

AARC

SERVING ALLIANCE AREA HAM

ZEROBEAT

VOLUME 6 NO. 8

AUGUST 1992

Military traffic nets need more volunteers

Club learns role of MARS ops

The Military Affiliate Radio Service is looking for a few good operators. As Frank Sanor explained, it's a chance to help out families of servicemen who have traffic going in and out of the states.

Sanor WA8WHP and Don Kemp NN8B were the guest speakers for the July meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club. They operate as "AAR8WN" and "NNNOVJM" for Army and Navy MARS respectively.

Kemp said he handles traffic for navy personnel for most of eastern and southeastern Ohio. The big cities, he says, have lots of traffic handlers. But in this area, especially New Philadelphia and Youngstown, traffic handlers are needed.

Training for the military affiliate radio service follows a strict format

that is outlined in a manual when you enter. You must be at least 14 years old, hold a valid amateur radio license and have an HF station capable of transmitting in the MARS bands.

Some other facts are that a lot of the traffic going in and out of Ohio is sent via packet, Kemp said, and that you may join either Army, Navy or Air Force MARS, but only one.

MARS members, a brochure points out, must agree to operate a minimum of 12 hours every three months for Army and Air Force MARS. Navy MARS operators require a minimum of 18 hours for the same time.

Some of the frequencies on which you may monitor MARS activity are: as follows:

ARMY

Noon 4.035 MHz LSB or 7.311 MHz USB; 7 p.m. 4.033.5 MHz CW (except Tuesdays and Thursdays) or 4.440 MHz CW; and a 8 p.m. 4.035 MHz USB; also 6.9975 and 14.4035 MHz.

NAVY

9 a.m. 4.010 MHz USB; 5 p.m. 4.041 MHz USB; and 7 p.m. 4.011 MHz CW; also 13.9755 and 14.385 MHz.

AIR FORCE

3.292 MHz; 4.590 MHz; also 4.832; 7.3135; 49.98 and 143.45 MHz.

A call to either Sanor in Minerva or Kemp in Lisbon could get you the information on joining.

You can also write to Jack Shepherd W8OMY. His address is: 376 Danhurst Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43228.

Dan Mutigli N8LVO

Myers resigns; new net manager needed for Tri-County News Net

A new net manager is needed for the Tri-County News and Information Net on the N8DZA repeater.

John Myers WX8G officially stepped down at the July meeting after about a year of service to the club.

If you would like to volunteer, call John and make arrangements to pick up the net format.

A Net Manager is responsible for the Thursday night check-ins or lining-up Net Controls.

"It's a cakewalk when you have dependable people as Net Control," Myers said, "They do quite well, and I just standby in case of a no show."



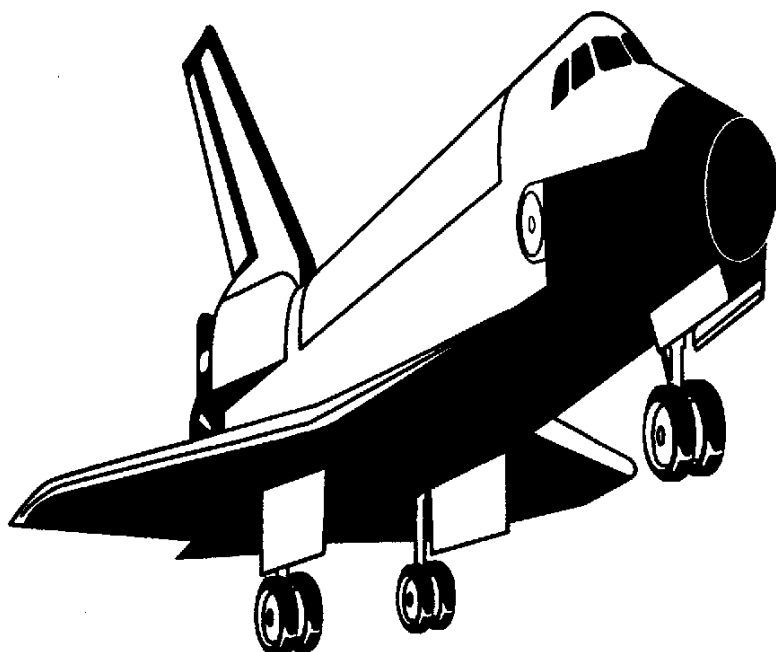
**NEXT
MEETING**

**Thurs., Aug. 6
7:30 p.m.**

ZEROBEAT: The art of all parties being on the same frequency.

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RECORD BREAKING FLIGHT

Space Shuttle Columbia returned to Earth July 9 completing a record 14-day spacelab mission. The crew of seven included Comander Richard Richards KB5SIW and Mission Specialist Ellen Baker KB5SIX who used the call W5RRR-1 on packet and W5RRR/S on SSTV. One of Richards' many ham contacts on STS-50 was with a polynesian-style sailing canoe that was crossing the Pacific. An amateur radio relay station at the University of Hawaii helped link them.

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT -- PAM MYERS N8IAK 821-5513
 VICE PRESIDENT -- LARRY ASHBURN KE8VE 821-9808
 TREASURER -- PATTI HILLIER KE8KH 938-6744
 SECRETARY -- DANIEL MUTIGLI N8LVO 868-6610

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THE ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ZEROBEAT

Published the third week of every month by John Myers WXBG.

Changes in one's address may be sent to: John Myers, 510 W. Harrison, Alliance, Ohio 44601.

Deadline is the 14th day of the month.

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club is an American Radio Relay League affiliated club and is also a special service club.

The club meets the first Thursday of each month at the Alliance Community Hospital in the employee's cafeteria. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

-- SUBMISSIONS --

Stories may be submitted to the editor in written or electronic form. Entries should be written double-spaced on white paper, or yellow legal paper, or greasy napkins, or brown paper bags, but never legible to the editor. Entries should be postmarked to:

Daniel Mutigli N8LVO
 925 East First St.
 Minerva, Ohio 44657

Electronic methods of transmission are as follows:

*** VIA 3.5 inch disk. No 5.25 inch disks please! ASCII files only!

*** VIA landline connect to the N8LVO BBS. You must call me on voice before making the connection. Parity is 2400-N-8-1. Phone 868-6610. Uploading methods recognized are: XMODEM, YMODEM G, KERMIT, ASCII, TELINK, COMPUSERVE B.

*** VIA landline connect to the CanCom BBS: 477-3080. Parity is 9600-N-8-1. Use Private (E)-Mail. Upload your file by hitting the (F) key. Uploading methods recognized: XMODEM, YMODEM, ZMODEM, KERMIT, ASCII.

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WHERE'S DX?

By Jack Bennett WSWEN



All times are in UTC

EUROPE:
6-23 ZA1J 14.024 CW 0216
SM7BCE 14.042 CW 0312
6-23 YO8OU 14.013 CW 0359
AM2SAR 14.222 CW 0025
6-20 UL7PZ 14.052 CW 0304
UB6F/UD6UFA 14.008 CW 0355
6-18 LX1GN 14.038 CW 2038
GI0HSB 14.025 CW 2030
6-17 AZ1TAE 14.002 CW 0339
NA6KRG 14.017 CW 0322
6-15 YU1MW/QRP 14.061 CW 0125
6-14 ZA1TAJ 14.025 CW 0215

AFRICA:
6-23 OD5/SP7LSE 14.023 CW 0182
6-20 5S3RA 14.030 CW 2145
4X4RE 14.057 CW 2222
6-18 TL8PS 21.011 CW 1939
5Z4TT 21.014 CW 1953
6-1 7X2FK 14.034 CW 0200

ASIA:
6-23 UX3M 14.008 CW 0146
UC2AAA 14.000 CW 0243
RW1A 14.048 CW 0252
4K4/UA6WCG 14.028 CW 0223
6-21 VS6WO 21.013 CW 2359
JA1NUT 21.072 CW 2310
6-20 YA1ASD 14.034 CW 2132
VU2NET 14.040 CW 0419
UAOKY 14.022 CW 0316
RK9C 21.023 CW 1748
JH1AEP 14.036 CW 0314
6-18 AP7WA2WYR 18.027 CW 2014
6-16 OR7AI/YA 14.033 CW 0134

OCEANIA:
6-25 WR1Z 14.023 CW 0245

AUSTRALIA:
6-14 ZL1WI 28.020 CW 0227

See your name on this list?

Diana Ashburn, James Garrett, George Ziga, John Ziccardi, Sr., Bob Hobbs, Ray Scoville, Jim Ferguson, Matt Thomas, John Myers, Jim Wilson, Gladys Wilson, Jerry Shore, Pam Myers, Chuck Bench, Mary Ann Royer, Gene Smythe, Dick Bontrager, Rev. Dave Hostetler, Dan Mutigli, Jim Miller, Allen Dicks, Larry Amann, Dave Glass, Larry Ashburn, Jack Bennett and Bill Bennett.

No?
Then this is your final issue

Renewal Tips:
1. Drop off at an officer's or trustee's house.
2. Come to a meeting and pay CASH.

\$15 (Sustaining) \$10 (Full) \$5 (Associate) \$1 (Family)

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Member of ARRL Y N

Send to: Patti Hillier, 18334 Rt. 62, Beloit, Ohio 44609

How to be a Lid

By A.J. Massa W5VSR

[Ed. note: This article originally appeared Ham Radio Horizons, titled, "So You Want to be a Lid," Sept. 1978.]

Lid -- a term used in amateur radio to denote a poor operator: one who is inept at the practice of the art.

A monumental problem facing amateur radio today is the alarming amount of operators filling the air waves. It is the opinion of many that one of the reasons for this is the fact that many of the new operators really have not been advised about proper operating procedures. Too many of the amateur radio "classes" produced today spend very little -- if any -- time correcting operating procedures. Their major thrust is to teach the code, cram the theory and fill out a 610 form!!!

It is easy to be a lid -- it must be! There are so many of them. If you are already a lid, read on! You may find some new lid-isms! If you are not yet a full-fledged lid, you may learn some new material for your next transmissions.

Probably the most popular is, "QRZ the frequency."

It really doesn't take the place of laughter, but it tells the other operators that you know how to laugh on CW. (This one cracks me up--Ed.)

Another one. Always give your callsign phonetically when operating on phone, especially when conditions are good and signals are clear. It's another small way of taking up valuable airtime without really adding any intelligence to a conversation. To cut a fine line, it is not legal to identify your station as, "Whiskey Five Victor Sierra Romeo." If your call is issued, "W5VSR," then you identify, "This is W5VSR." If copy is difficult and for clarification, say, "This is W5VSR Whiskey Five Victor Sierra Romeo."

So continue your lid-ism and show how clever you can be with ridiculous phonetics. A good friend of mine is W5BS and he has a lot of restraint!

Are you interested in DX? Put these on your DX lid list: "CW Dog X-Ray." Jazz it up a little by saying, impressively, "CQ Dog X-Ray, beaming Asia."

Not only does that improve your antenna's directivity, but

Actually, the use of Q-Signals on phone is in itself a true "lid-ism."

Nobody can be quite sure what the meaning of this is. The American Radio Relay League Handbook lists "QRZ" as a Morse Code shorthand "Q-Signal" of "Who is calling me?" On phone, it may mean something else, although I can't imagine a frequency calling someone! I have even heard a W5 utter, "QRZ the channel." Now this guy is a Chief Lid. The frequency was silent for a while (Probably as most good operators were in a state of shock) and then a signal from afar responded, "This is the channel and I wasn't calling you."

I think "QRZ the channel" and "QRZ the frequency" are real winners. Use them a lot. You'll chase the good, experienced hams right out of their gourds.

Actually, the use of Q-Signals on phone is in itself a true "lid-ism." The Q-Signals were devised by high-speed CW operators as a form of shorthand in order to speed up their transmissions. What use they have on phone is questionable, because you can SAY the actual meaning just as fast. And in many cases, the use of Q-Signals causes more confusion than if you would just say what you mean.

Then you get the real lid who comes off with, "QRM-Mary or QRN-Nancy?" Good heavens! Why didn't he just say he had interference?

Now, you must be ready for this next one at a moment's notice: "Hi." Never, ever laugh if you find something funny. Say, "Hi" or even better, "Hi Hi."

it lets everyone hearing you, think you have a beam -- whether you do or not.

But the No. 1, all-time lid award of the century goes to those great DX operators who listen down on one frequency in the foreign part of the band and transmit up in the American phone band without ever listening on the transmitting frequency to see if it was clear in the first place!

Of course you must use two processors, in tandem, mike gain wide open and drive your three 8877 final tubes with an SB-220 while bellowing forth, "CQ Dog X-Ray," for five continuous minutes, before listening. This is the way to attract lots of attention. Lots of it!

Next on the list is the subject of "Break." I do believe we inherited this one from the CBers. Just find a comfortable roundtable in progress, and say, "Break," or "Break-Break," or best of all, "Breaker-Breaker." Don't give any calls, neither the station heard or your own. Don't listen first to hear if you can hear all the stations in the roundtable. Just break in and disrupt everything. If that doesn't work, start tuning up your rig on that frequency. After all, aren't the frequencies there for all to enjoy?

Here are some quickies: say "Go" or "Come Back" or "C'mon, Good Buddy," instead of "Over," if you think you must say anything at all. And don't forget the all-time, Broderick Crawford "10-4" or better yet, "That's a Big 10-4."

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

I am very disappointed with the way the last meeting went. I needed a volunteer for Net Manager, no one would step forward. Now, I can see someone not wanting to commit for a long term, but has anyone thought about this?

Also, when we asked for volunteers to run the net for a month, not one hand was held up! Do we want to keep continuing to have a net or do we want to let it drop? It's up to you.

The Mall Show committee will be meeting soon, so we'll have an idea at the club meeting what to expect. **OR DO WE WANT A MALL SHOW?**

We cannot have a show without 100 percent club membership support. It's up to you!

Pam N8IAK

Field Days remembered...

I stumbled across some notes I had scribbled on the back of an old issue of Zero Beat, northeast Ohio's premier amateur radio club newsletter.

The notes were ragged, scratchy, smudgy and diffuse. There were lines and circles drawn in different places as if to signify great portent at various lines on the page. From some lines, sprang boxes and ovals and stars -- the page seemed to be one great swimming doodle. "No different from any other notes I've taken," I thought.

I held them up to the light, and then I realized I held the treasure trove to Field Days past. Here in my hand were the statistics on Field Days from the great dawn of the club's beginning. And here, too, was the great ketchup stain from the 4th of July picnic.

"June 28, 1990 -- Wellington Hamfest is 3rd week of July." I skipped ahead.

"Westlink Report? -- will we use it

on the net?" Ah, the good old days," I thought.

Then came the drumroll of statistics:

"1986 -- 551 contacts, commercial power; 1,684 points.

"1987 -- 974 contacts, 24 something; 3,070 points.

"1988 -- 952 contacts, 26 something; 3,096 points.

"1989 -- unknown; 2,726 points.

"1990 -- 897 contacts, 47/125 4A,"

Hmm, what did that mean? "3,664 points."

I was giddy with excitement. I searched for more records on more recent Field Days.

From the November 1991 QST:

"1991 -- 657 contacts; 2,718 points. 58th out of 112 in 4A; 6th out of 11 in the 8th call district."

Well, not bad for fighting, extreme cold, heat and all in-between!

Dan Mutigli N8LVO

Latest FCC callsigns as of July 1:

	AREA 8	AREA 3
EXTRA	AA8HX	AA3BA
ADV.	KF8WB	KE3DS
TECH	N8UTT	N3MXA
NOVICE	KB8OEC	KB3AFP

Local ham wins big in \$100,000 drawing in June

Alan Hillier N8EZO has plenty to smile about. In June, the 19-year-old son of Larry and Patti Hillier hit the \$100,000 jackpot in the Ohio Lottery's Buckeye Pick Five game.

After taxes, that leaves him \$76,500 to spend. Alan says he will use the money to buy a home and fund his college education. He is a freshman at Youngstown State University.

Receives perfect attendance pin

The Rev. David Hostetler N8NLZ was recently honored by the Alliance Lions club for 37 years of perfect attendance for the club. He is assistant minister at Christ United Methodist Church. Congratulations Dave.

**Calling all clubs:
we need help
for our Triathlon!**

The Carnation Days Triathlon is Sunday, Aug. 16.

Only one person in our club has volunteered. We need six more people.

Call Dan Mutigli N8LVO at 868-6618 if you can help.

LOCAL VOLUNTEER EXAMINER TESTING

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	CONTACT	TEL
JULY 25	GOODYEAR	9 A.M.	TONY MORTIMER	836-8869
AUGUST 8	N. OLMSTED	1 P.M.	MARY LOU SARAMA	267-5083
AUGUST 29	CANTON	9 A.M.	DICK STELLARINI	453-5896

How NOT to Fox Hunt*By Dan Mutigli NSLVO*

I am a fox hunter. I like what I do. Fox hunting's fun. To the inexperienced, fox hunting is the act of trying to find a hidden radio transmitter.

Having participated in about five or so of these things, you would think I would be an expert fox hunter.

Not!

Believe me, I try and I try, but to no avail. So I figured maybe I will jot down just a few things that I have done, as a WARNING to those who have yet to try it.

First. Don't use a coffee can as your receiving dish. I know somebody else was very successful with a telescoping antenna. But I used a rubber duck instead, thinking antennas are antennas, right?

Second. Get a partner. Don't try to drive, take readings, read the map and drink a can of pop all at the same time. Cars driven in such a manner are like magnets to corn fields.

Third. Use a Yagi antenna. The point is not to hear where the signal is, but rather where it is not. The null is much more important than the signal. If you're using an antenna and when you turn it, it tells you the transmitter can be anywhere within 45 degrees of the center,

YOU'VE got a problem. The point is to get the null down to where you can take a tight bearing, maybe 5 or 10 degrees and be on target or the signal drops out.

Fourth. Once you take two bearings and you connect them in a straight line or triangulate the target, turn the radio off and start using some common sense.

The fox must be in a public area. Start looking at the map and see what public areas are located near the line and take a chance. Columbus did.

This is a race and time is of the essence. There may be some day when you are fortunate enough to take on Touchtone Tommy on your own time; when you've got all the time in the world to live in your car and take 100 bearings so you know exactly what corner of the room the rat is in.

But this is different. Average times can be kept with a stopwatch. In less than half an hour, you can nail the fox every time.

Most important. Trust your readings and know your equipment. I guess the real problem for me is that I always build a fox sniffer about a half hour before the thing starts. I

Continued on Page 8

How to be a Lid

Continued from Page 4

It's a shame the FCC no longer requires us to indicate portable operation. They have taken away another opportunity for the lid-ism, "This is Whiskey Five Very Strong Radio Port Five." I just typed this on my port typewriter!

Did you ever hear a phone operator who sounds like he is operating from a dungeon? Maybe he is. But even without a dungeon you can get the same effect by turning up your mike gain and holding your Golden Eagle D-104 at least one foot or two from your face. Never close talk a mike. Disc jockeys never do and they are, "Cool." When you are on the air, you are "cool," too, so do the same. Communications microphones are designed to be close-talked. Keep that mike gain at a minimum level. That way you won't be transmitting the voices of your wife and kids screaming five rooms away.

Of course, to be a super lid in the audio department, do use a "power mike" driving a processor. Everybody knows that the engineers who designed your transmitter purposely made it short on mike gain.

Lastly, when giving your name, refer to it as your "Handle." It's folksy. And be sure to say, "The handle here is Beaver." That's liddier than just plain, "My name is Beaver."

It also helps to punctuate your remarks with "By Golly," whenever possible. And remember that when you are in a

large roundtable, especially on a VHF repeater, give each and every callsign in the group phonetically when IDing. Also don't forget to add, "for ID" after your callsign.

There are many other ways to be a lid, but I feel confident that if more operators were to take a look at this disaster from the lighter side, perhaps we'll all see just how ridiculous most of the phone operation on the ham bands has become.

Phone conversation should really not take on a much different atmosphere from talking to your friends on the telephone. Do you say, "Over" or "Break" or worst of all, "Come back," when you are on the telephone? Well then, why do it on the amateur bands? All of that is ever-so-redundant on a repeater system which even includes an end-of-transmission beep. And of course, there is even a squelch burst ahead of that. So you actually hear a fellow ending his sentence with, "Come back," followed by a squelch tail, then a beep and in most cases the repeater carrier dropping. You have just four indications that it's your turn. QSL?

Let's all pay more attention to this problem and see if we can clean up our operations and put amateur radio operations back up to the more professional nature that it enjoyed before many poor habits of the CB band crept up on us.

The LARA Spectrum

ALLIANCE ARC AUGUST 1992

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 PORTAGE COUNTY HAMFEST at Randolph 145.39 minus Talk-in	3	4	5	6 AARC MEETING 7:30 P.M. ALLIANCE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	7	8 V.E. EXAMS at NORTH OLMSTED
9	10	11	12	13 SAARA MEETING 7:30 P.M. AT THE RED CROSS NET 9 P.M. 145.37 MHZ	14	15 COLUMBIANA COUNTY HAM RADIO PICNIC AT BEAVER CREEK STATE PARK 4 P.M.
16 CARNATION DAYS TRIATHALON Meet at Glamorgan Castle at 6 a.m. WARREN HAMFEST ELYRIA V.E. EXAMS	17	18	19 CARC MEETING 7:30 P.M. AT THE SAFETY BUILDING	20 NET AT 9 P.M. 145.37 MHZ	21	22
23 CINCINNATI HAMFEST	24	25	26	27 NET AT 9 P.M. 145.37 MHZ	28	29 V.E. EXAMS at CARC
30	31					

ALLIANCE, OH 44601
217 W. Simpson St.
Dave Glass
WBUKQ

TO:



ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MOUNT UNION STATION
P.O. BOX 3344
ANTON, OH 44601
17 JUL 1992

Postscript

By Dan Mutigli N8LVO

Field Day 1992 is in the books. The weekend weather was as Dick Goddard predicted "science fiction." Who would ever think Field Day could be so beautiful?

That said, the weather also was a detractor to not as many showing up this year, but we still functioned quite well as a team.

The 4A team this year comprised Dave Buckwalter \odot 40 Meters; Jim Ferguson on 20; Larry Ashburn on 75 and Dan Mutigli on 15. The novice station this year was done by David Buckwalter KB8LJN. In addition, guys like Dave Glass W8UHQ and Bill Bennett W8ZZS helped with the duping. Then we had another half dozen or so that operated: Allen Dicks W18T, John Myers WX8G, Pam Myers N8IAK, Don Whitaker K8OMO, Jack Bennett W8WEN and Jim Miller N8MAA.

In addition, our fellow hams to the east, the Alliance Youth Radio Club were also getting some invaluable experience on setting up, contesting, etc. The group led by Bill Martikan, KF8JD had its first experience with dupe sheets -- and being that they set up unsheltered tables -- wind gusts were giving them more trouble than the pileups.

Well, that's all for now. 73

HOW NOT TO FOX HUNT ... FROM PAGE 6

figure fresh equipment means fresh results. Unfortunately, untested equipment also means "dead last."

Which brings me to vehicles. Yagi antennas like open air.

That means operating them while you are moving. That said, it should be obvious that cars are not the best choice unless you happen to have one with a sunroof. And that's not too good either. So the vehicle of choice for the fox hunter is a small pickup truck or other open air vehicle.

I've seen some O.K. designs that have the "antenna support structure," (a.k.a. the pole) mounted on the inside of driver's door. Still not safe enough for me. I like it better when you have those heavy duty mirrors like on those mini-trucks, used as the mount on the outside.

Well, that's about all I can say for my expertise for fox hunting.

So let's all get out there and start building some half-way decent equipment and flood the streets with fox hunters on the go. Wishing you good hunting, this is Mr. Deadlast saying 73.

"The easiest way to create a complex problem is to try to solve an easy one."

Dan Mutigli on fixing 160 meter trap dipoles

AUG 1

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