



THE ZERO BEAT

THE VOICE OF THE ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Fall, 1999 <> W8LKY <> VOL. 13 NR. 4



AARC OFFICERS FOR 1999

PRESIDENT..... K8CAT JERRY ROZAIESKI
VICE PRESIDENT KE8VE LARRY ASHBURN
SECRETARY.....W8UKQ DAVE GLASS
TREASURER.....KB8IVS MARY ANN ROYER
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TRUSTEE KG8RN JERRY WHEELER
TRUSTEE K8LTG JIM FERGUSON
EDITOR K8LTG JIM FERGUSON

CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!!

Jerry, N8SH, has been working on the arrangements for our annual Christmas party. No folks it is not to early! It takes a bit of planning ahead to get arrangements in place so we can all have a good time.

We are once again going to the Roadhouse Charley establishment. We will be picking three choices from the following menu.

- 1. Strip Steak \$13.59
- 2. Broiled Scrod \$ 9.75
- 3. 1/2 Slab BBQ Ribs \$ 9.75
- 4. 5 oz. Chicken Beast \$ 8.25
- 5 Baked Rigatoni \$ 7.95

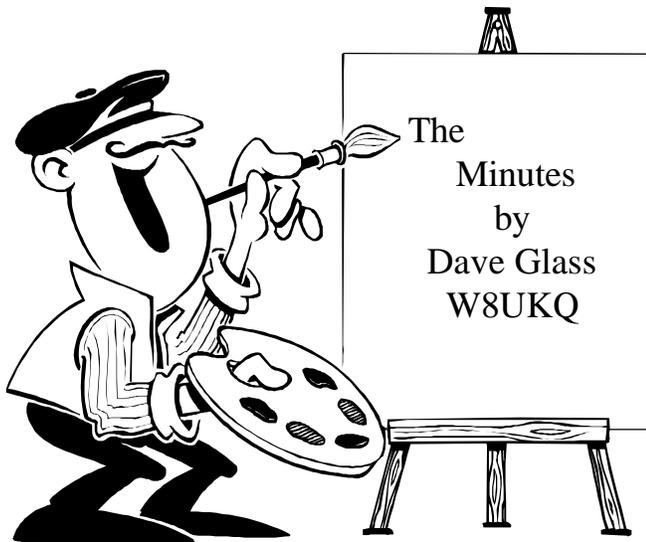
Prices include salad, rolls, coffee, tea, or ice tea. Baked potato included with all but the Rigatoni dinners. Tax and gratuity are also include in the price. Happy hour at six and dinner at seven. Circle your calendar for December 11th., 1999 for the last AARC Christmas part of this millennium! P.s. we will try to pare the menu at the October meeting.

Well folks it had to happen! Here is the evidence! Yes, the Zero-Beat caught N8MAA in the Act of showing off his new code teck hood ornament!

I would not have believed it either, a devout Phone man brazenly displaying a Vibroplex Martin Key ! It is apparent senility has set in since both are turn of the century. Remember you saw it here first, if it is Ham, if it is news, if it is vaguely fit to print, it will be in the Zero-Beat!

Credit is due to the experienced staff Photographer KD6MPN, Dick, shown here collecting the evidence. Shown also is K8OMO , Don who seems to be somewhat interested in the old rusty key for some reason. Could it be Don's key? Nah, and of course ol caught red handed, N8MAA, Jim. I can't believe he would bring such a hood ornament to Alliance and not expect to get caught!

We will of course expect you to check into the CW session next Thursday night Jim! We will try to keep up with you!



ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
September 1, 1999

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on September 1, 1999, at 7:30 P. M., with Jerry Rozaieski K8CAT, president, presiding. Secretary David Glass W8UKQ kept the minutes. There were 12 members and one guest present.

Introductions were made.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and were approved on motion by Gladys KB8GIA, seconded by Jerry KG8RN .

Mary Ann KB8IVS reported the treasury balances. The report was approved upon motion by Jim K8LTG, seconded by Dean KA8GRC. The Butler Hamfest for September 12 was announced.

Dave W8UKQ, secretary, reported that copies of papers from the Office of the Secretary of State of Ohio have been matched with papers from past minutes which show that the club is incorporated. David N8NLZ pointed out that the calendar should be marked so that renewal of the incorporation is not missed because a notice may not always be sent out.

Jack W8WEN called attention to the new requirement by the FCC for amateurs to use the Universal Licensing System (ULS). (Secretary's note:

See QST, August, 1999, page 68)

The Fox Hunt was discussed.

It was noted that the next meeting will be election of officers and one trustee. It was suggested that since the trustees are in charge of the annual meeting that they become the nominating committee and present a list of nominees in order to eliminate going through many "declines."

Jack W8WEN reported observing antenna raising by Scott K8DX. Both Scott and George K3GP will be needing help with antennas.

Jerry N8SH has made reservation for the Christmas party at Roadhouse Charlie's on December 11. Social hour will be at 6 PM and dinner at 7 PM. Three dinners to be offered to members must be selected from steak, scrod, chicken, or Rigatoni.

Jack W8WEN will have classes beginning September 14 in Conference Room B in the hospital. CW starts at 6:30 PM. He will need some help with the theory instruction.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Ray K8DEN.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 P. M., upon motion by Jim K8LTG, seconded by George K3GP.

Respectfully submitted, David L. Glass W8UKQ, Sec-



REMEMBER TO VOTE !

It is a warm autumn afternoon, a light breeze wafted across the young boy as he slowly pumped the pedals. The hill is steep and the gravel road requires attention to keep the bicycle upright. His thoughts are not on the road but on a dump he is going to visit just up the lane. He has visited it often, looking for treasures discarded by others.

A four year old CQ magazine, found in a Boy Scout paper drive featured an article about a Novice band ham transmitter called "The Mighty four Watter". It seems like a promising way to get on the air. He has already spent his last few cents obtaining a pair of surplus headphones to use on a home made regenerative receiver. Parts for it came from another dump across the valley. An old defunct RCA yielded most of the parts. The chassis for the regen was an old discarded breadpan. He was hoping to find an old table radio with the all American five tube line up. It would contain the 50L6 and 35Z5 tubes needed for the transmitter.

The road turned gradually to the right and the trees crowded closed to the edge of the road. "Kind of spooky through here", he thought, looking through hazy woods. The road leveled out, and he knew the dump was just ahead, located in a little dip in the road. He pulled off the road by the dump and leaned the old fenderless bicycle against a handy tree. It was also missing a side stand along with the chain guard and fenders. It did sport a battered old basket wired to the handle bar with bailing wire. The basket was a recent addition along with a couple gunny (old feed bags for you city slickers) sacks to carry treasures.

Slowly he kicked a few cans around and pushed an old wood stove aside. Nothing of interest appeared. The dump spread out down the steep gully, so he carefully made his way down, causing a mini avalanche of tin cans. People would often give their old junk a good toss, so he learned to check for the things down stream. Near the bottom, an old wood case appeared, old

broken and the chassis bent, however an unbroken 1T4 appeared. The IF cans and capacitor were history. "Not much here", he thought.

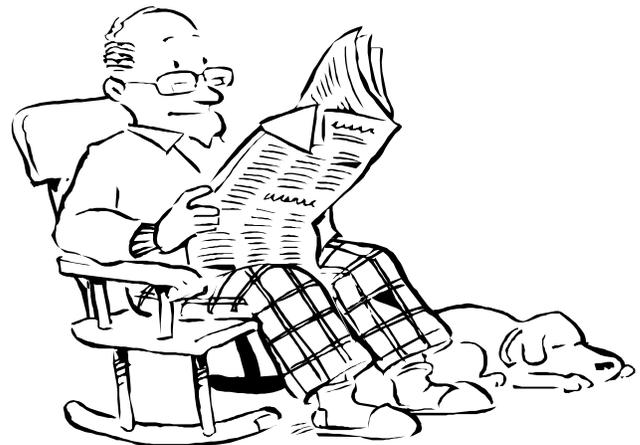
Working his way back up, poking here and there with a stick, he noticed an old table radio, lying half hidden, by a defunct kitchen chair. It seemed to be in pretty good shape with the tubes visible through the loop antenna on the back. He pulled out his prized scout knife, unfolding the screw driver portion. Carefully removing the rear and bottom screws, he retrieved the chassis. A handkerchief from his pocket removed the grime from the tubes. A momentarily feeling a guilt swept through as a vapor, remembering his mothers' lectures about the dirty handkerchiefs.

"Hot dog!" he thought as the numbers became legible. I might be able to get on the air yet!

The only time he had used his ticket was one time when he got to visit his friend Bill who had a new Hammarlund HQ140 XA and a new Johnson Viking 2.

"Don't reckon that ol four watts will work as well as Bills, but at least I might make a few contacts", he thought. "Should have enough saved in a couple weeks to order a crystal".

The ride back down the road to home was made in a dream of future contacts and anticipation of having a real Ham rig on the air soon.





The following news items courtesy of the ARRL LETTER from the ARRL bulletin board on the World Wide Web

QST de W1AW
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT

SUNSAT AMATEUR RADIO SATELITE IS ALIVE!

After more than a month of delays and aborted launch attempts, the Delta II rocket carrying the South African SUNSAT Amateur Radio satellite and other payloads lifted off February 23 from Vandenberg AFB in California. The SUNSAT team in South Africa reports it has communicated with the new satellite and monitored telemetry. On a communication pass February 25, the team brought one of the satellite's onboard computers, OBC1, to life--"a big step forward," the team said. "The 'jingle' that OBC1 onboard SUNSAT relayed was 'I'm Alive.' Good news indeed." Earlier, SUNSAT relayed the temperature of both its top and bottom plates. "Both temperatures were quite low, which is good for the condition of the batteries," the SUNSAT team said. SUNSAT should be fully operational in about a month. Because of weather and technical glitches, the Delta II vehicle carrying the Advanced Research and Global Observation Satellite (ARGOS) primary payload as well as SUNSAT and the Danish Oersted satellite was put off numerous times since its originally scheduled January 14 launch date.

SUNSAT, which stands for Stellenbosch University Satellite, takes its name from the South African university whose students constructed the payload. Stellenbosch professor Garth Milne, ZR1AFH, is heading up the effort.

The SUNSAT package includes digital store-and-forward capability and a voice "parrot" repeater that will be used primarily for educational demonstrations. The unit has two VHF and two UHF transmit-receive systems. The latest Keplerian elements and other information are available on the SUNSAT Web site,
<http://sunsat.ee.sun.ac.za/news.htm>.
SB QST ARL ARLB014

Ohio Award

Ohio award to honor Allan Severson, AB8P:
Ohio's Ham of the Year

Award is being renamed to honor former ARRL Great Lakes Director Allan Severson, AB8P. The award now will be known as the "Allan Severson, AB8P, Memorial Award." Severson, who served as Great Lakes Director from 1990 until 1995, died in September 1997.

Each award certificate will carry the inscription: "Allan's dedication and enthusiasm for Amateur Radio inspired a whole generation of Ohio Section Leadership."

Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, said the award will not be presented this year to avoid detracting from the name change.--Joe Phillips,

K8QOE QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for August was Jay Dyer, W8JAY, for his contribution "A Digital DXpedition to China and Mongolia." Congratulations, Jay!



Here is Jim, N8MAA trying to get equal time for the cover pictures. You will notice he has not produced a "microphone" so we obviously cannot grant his request at this time! Must be a "CW" clandestine CW man !



ARRL NEWS CONTINUED

W2VU NAMED EDITOR OF CQ

New CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, speaking at a forum last May at the Dayton Hamvention.

Current CQ VHF Editor Richard Moseson, W2VU, has taken on additional duties as the new editor of CQ magazine.

CQ Communications Inc President Dick Ross, K2MGA, announced Moseson's appointment Wednesday--six weeks after the death of long-time CQ Editor Alan M. Dorhoffer, K2EEK.

Moseson's appointment was effective As of September 1.

Since joining CQ Communications in 1992, Moseson has been involved in numerous projects, including creation of CQ's Amateur Radio videotape series, management of CQ's 50th anniversary issue, development of the magazine's various Web sites, and--most recently--the launch of CQ VHF in 1996.

An Amateur Extra class licensee, Moseson has been an amateur since 1970. He is active on a variety of modes and bands on HF, VHF, and UHF.

Neat old Irish Fordson mobile



HAMS HELP EAST COAST TO WEATHER THE STORM

Ham radio volunteers along the East Coast from Florida through the New England States put their personal lives on hold for several days this week to volunteer for Hurricane Floyd duty. The huge storm, which sparked the largest mass evacuation in US history, caused a cascading series of Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service activation's, starting in Florida and moving steadily northward. After sweeping ashore early Thursday, the by then fast-moving storm pushed past New Jersey and New York into New England and began to dissipate. The storm cleanup and recovery have begun. The Hurricane Watch Net on 14.325 MHz was activated last weekend and remained on the air much of the week, gathering storm-related weather data as the storm passed over the Bahamas and made its way to the US shoreline. Information gathered on the net is funneled to forecasters via W4EHW at the National Hurricane Center. Net participants also were among the first to alert the rest of the world to initial damage reports from the battered islands. Many SKY-WARN nets also tracked the storm's progress for regional forecasters and kept an eye out for possible tornado activity. The Bahamas may have borne the brunt of Hurricane Floyd. Marty Brown, KF4TRG/C6A in Green Turtle Cay described extensive property damage to the Hurricane Watch Net. Operating from batteries Wednesday, she said there was significant tree damage in many areas, as well as roofs blown off, boat docks severely damaged, and power and telephone lines down. Brown collected reports from other hams via marine radio nets in the islands, including a report from Man o'War Cay that some two dozen vessels were aground there. Road damage--some severe--also was reported. Damage in the Abacos islands was said to be substantial.

"Oh, man, what a day!" Brown said as she took a moment to catch her breath.

Hurricane Watch Net participants and controllers were hampered by less than ideal propagation. Several other Bahamian stations also passed along damage reports. Nets in the Bahamas were

handling emergency and health-and-welfare traffic on 40 meters. A health-and-welfare net has been established on 14.262 MHz as well.

In Florida and Georgia, many of the ARES members activated were assigned to handle communication duties at shelters housing the thousands of evacuees ordered out of coastal counties deemed most likely to be affected by Floyd. Dozens of ARES and RACES teams throughout Florida and Georgia were pressed into service to provide shelter communications and to staff emergency operation centers and assist outside relief agencies such as the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. "Luckily, Hurricane Floyd realized Georgia was very well prepared for his arrival, [so he] turned and remained far enough offshore to cause no significant damage to Georgia," said Georgia SEC Tom Rogers, KR4OL.

As the storm progressed, ARES and RACES activated regional nets on HF and, in some cases, VHF. The FCC declared voluntary communications emergencies for HF and some VHF repeater frequencies in several East Coast states. A voluntary communications emergency remained in effect at week's end for 3923 and 7232 kHz, plus or minus 3 kHz, in North Carolina, which suffered a lot of flooding in the eastern one-third of the state. All other declared voluntary communications emergencies have been rescinded. Georgia ARES not only made use of HF nets but of the Internet. "The

Georgia ARES Reflector was a key tool in the dissemination of

factual information and pre-planning instructions," said SEC Rogers.

"Not every operator in the ARES program has HF capabilities."

North Carolina still is reeling from the storm's effects, and the state has been declared a disaster area. At week's end the Red Cross still had more than 200 shelters open in North Carolina. At one point, some 41,000 people took refuge in North Carolina shelters. More than 620,000 residents were without power. North Carolina

Section Manager Reed Whitten, AB4W, said that he was glad that the storm did not plow further into North Carolina than it did. Fifty one counties had activated their local EOCs due to Hurricane Floyd.

Storm-related stories are likely to be the order of the day during the Virginia State Convention in Virginia Beach September 18 and 19.

The hamfest will proceed as scheduled, despite flooding and wind damage, compliments of Hurricane Floyd. Virginia's Tidewater area already was a bit waterlogged from the effects of Hurricane Dennis earlier in the month. As did other states, Virginia suffered flooding and power outages, along with some downed trees. The City of Portsmouth was without water due to a pumping station failure in Suffolk, where the reservoir is located. Virginia SM Lynn Gahagan, AF4CD, reports the water outage caused the failure of a water-cooled generator at the Portsmouth EOC, which took down communication there. Some parts of Virginia experienced 100 MPH winds.

Downgraded Thursday to a tropical storm, Floyd continued to move rapidly toward the northeast. High winds, heavy surf and higher-than-normal tides were reported along the coastline from New York's Long Island and northward into Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. Heavy rain generated by the storm caused some local flooding. Downed trees and tree limbs and some power outages were reported in New England. Among other activities, hams in New England staffed weather-spotting nets on VHF to keep abreast of the storm's progress and any substantial damage or difficulties.

Hurricane Gert, still in the Atlantic, was not believed to pose a threat to the US, but could be a potential threat to Bermuda.

Editorial note:

This should give us a lot of food for thought about getting the necessary preparedness going in our stations and operating skills.

You are not as useful in such a situation if you do not have the necessary traffic handling or operating skills. They are easy to come by! A few hours listening or better yet, participating in a traffic net can be more valuable than gold in an emergency. Take a tip from the Boy Scouts;

BE PREPARED!

Editorial Ramblings

de K8LTG

It is amazing how fast this summer has passed us by! Here it is getting into the Fall season and there is still a huge list of things not accomplished. The tower still badly needs a coat of paint, the antennas are not repaired, the grass still is looking for a trimming, and the stone wall in front still needs to be relaid.

I won't even get into the garage work!

Field day has come and gone, with a much calmer less eventful one thank heavens! While our score was respectful, it did lack some of the little challenges we are used to! We only wounded one generator and a lot of food! All said a pretty good Field day.

The big event of the winter approaches that just about everyone enjoys. I am of course speaking of the Christmas banquet. We will be selecting the menu items next meeting so plan to be there.

Jack and ,I think, Larry are getting the classes rolling on Tuesday nights at 6:30 –7:00 pm. They can always use a bit of help. Why not drop in and lend a hand?

Speaking of lending a hand, it is time to select a few good people to guide the club into the next century. We have a lot of talent that is under used. How about considering this year more effort in helping the AARC along the path to the new century?

If any of you have a little extra time, please consider writing a piece for the old news letter? It doesn't have to be all fancy or gilded. Your thoughts and observations are what we are looking for. The usual methods will work like mail, e-mail, a phone call, scrap of paper, whatever!

If you do nothing else this year please come to the next meeting and help elect our next group of leaders for the club. Otherwise I might write you in to be the new editor of the "Z e r o b e a t" Wouldn't that be F U N !!

N8MAA'S

NEW HOOD

ORNAMENT

I thought you all might want to have a Close up view of the key we used for our front page article on Jim Miller our beloved N8MAA.

The key is an early Martin vibroplex key developed by Horace Martin who was a prolific designer of the early semi-automatic telegraph keys developed for the early wire telegraph systems.

These keys were used by the railroads, early news media and many other businesses around the turn of the century.

I understand many early sports events had a person with a key who would send the highlights of various sporting events back to the news papers who would then print news flashes and post them in their windows.

Jim, by the way had a very respectable fist when he took his license exam. I was there!

