's job for 1981 should contact me as soon as possible.

As a special note, I would like to personally thank everyone who donated their time, equipment and communications skill to helping out during the Grand Island tornado. Once again, Amateur Radio contributed heavily to providing disaster communications in and out of the disaster area when all other means failed. On top of staffing the Red Cross Communications Center 24 hours a day, the ARES Hams **still** had the capability, equipment, and personnel to stand several local weather watches and at least one flood watch! Very impressive, to say the least, and media coverage of Amateur Radio's contribution was excellent.

Frank Wolczak, WAØIWF, drew a sitting ovation from club mem-

bers during the June meeting for his video tape presentation of Dave Bell's "Wide World of Amateur Radio" and shots of the G.I. Tornado damage. Good show, Frank!

The July program promises to "bring 'em out of the woodwork" again with another of the award-winning series on specialized communications. Our own Bill Martin, NØANQ, will demonstrate and explain the principles and techniques of Slow Scan Television (SSTV). So until then,

73 de KØDG

NEW ADDRESSES

Mike Essex, ADØL
407 North 40th Street, Apt. 5
Omaha, NE 68131 ✓

Robert H. Miller, KBØLE
322 Park
Oakland, IA 51560 ✓

Scot E. Thompson, WBØWOT
4911 South 91st
Omaha, NE 68127 ✓

SILENT KEY

Chester Doll, KØPTG. Survived by his wife, Frances L., two sons, a daughter. He was a long-time member of our club and our sympathy is extended to his family.

TORNADO DAMAGE — Grand Island, Nebraska







DE NØAON....

A somewhat abbreviated column this month to allow room for the photos and articles dealing with the ARES operations during the Grand Island tornado... Look for an article by Jim, NØAIH, elsewhere in this issue, plus photos by Dave, WDØDLN and Tom, KØPQR.

Very briefly, a "Well Done" to all those from Omaha, Lincoln and many other places across the state for the endless hours of communications provided during the month of June. The G.I. tornado, many severe weather watches in the Eastern Nebraska area, a "mini-marathon" here in Omaha, and always volunteers available to man the needed positions...it's this kind of participation that earned Nebraska amateurs the award shown on last month's cover!!

At the June meeting....a good turnout considering the amount of work put forth by so many of the Club members over the past weeks....Congrats to Charlie, WØQQN, on his receipt of an award recognizing his many years of dedication teaching the world of ham radio to others.... Good work Charlie!!....The video tape the Club purchased, "The World of Amateur Radio," was the highlight of the evening, and was genuinely interesting for all, even though the material is primarily directed at new or non-amateurs. Additionally, Frank WAØIWF, also presented a tape showing both the ham activity and damage in Grand Island. And of course, a new attendance record was set over at the Riviera Club at the end of the meeting.

Welcome back to Rick, WAØROP, who's been on "sabbatical" to North Dakota!!

CQ FD, CQ FD, CQ FD!!!!....By the time this arrives at your QTH, Field Day 1980 will be history. As Frank reminded everyone at the June meeting, we were out to double last year's score... and that's quite an undertaking! An estimated score should be available by the July meeting, and for certain in time for next month's Ham Hum....

Contest Freaks....One of the year's best DX Tests is coming up in July!! The IARU RadioSport on July 12 and 13 promises to be a good one this year. Everybody works everybody, and there is even credit for working stations in your own country....so you can do well in this one even without a "Big Gun" station!! Look in QST for the exact times and exchanges....

Labor Day Fun....Anyone interested in helping out at the Carter Lake Ski Tournament over Labor Day weekend, please let me know at the July meeting....There's lots of time before it comes up, but I'd like to get an idea of how many of you are planning on coming out to help.

Two meter openings....Did anyone catch the neat Es opening on the evening of June 18?? The repeaters in KC and points north were banging in, even on my rather modest array (also known as a Ringo up 50 feet). Just curious if anyone else noticed....

Well gang, as I said, I'm gonna keep it short this month to allow Jim all the room he needs to report on the emer-

gency comms the past month. 73 to all, and be seeing you at the July meeting.

Mike, NØAON

FLASHI-QST, QST-FLASHI

BULLETIN: Little known, volunteer sorter, for the ARRL Zero QSL Bureau claims silent victory for his untiring effort in obtaining 5BDXCC Award for WAØFBQ of Lee's Summit, Mo. That station received confirmation Friday stating that cards obtained thru the Zero District Bureau qualified him for 5BDXCC Award.

(F Sorter--Many thanks for your volunteer effort. The hours of help on your end have paid off BIG! Long live the ARRL Bureau system!! Jim Kelly WAØFBQ.)

WHO IS CARRYING THE LOAD?

A study of ARES activities for the week of June 1 through June 8 reveals 795 man-hours were used for weather watches, flood watch, and the Grand Island operation. Eighty-nine individual operating positions were manned by 58 operators. This means that each operator manned 1.53 positions, and averaged 13.7 hours of public service activities!

Now, this useless information also reveals that 69% of the ARES members are not sharing in the load! If **YOU** are one of those persons, we really do need **YOU!!!**

NØAIH

NOTES FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING HELD AT THE RED CROSS BUILDING on June 6, 1980, at 1930 hours

Members present: Dick, KØDG; Mike, NØAON; Frank, WAØIWF; Jim, WBØJPN; Dave, WDØDLN; Charlie, WØQQN; Mac, WAØBMJ; Ellen, WBØHWF; Ed, WDØHBY. Guest, Walt, KAØDMB.

Treasurer's Report was read by Mac, WAØBMJ, and was unanimously accepted. One thing mentioned — that when anyone purchases anything for the Club, they **must** have a receipt before receiving Club money.

Walt, KAØDMB, Jacket Chairman, gave a complete report on our jacket supply and the quantities needed for reordering the jackets, caps, name patches and Club logo patches to get a reduced price. The cost to sew on the patches has gone up tremendously. Walt has inquired at several places for price quotes and will keep the Board advised of his findings.

Field Day Cook Chairman, Ed, WDØHBY, is authorized to spend up to \$500 for food for the event.

Meeting adjourned by Jim, WBØJPN, and seconded by Ed, WDØHBY, at 21:20 hours.

Club Secretary,
Ellen, WBØHWF

GRAND ISLAND 1980

June 3, 1980, was another infamous day in the history of Nebraska weather. Tremendous storms rolled across the state, and, in the early evening, Grand Island was devastated by several tornados!

By Wednesday morning, we had several operators at Red Cross, relaying traffic. A message was sent to AJØA Hall County EC, volunteering the complete resources of AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club. The answer came back....'we cannot use you now.'

Red Cross, using the call sign WØCQX, continued handling traffic through Thursday. Still no acceptance of a second offer to assist.

Thursday night we had our own problems with bad weather. The ARES net was activated about 11:00 PM, and the already tired operators at Red Cross answered the call. We were really hurting for help that night. Then from a weather watch to a flash flood watch. We finally got to bed about 3:00 AM.

Friday morning it was back to the traffic at Red Cross. Noon saw a request from Red Cross for a damage assessment team for the Kenard area. One mobile was sent, and the answer came back, 'smoe damage to dwellings, trees, and trailers, but Red Cross assistance is not required.' Friday evening a third message was sent to G.I. 'AJØA DE NØAIH....do you need help from Omaha?' The reply was immediate.... 'NØAIH DE AJØAAFFIRMATIVE AFFIRMATIVE AF-

FIRMATIVE WHEN CAN YOU BE HERE?'

So at midnight, the ARES and club rosters were called until we had eight operators with five vehicles. Saturday morning at 8:00 the tiny contingency of AK-SAR-BEN Radio hit the road.

We arrived about noon, and went to work. AJØA needed someone to search for people on the 'missing' list. Two hours of briefing, and we were in the field. The sight was appalling. The devastation was complete! With city maps and two-man teams we completed the northwest and central areas by nightfall. A cold cheese sandwich and a bottle of pop, and then back out for foot patrol duty.

In bed by 3:00 AM, and up at 7:00, we relocated to the south and southeast areas. If the northwest area was bad, the south part of the city was even worse! Hardly a building left standing!

The list of about 80 messages for the 'missing' was completed by 2:00 PM on Sunday. All eighty were found safe and sound.

Back on the road for a sober trip back. Remembering Omaha '75, and what we had seen in G.I., count your blessings my friends, and then let's get our stuff together. We may be needed again, and it may be our neighbor we're looking for....or worse.

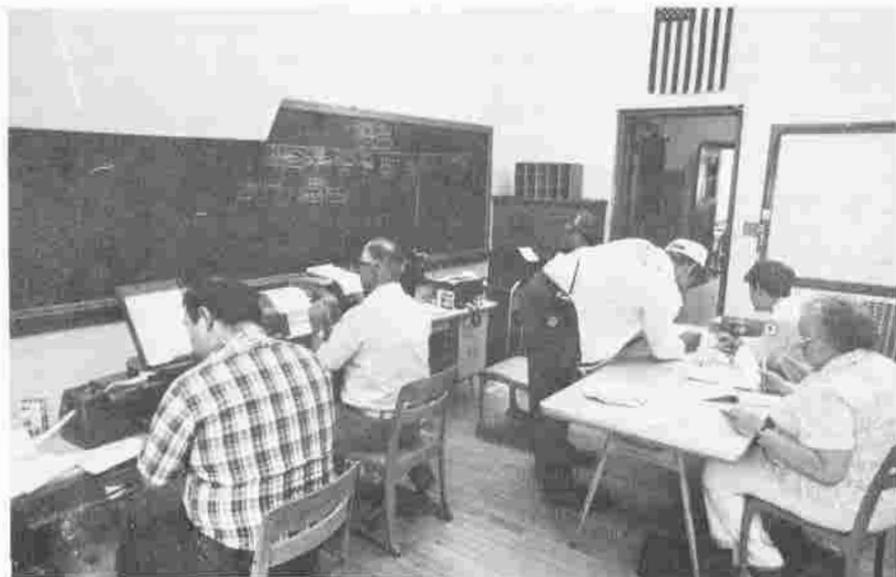
NØAIH



IN GRAND ISLAND — (LEFT TO RIGHT)

Tom Thiessen, KØPQR, Ed Sullivant, WB5MAP, Ed Hoffmann, WDØHBY, Frank Wolczak, WAØIWF, Jim Sanford, NØAIH, Dave Hamilton, WDØDLN. Not pictured, John Draus, WØEKB, Lysle Renne, KAØDKO.

TORNADO MESSAGES IN PROGRESS



From Grand Island

HAM HUM



From QTH of WDØDLN in Omaha



**JUNE
MEETING**



Vern "Rip" Riportella
WA2LLQ (ex WBØGAJ)
Box 56
Warwick, N.Y. 10990
11 June 80

Editor
Ham Hum

Dear Dick:

I thought a note was in order having met some Omaha folks at the Dayton Hamvention recently.

It was a pleasure to see such a nice contingent of Omaha/Lincoln residents and former residents (i.e., WAØGEH) at Dayton. I certainly would enjoy meeting more of the Omaha gang and hope to be able to make it out to my "second home" one of these seasons. I have lived in the East for the last four years and Omaha remains a special place for me. That is why, I suppose, I enjoy receiving *Ham Hum* so much. It brings back fond memories of the fine folks in Ak-Sar-Ben R.C.

For those who don't remember some of the fun we had in '74, let me recall the OSCAR 6 demonstration in the bank basement that didn't work because we couldn't hear the 10 meter downlink over the line 'hash' outside the building. I think the most amusing aspect of that program was WBØGAI (Dr. Roger Johnson, now of Greeley, Colorado) standing out in the snow squall aiming the two meter yagi at the heavens. He didn't find it that amusing! But then 'shrinks' aren't noted for their self-depreciation.

That demonstration sort of marked my entry into the AMSAT arena and thus is particularly poignant when recalling how far we have come with the satellite program. This type of reflective thought is common to AMSAT folks in light of our recent short-lived, submarine satellite (Phase III-A).

Finally, I owe a debt to the Ak-Sar-Ben R.C. for having allowed me to serve as your President. Now, as AMSAT's Executive Vice President, I especially appreciate your tolerance of my "leadership training wheels" during my tenure as Ak-Sar-Ben President. Had you not been rather a forgiving bunch, I probably would have shunned other leadership roles in Amateur Radio. So thanks again!

73,
Rip

american
national
RED CROSS



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD JUNE 13, 1980, AT THE RED CROSS BUILDING AT 38th & DEWEY AVENUE, OMAHA, NEBRASKA

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 hours by President Dick Jugel, KØDG. Meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Two guests — Lyman B. Longstreth, Jr., WØAUH, long time ago member; and Dave McLaughlin, KØJBL.

A special award to Charlie Rodgers, WØQQN, from ARRL as runner-up award as Teacher of the Year.

Upgrades — Don Cogley, KAØCPY, from Novice to General, and John R. Click, WBØBVO, from Technician to Advanced.

Several new membership certificates were handed out.

Lysle, KAØDKO, had a sample of the Mt. St. Helens volcanic ash. To the touch it was quite grainy and had a strong odor. Lysle had a three-page letter and a map telling of the effects on agriculture in the Northwest.

Committee Report of Mike, NØAON, Field Day setup will begin on Friday June 27, about 3:00 PM. There will be a Labor Day Carter Lake Ski Tourney again this year.

Committee Report of Jim, NØAIH, Grand Island and our recent storm report. Jim said that 58 of our hams did a fantastic job.

Results of the Van offer — The offer was mutually withdrawn due to insurance and licensing problems.

Dick, KØDG, read from the HR Report several articles due to the absence of Jim, WBØJPN, who was out of town.

A big thanks goes to Charlie, KØQVL, for helping Carman Swaim, who is blind, get her Novice License, KAØILM. Thanks much, Charlie!

Business meeting adjourned, motion by Mitch, NØAZF, and seconded by Charlie, WØQQN. Motion Carried.

Program for the evening

Frank Wolczak, WAØIWF, demonstrated the videotape by showing film of the Grand Island tornado and an ARRL tape. This was very interesting seeing the various hams at spots all over the world.

Program concluded at 21:45 hours.

Club Secretary,
Ellen, WBØHWF

VHF-RTTY ANYONE?

I would like to get in touch with anyone interested in teletype activity on a two-meter simplex frequency (possible 146.70 MHz 850 Hz shift). We would leave the machines on autoprnt. Also, would like to

know if anyone is interested in FAX on two meters and getting an STA from the FCC to permit such experimental operations. Contact me any time or leave a message.

Scott, WBØQPP 556-9648

Bill Morgan received the following report from the Volcano area:

Western Washington — Primarily dairy area, pasture, forage crops.

Ash to depths of 1 to 2 inches as a result of second eruption Sunday, May 25th. Since this ash coverage is very fine material, it tends to seal the ground preventing aeration and water penetration. Loss of pasture will greatly increase demand for feed from outside sources. With loss of up to 50 percent of alfalfa, some feed will probably have to be brought in from as far away as California, driving hay prices well above \$100 a ton. This additional expense could cause reduction in dairy herds.

Yakima Valley of Central Washington — Primary crops: apples, pears, cherries, hops, mint, hay, asparagus, grapes, corn.

Ash to depths of one half to one and one half inches as a result of initial eruption, May 18th. Ash consists of heavy particles and sand which fell out of the cloud first. Clean up cost will be the main damage.

Columbia Basin — Primary crops: alfalfa, spuds, corn, wheat.

Ash to depths of two and three quarters to four inches, also a result of initial eruption May 18th, fine particulates down to five microns or less in size, mostly glass and hardened gas in nature with virtually no sand.

Sprinklers have washed most of the ash off of the standing crops, however, in some instances of broad leaf crops (such as alfalfa and potatoes) the ash, when wet, mashes the crops to the ground.

The ash on the ground absorbed some water then set up like wet cement, sealing the ground against aeration and moisture.

Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho — Primary crops: winter and spring dryland wheat, lentils, malting barley, dry peas.

Ash — Same situation as Columbia Basin. Winter wheat, lentils and barley high enough to stay standing and probably will survive, if there is enough moisture in the ground under the ash.

Mt. St. Helens is still active and there is still potential for additional ash eruptions.

In Portland they feel fortunate to date, having received only a very light dusting May 25.

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Notes From Table 8

So you want to build that project that you have always wanted, huh? What to do first? Get the parts, right? Wrong. Several well known principles of electronics should be taken into careful consideration before any project is attempted. Find the category that your project falls into.

General Electronics:

1. A dropped tool will land where it can do the most damage. (Also known as the Law of Selective Gravitation)
2. Do not believe in miracles - rely on them.
3. If you don't know what you are doing, do it neatly.
4. Any circuit protected by a fast-acting fuse will protect the fuse by blowing first.
5. Interchangeable parts won't.

Amplifier Circuitry:

1. Experience is directly proportional to the amount of equipment ruined.
2. Tolerance will accumulate unidirectionally towards the maximum difficulty of assembly.
3. If a project works, you must be using the wrong equipment.

Microwave Electronics:

1. If you get anything hot enough, it will melt. (Fudd's Law of Thermodynamics)
2. All systems will fail with no apparent cause and for no particular reason.

In General:

1. Always leave room to add an explanation when it doesn't work. (Rule of the Way Out)
2. No project is a failure, it can always be used as a bad example.
3. Tomorrow is the greatest laborsaving device known.

Now you are prepared to get the parts, build, tinker and apply power. Well . . . maybe that project could wait a while longer.

de WBØQPP

(Note: Principles provided by *Nebraska Blue Print Magazine*)

SILENT KEY REPORT AN ERROR SOMEONE ELSE RETURNS

In last month's issue, June, we reported erroneously that Someone Else had joined the ranks of Silent Keys. Instead, we discovered that Someone Else showed up at the Red Cross radio shack right after the Grand Island tornado. And just when the need was great, Someone Else volunteered to take the night duty. Not only that; Someone Else reported for duty several other times.

Elsewhere in this issue you will read on the assistance given by the Ak-Sar-Ben ARC and the Midwest ARES to the Grand Island Tornado Operations. Many Hams

as well as CAP sent and received bundles of Health and Welfare traffic. It was, however, a real pleasure to note that Someone Else did come and help us and that his reported demise was false.

Someone Else came through as usual. So as to give him proper recognition we looked up the roster of operators and found his call: --ADØL, Mike Essex. We are glad to have Someone Else on board. Now that we know he is back, let's look for him (or her) next time we have an operation. I'll bet he shows up. Field Day maybe.

RECENT CONTRIBUTORS

3494

Don Cogley, KAØCPY
Lawrence Merriman, KAØDKP
Charlie Michel, KØQVL

2282

Charlie Michel, KØQVL

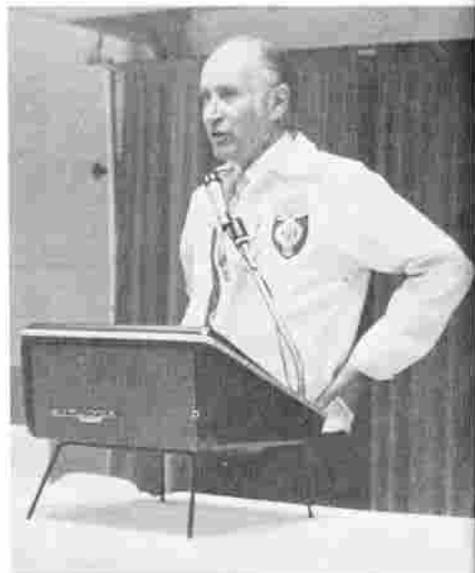
4000

Don Cogley, KAØCPY
Lawrence Merriman, KAØDKP
Charlie Michel, KØQVL

HAM HUM

Gary A. Liljegren, WØSH

Thanks to all!



Charlie, WØQQN — In action for the QSL Bureau, Sioux City, at the HAMBORÉE. Picture submitted by Bruce Humphrys, KØHR, Director of HANDI-HAMS.

HAM HUM SWAP

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

FOR SALE: ICOM 215 with NICAD pack. Also some HF equipment. Call Mike Essex, ADØL, 553-3054. Keep trying!

FOR SALE: Kenwood 820, VFO 820 SP 820, TV-502S 2 mtr transverter. Excellent cond. \$900 complete. Call Mitch, 348-5040 — NØAZF.

HAM HUM AK-SAR-BEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Dear Amateur Radio Friends,

I would like to send a very sincere THANK YOU for the fine coverage of the Kearney Midway Spring Ham Convention. The article by NØAON and photos by WDØDLN certainly captured the intent of the affair and were thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all of the hams in this area.

Perhaps a word could be said about the Grand Prize. In all honesty, we have not received a lot of negative comments. However, several have inquired on how to become Club members.

Maybe this brings us to an important point. This Convention is not a Club fund raiser—maybe you have heard that before—and it is put on for your enjoyment. We certainly feel that it should be a fun affair and that it should serve your interests and needs. Next March 28-29 will mark the fifth year for the Convention and we would definitely like to make it the best ever. To do so, we would appreciate any input—comments, suggestions, etc—that you may have to offer. The comments concerning the Grand Prize are being thoroughly discussed and I can guarantee you that all input will be taken equally to heart. It is appreciated.

We do have 50 plus pre-registrations for next year and we have increased our block of rooms at the Holiday Inn to 200. Right now, it looks like it will be the best Convention ever.

Our very best to the AK-SAR-BEN RADIO CLUB and we shall look forward to hearing from you. Thanks again!

The very best of 73's

Jerry Ramsey WØPXD, Convention Chairman
5 Park Lane
Kearney, Nebraska 68847

P. S. WØSBZ is our fall guy for any real serious goof-ups at the Convention. "It's his fault."



AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT

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C L O S E D

We will be closed the last week of JULY, on the 20th through the 29th, inclusive. Open on the 30th again.