



August—Hot Weather, Hamfests And Ham Radio Events

If you haven't made it to a Hamfest yet this summer, there is still time and a few good ones left. Warren Hamfest will be on August 21st this year. It's usually a good hamfest and the weather has been good almost every year. Fewer vendors have been turning out, but the flea market is a good one.

August 21st is also the day for the Carnation Triathlon. They always need volunteer radio operators to help keep track of the participants and make sure everyone gets through the event safely.

There is also a rare Saturday Hamfest this coming weekend in Columbus, sponsored by what appears to be a Masonic Ham Radio Club, the Voice of Aladdin ARC.

Contact James Morton, 614-846-7790 or kb8kpj@arrl.net for details.

The AARC will evidently be operating a Special Event again this year at Carnation Days in the Park. You will have to come to the meeting for details and probably to help with plans. At the last meeting it was planned to be held in the JC's Pavilion if it was available and it is listed on the calendar for August 20th.

Did you attend the Portage Hamfest last Sunday? Not really a bad Hamfest, but attendance seemed to be down. It was hot and some people were grumpy, especially dealers who weren't making much money.

If you have any news or information which might be of interest to other

De Olde Meeting Announcement

The next meeting of the Alliance ARC will be on Wednesday, August 3rd, in the cafeteria of the Alliance Community Hospital. Our meetings begin at 7:30 PM, and are an excellent opportunity for eyeball QSO's. Directions can be found on the K8LTG Repeater (145.370)
See you there!

club members, send it to your Zero Beat editor. Pictures, comments on an event, anything that gets your attention. It doesn't have to be a complete article and doesn't even have to be spelled right, hi.



K8OMO's portable antenna tower. "Is that rotor on yet? Should I raise it up now?"



The hazards of Field Day. Photos by K8RLS

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Editorial

Did everyone make it through the last round of storms ok? During a recent storm, K8OMO reported seeing the power pole that has our transformer on it, take a lightning strike. Our lights went out for a few seconds and when they came back on and I re-booted my computer, my old US Robotics 56K external modem was gone. I got a new USB replacement, but it just wasn't the same. I've learned to "read" the behavior of the LEDs on the old one and you can't tell much from the LEDs on the new one. But then I lucked out. Went to the Portage Hamfest Sunday and found one identical to my old one. Bought it for \$3; hooked it up; it works great.

Dianna Ashburn submitted the little puzzle below. See if you can find your Call Sign in it.

Call Signs

G K K K Z I K B 8 I V S Z H E N
Y G B 8 8 Z L R G K A H K V U E
D 8 J T O R Z F D C I Y H W K W
Z R C D A M L T W 8 W C X E B 8
R N B S N F O S R T A V F Q 8 W
8 A C K D 8 M Q B A 8 M R K G K
B A B 8 K V C P L C W C G A I C
A M F R Q R Q C G H H M K 8 A 8
K J Y H X K F N S 3 P J X L W E
C X L D U 8 Z D Z J K T L K E T
Q J 8 8 N G E K N L Q R Y Q G Z
J K W G I R V 8 N H N W U K L N
T A A 8 N V 8 L J 8 O 8 W 8 8 8
8 H N P N G E T G V D E N C N S
C T Z J N N K G X L K A H M J H
K A T J T X 8 N S Z O H V I W J

AA8NV
K3GP
K8LTG
KA8LKQ
KC8ETZ
KC8TWF
KG8RN
N8LGE
N8XTJ
W8WEN

AB8KV
K8CMI
K8OMO
KB8GIA
KC8TAC
KD8MQ
N8FCL
N8NLZ
N8DAV
WA8WHP

AB8RZ
K8DXR
K8RLS
KB8IVS
KC8TIQ
KE8VE
N8IGZ
N8SH
W8UKQ

Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the First Wednesday of every month, in the cafeteria of the Alliance Community Hospital. Talk-in is on 145.37 @. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

Nets

Thursday is our "net night," with the following nets on tap:

Ten meters

CW @ 8PM on 28.400 MHz
SSB @ 8:30PM on 28.400 MHz

2 meters

9 PM on 145.37 MHz

Internet

If you'd like to check us out on the web, our E-mail address is:

w8lky@qsl.net

Our club home page is:

<http://www.w8lky.org>

Newsletter Information

The Zero Beat is a publication of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601

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You can submit material to the Zero Beat either electronically, to ke8ve@alliancelink.com, in person, or via snail mail. I can read most word processor formats, but prefer your files to be in straight text, E-mail, or Microsoft Word format.

July Minutes

ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

July 6, 2005

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on July 6, 2005 at 7:30 PM with club president Robert Steele, K8RLS, presiding. There were 21 members and one guest present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by introductions. Duane Zorger, a neighbor of Don Kingan, AB8KV, and interested in ham radio, was welcomed as the evening's guest.

The minutes of the June meeting were published in the newsletter. The minutes were approved on a motion by Joe, KC8TAC, and seconded by Howard, K8DXR.

Mary Ann, KB8IVS, gave the treasurer's report. The report was accepted on a motion from Don, K8OMO, and seconded by Howard, K8DXR.

Old business:

George, K3GP, gave a report on the results of Field Day. This year's score of 3,504 was lower than 2004 (3,544) although the number of bonus points was higher along with the number of bands worked. A lower total number of QSO's this year offset the other gains. Appreciation was expressed for the donations of food and beverages at Field Day. President Bob asked the secretary to send a thank-you letter to the manager of the Subway on Parkway for their donation of sub

sandwiches.

A number of members attended the Butler hamfest, either buying, selling or both. A persistent comment (common also to Field Day) was that it was HOT.

Don, K8OMO reported that the latest operation of the Homeland Security Hospital Net yielded a lower turnout than the previous month. However, 6 counties were again represented.

Some more discussion was held regarding potential locations for the possible Alliance hamfest. The Nimishillen Grange, a field at Vine street and 183, Marlington Middle School and Mile Branch Grange were all included, with various pros and cons debated. No decision was taken at this time.

New business:

John, KD8MQ, reminded the club about the upcoming Triathlon on August 21 (the same day as the Warren hamfest). Operators are needed to man the various posts.

Don, K8OMO, raised the question of a special event station for this year's Carnation Days festival. John, KD8MQ, mentioned that the Canton club has had special event functions using operators working from their home QTH's and that perhaps this might work for the AARC. However, after some discussion, it was decided to pursue setting up a special event station again this year at Silver Park. This was carried on a motion from Frank, WA8WHP, and seconded by Joe, KC8TAC. President Bob will attend the next meeting of the Park

Board to seek approval of setting up at the JC pavilion or an alternate location.

Other new business:

--The Randolph hamfest is coming up on July 31.

--The Ohio QSO party is August 27 at noon.

--Jack, W8WEN, noted that Carl, K8IHQ, will be giving a talk on solar power to the QCWA chapter 1 club (Cleveland). Some interest was expressed in his giving a talk to the AARC.

--Dave, W8UKQ, expressed his thanks for the prayers and support during his recent illness. He said he was feeling some better and that he had a good report from the latest CT scan. He also noted that Shirley, K8MZT, became a SK on May 7, with a memorial service planned for July 23.

--Dave, N8NLZ, reported that Dean, K8GRC, was in the hospital.

--Don, K8OMO, noted that he and Joe, KC8TAC, were having a work party at the hospital for removal of some coax and other items. It was scheduled for the following day, July 7, at 11:00 AM. Anyone wishing to help out was welcome.

--Frank, WA8WHP, stated that there was some interest in the Minerva area for CW classes. He invited anyone interested to help out or participate. He is in need of a place to meet at a time when all interested parties can attend.

--Peter, N8IGZ, announced that he had some interesting old radio magazines with him that were available for inspection.

Bob, K8RLS, then closed the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Don Kingan, AB8KV, Secretary.

THE WAYBACK MACHINE

ISSUE #20

by **Bill Continelli, W2XOY**

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In our last installment, we took a look at the new "dual Ladder" licensing system proposed by the FCC late in 1974. In effect, there would be 2 parallel series of Amateur Radio Licenses, with 29 Mhz as the Line of Demarcation. Series A covered the frequencies below 29 Mhz, and included the Novice, General, Advanced and Extra Classes. The Conditional Class would be abolished, Extra and Advanced Classes received a power increase, the Advanced License would get access to the Extra phone bands, and Generals would lose power, frequencies, certain modes of operation, and the ability to be a Trustee of a Club station or a Repeater. Series B covered the frequencies above 29 Mhz, and included 2 new license classes--the "Communicator", which would be FM only above 144 Mhz, and the "Experimenter", which would offer all Amateur privileges above 29 Mhz. Like Generals, Technicians would lose big. In fact, those who took their exam by mail (over 90%) would NOT be allowed to renew.

Reaction to the proposal was strong, but somewhat puzzling. Instead of a vehement output of negative comments from the 180,000 General, Conditional, and Technician Class Amateurs, (who stood to lose substantial privileges, and, in many cases, their very licenses), instead, comments concentrated on the "no code" Communicator Class. Amateurs were overwhelmingly against it. In fact, the Communicator License received the same amount of contempt and disdain that the "Hobby Class" proposal had received a few years back. However, while amateurs were debating the FCC Restructuring proposal on the air, and in letters to QST, the ARRL was unusually quiet. Why weren't they coming out with a position?

The answer, in a word, was "Incentive"--as in Incentive Licensing. The ARRL had learned its lesson back in the '60's, when it had submitted its proposal for restrictive phone bands. Now, before any response was made, the ARRL wanted to know exactly what the members wanted.

Thus, the League sent out a comprehensive survey to all 100,000 members. Fifty six percent, or 56,000 (myself included) returned the questionnaires. The

ARRL tabulated the results, printed them in a multi page report in QST, and then, in the Summer of 1975, submitted their own proposal to the FCC.

The ARRL's plan kept the basic amateur structure that was in existence--but with a few changes. The League suggested a "Basic Amateur" License, which would provide limited VHF operating privileges. The "Basic Amateur" would not actually have to pass a code exam, but would have to be familiar with cw characters. The trick here, of course, is that once someone has memorized the letters, numbers and basic punctuation marks, they are at 5 wpm already. So, this wasn't really a "no code" license, but it did eliminate formal cw testing.

As for Technicians, the League once again asked that they no longer be burdened with the "experimenter" designation, that they receive Novice HF subbands, and that they receive full VHF privileges.

Generals would see their code requirement drop to 10 wpm, while the Advanced Class would be bumped up to 15 wpm. No major changes were proposed for the Extra Class.

Unlike the '60's, when the ARRL was blasted for showing Incentive Licensing at the members, this proposal was met with overall approval and appreciation from amateurs.

In the end, although the FCC dropped the "dual ladder" idea, they did incorporate many of the ARRL's ideas into future rule changes. Technicians were mainstreamed into the amateur license structure, Novices received expanded privileges, to eventually include hf & vhf phone, and the FCC, after years of restrictive proposals, finally chose the path of gradual deregulation.

But the "dual ladder" story was not the only event of 1975. When amateurs weren't arguing over the evils of the "Communicator" Class, they were blasting the idea of Class E CB. What was it? In summary, the Electronic Industry Association, or EIA, proposed taking away up to 2 Mhz of our 220 band, and turning it over to a new CB service. With 25 khz spacing between channels, the new EIA Class E CB could have as many as 80 channels. The EIA claimed that the 23 channel CB Band at 27 Mhz was impossibly crowded, and worthless for local communication among legitimate users. Remember, this was at the time of the gas crisis and the "CB Boom". The EIA argued that a skip free

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August 2005

Birthday Greetings to: N8IGZ, N8NLZ, K8DXR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																															
RSGB RoPoCo 2	1 COLUM. COUNTY TRAINING NET 8:00PM	2 Homeland Security Net 7PM at ACH 147.12 NORTHERN COLUMBIANA ARES NET 9PM 147.255 PIONEER AR FELLOWSHIP VE, AKRON, OH	3 AARC Meeting 7:30 CARROLL CTY NET - 147.075	4 AARC NETS 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	5 N8IGZ	6 10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB ARRL UHF Contest Ham "OH" Rama, Columbus, OH LAKE COUNTY ARA VE, KIRTLAND, OH National Lighthouse Weekend QSO Contest North America QSO Party, CW																																																																																																															
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Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.



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WAYBACK MACHINE

(Continued from page 4)

area was needed for CB, and that the 220 band was underutilized by hams. The EIA's proposals, in fact were quite stringent and, had it not been for their unfortunate choice of frequencies, they may have received the support of the ARRL.

But, the EIA was trying to mix matter and anti-matter--in this case, amateur frequencies and CB. This had happened once before, in 1958, when Class D CB was created out of "our" 11 meter band. "Never Again" was the cry from hams. The explosion of protest from the amateur community was palatable. Amateurs pointed out that CB wouldn't be such a mess if everyone obeyed the Part 95 rules, and the FCC took some enforcement action. The ARRL stated that CB'ers themselves were opposed to 220 Mhz CB--which was only partly true. The only CB operators surveyed were those who read hobby type magazines, such as S-9. They were opposed to anything that would take them away from the skip and dx zone into a tightly regulated land of local communications. Lost in the emotional shuffle

was the logical point that CB did not belong in the HF spectrum.

In the end, with the strong opposition of the ARRL, and the indifferent support of cb'ers who really wanted to stay on HF, the FCC dropped the idea. Instead, in late 1976, the FCC expanded the CB band from 23 to 40 channels, and prohibited the sale of the older 23 channel units. This created a mini bonanza for hams, who snapped up the "obsolete" 23 channel units at fire sale prices, and converted them to 10 meters.

As a postscript, amateurs did lose 2 mhz of our 220 band in the early 90's. These frequencies are now in a no man's land, unused. Which is better--to lose 2 Mhz to a service that hams and their families could use productively, or to lose it to something that is inaccessible--and doesn't even exist yet?

In our next installment, we will look at the war protest movement in 1970, and how it affected amateur radio. I hope you will join me.