

Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Zero Beat

Volume XX, no 12

<http://www.w8lky.org>

December 2006

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

Early Edition

Less Than One Week Till The AARC Christmas Banquet

Watch your e-mail
for the regular De-
cember edition.

As of a few days ago, when I spoke to Mary Ann, KB8IVS, there were very few confirmed reservations for the Christmas Banquet. Hopefully, more have been turned in by now, but if you haven't sent yours in yet, do so immediately.

Mary Ann says she needs to know "your choice of meal and how many in your party" by Tuesday at the latest. It's too late to send your reservations by snail mail now, so send her an e-mail or give her a phone call.

kb8ivs@aol.com
330-492-0703

You can still mail your check to

her or bring it to the meeting on Wednesday, but she needs to know your intentions before that.

Brandon's Iron Steakhouse is in the same location as the former **Roadhouse Charly** restaurant. I have eaten there since it changed hands and the food that I had was good. Prices for this year's Banquet, with the exception of the large porterhouse steak, are either the same as last year or only slightly higher.

According to the latest forecasts, the weather for next weekend is expected to be mild, so come out and join us for another great Christmas banquet.

De Olde Meeting Announcement

The next meeting of the Alliance ARC will be on Wednesday, December 6th, in conference room 1A on the west end of the Café in the new 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!

Officers

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Editorial

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@w8lky.org

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.

November Minutes

ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

November 1, 2006

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on November 1, 2006 at 7:30 PM with club president Joe Young, KC8TAC, presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by introductions. There were 21 members and 2 guests present, with the club welcoming Miriam Sanor, wife of Frank, WA8WHP and Frank Jones, N8EEL.

For the Secretary's report Don, AB8KV noted that the October minutes are in the newsletter. Other items included passing around a sales brochure for QSL cards from a Canadian printer and an invitation to advanced weather spotter training from the Indiana-Michigan-Ohio Skywarn group and the National Weather Service of northern Indiana. The training is scheduled for March 10, 2007 in Elkhart, Indiana. The secretary's report was approved on a motion by Frank, WA8WHP and seconded by Larry, KE8VE.

Mary Ann, KB8IVS gave the treasurer's report. It was accepted on a motion by Bob,

K8RLS and seconded by Gladys, KB8GIA.

Old business:

---President Joe reminded the club that Dave, W8UKQ still needs nominations for the Ham of the Year award.

---Bob, K8RLS reported that he had spoken further with Brandon's Iron Steakhouse regarding the club Christmas dinner. The club now has a reservation for the back room on December 9. Final prices, including tax and gratuity, were:

20 oz. Porterhouse--\$30.25
12 oz. New York Strip--\$23.00
Broiled Scrod--\$17.00
1/2 slab ribs--\$15.75
Chicken Breast--\$15.75

A sign-up sheet for the dinner was passed around at the meeting, and an order form will be placed in the newsletter. Reservations must be sent / given to Mary Ann by December 1 with money turned in to her by the next club meeting on December 6.

New Business:

---President Joe asked for a motion regarding having a door prize at the Christmas dinner. Don, K8OMO responded by proposing a \$100 prize with \$25 as first prize, with the balance divided up equally into other prizes. The motion was seconded by John, KD8MQ and passed on

a voice vote.

---Don, K8OMO then reported on the Massillon Hamfest and also made note of a large antenna farm for sale due to the owner's illness.

With no further business, President Joe asked for a motion to adjourn. Frank, WA8WHP so moved with Howard, K8DXR seconding the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Don, AB8KV, Secretary.

THE WAYBACK MACHINE

ISSUE #33

by **Bill Continelli, W2XOY**

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For the FCC, 1978 started off, not with a bang, but rather a ban. On January 1, 1978, the FCC banned the sale of older 23 channel CB sets which did not meet the tougher Type-Acceptance specifications of the new 40 channel units. Anticipating this deadline, manufacturers had been dumping the older radios at fire sale prices. In particular, the crystal controlled 3 and 6 channel CB rigs were being sold--new--for as little as \$10. This was a bonanza for hams looking for an inexpensive alternative to 2 meter FM. With 10 meter crystals installed, a CB radio could be realigned for 28 Mhz operation in less than 20 minutes. Hundreds of amateurs, myself included, snapped up these unwanted CB sets and converted them to 10 meters. Throughout 1978, 73 magazine ran a series on various 11 meter radios, and how to get them tuned up on 10. Unfortunately, hams never set up a standardized 10 meter bandplan. As a result, each area had their own local calling channels, and the concept fizzled out after a few years.

Speaking of bans, the FCC, in 1978, adopted rules which prohibited the marketing of amplifiers capable of operation between 24 and 35 Mhz. They also imposed a Type Acceptance program on amplifiers operating below 144 Mhz. The ARRL had vigorously opposed these actions, to no avail. Catalogues, like the one from Lafayette Radio, were full of ads for amplifiers designed for operation between 15 and 6 meters. Although these were ostensibly amateur units, they were designed for a 5 watt AM input, and were styled to match the company's 11 meter radios. The FCC saw through the charade, and imposed their rather draconian measures in order to cut down on illegal high powered CB operations, particularly in the "10 1/2" meter band, between 27.4 and 28 Mhz.

On March 24, 1978, the FCC announced that "All prior call sign policies and procedures, written or unwritten, are canceled and hereby replaced". No longer would there be any specific call signs, or secondary station licenses. Instead, the FCC implemented the "4 group" callsign system, which continues to this day.

For years, Technicians had been denied access to the full 2 meter band. They obtained 145--147 Mhz in 1959, 147--148 Mhz in 1972, and 144.5--145 Mhz in 1977. At the beginning of 1978, Technicians were still banned from the 144.0--144.5 Mhz segment. Ever since 1969, the ARRL had asked the FCC to give them the full 2 meter band. Finally, on May 15, 1978, the FCC said yes. In addition, they allowed Technicians (and Generals) back into the 6 meter segment from 50.0--50.1 Mhz, which had been taken away from them in 1968 as part of Incentive Licensing. At last, Technicians and Generals had full privileges above 50 Mhz. However, General Class hams still had one more fight. They were banned from using Slow Scan TV on 75 through 15 meters. That was a fight that would be won another day.

For those Technicians itching to utilize their full 2 meter privileges, manufacturers were introducing new, synthesized transceivers. Radios such as Clegg's FM-DX and FM-28, the Midland 13-510, the Pace Communicator II, the Genave GTX-800, the Heathkit HW 2036A, and the KDK FM-2015R liberated hams from the confining world of 12 channels, and opened up the entire 2 meter band to exploration, in 800 5 khz steps. Late in the year, Henry Radio introduced the Tempo S-1, a synthesized 2 meter, 1.5 watt HT. The average price of these units was about \$350, or \$1000 in today's inflation adjusted dollars. There was some good news for those amateurs who couldn't afford, or didn't need an expensive synthesized rig. The prices on discontinued crystal controlled 2 meter radios fell by 60% or more, as dealers made room for the new units.

Unfortunately, crystal controlled rigs were the only items with falling prices. The U.S. was locked into double digit inflation, and the ARRL warned that the \$12 membership dues would probably have to be increased. Otherwise, the League was doing fine. Membership was 165,000--which was about half the number of the 330,000 hams. Incidentally, the ARRL's membership today is also 165,000, but there are 700,000 hams. League membership has dropped from 50% to 25%.

The big news towards the end of 1978 was NBVM--which stood for Narrow Band Voice Modulation. A description of this mode is quite technical, but in summary, on FM a frequency compandor compressed the

(Continued on last page)

Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Christmas Party



Reservation Form

The annual Alliance Amateur Radio Club Christmas banquet is scheduled for Saturday, December 9th at Brandon's Iron Steakhouse, 2239 West State Street. There will be a cash bar at 6:00, with dinner served at 7:00 pm. Please fill out this reservation form, and return it to Mary Ann Royer, KB8IVS, with your check made out to the Alliance Amateur Radio Club. Mary Ann's address is: 6255 Sandalwood NE, Canton, OH 44721-3340.

Our menu this year will be as follows:

20 oz. Porterhouse \$30.25

12 oz. New York Strip Steak \$23.00

Note: In the past, all steaks were done medium. We have no new information on this.

Broiled Scrod \$17.00

BBQ Ribs, half slab \$15.75

Chicken Breast \$15.75

Dinners include: a vegetable, choice of rice or baked potato, salad, roll & butter, and coffee, tea or soft drink. Prices include sales tax and 15% gratuity. **Note:** Included items may vary this year.

Name: _____

	# of each	Total	√ or # of each	
20 oz. Porterhouse	_____ @ \$30.25 = _____	_____	___ Rice	___ Baked Potato
12 oz. New York Strip Steak	_____ @ \$23.00 = _____	_____	___ Rice	___ Baked Potato
Broiled Scrod	_____ @ \$17.00 = _____	_____	___ Rice	___ Baked Potato
BBQ Ribs, half slab	_____ @ \$15.75 = _____	_____	___ Rice	___ Baked Potato
Chicken Breast	_____ @ \$15.75 = _____	_____	___ Rice	___ Baked Potato

Total enclosed = _____

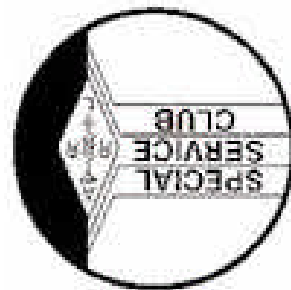
Note: All reservations must be received by December 1st. You may bring your payment to the meeting on Dec. 6th.

December 2006

Birthday Greetings: KC8ETZ, N8PLA, N8DAV, KC8TQF, KA8GRC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
					1 ARRL 160-Meter Contest EU-PSK-QRP Contest	2 LAKE COUNTY ARA VE, KIRKLAND SILVERCREEK ARA VE, RITTMAN TARA RTTY Melee TOPS Activity Contest Wake-Up! QRP Sprint																																																																																				
3 KC8ETZ	4 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8 pm	5 ABS Spartan Sprint Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 CUYAHOGA FALLS ARC VE, STOW N. Columbiana Cty. ARES Net 9 pm 147.255	6 AARC Meeting 7:30 p.m. Carroll Cty Net 0100 UTC 147.075	7 AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	8 Massillon Net 8pm 147.18	9 ARRL 10-Meter Contest																																																																																				
10 NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally	11 COLUMBIANA ARC VE, LISBON Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8 pm N8PLA	12 Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 N. Columbiana Cty. ARES Net 9 pm 147.255	13 Carroll Cty Net 0100 UTC 147.075 NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	14 AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	15 Massillon Net 8pm 147.18 Russian 160-Meter Contest	16 Croatian CW Contest International Naval Contest MDXA PSK DeathMatch N8DAV OK DX RTTY Contest																																																																																				
17 ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint KC8TQF	18 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8 pm Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	19 Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 KA8GRC N. Columbiana Cty. ARES Net 9 pm 147.255	20 20/9 ARC VE, BOARDMAN 20/9 ARC VE, YOUNGSTOWN Carroll Cty Net 0100 UTC 147.075	21 AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	22 Massillon Net 8pm 147.18	23																																																																																				
24 RAEM Contest	25 CHRISTMAS Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8 pm	26 Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 DARC Christmas Contest Homeland Sec Net 7:30 147.51 SIMPLEX N. Columbiana Cty. ARES Net 9 pm 147.255	27 Carroll Cty Net 0100 UTC 147.075	28 AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	29 Massillon Net 8pm 147.18	30 RAC Winter Contest Stew Perry Topband Challenge																																																																																				
31 Straight Key Night	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>November 06</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>January 07</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>					S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
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Amateur radio - when all else fails ...



Alliance Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 3344
Alliance, OH 44601

WAYBACK MACHINE

(Continued from page 4)

signal bandwidth on transmit, and expanded the signal bandwidth on receive. For AM, an amplitude compressor compressed the signal amplitude on transmit, and expanded the signal amplitude on receive. The result was a significant reduction in transmitted bandwidth, less co-channel interference, and an improved signal to noise ratio. FCC tests showed that a signal 40 db stronger and only 2 khz away would not cause harmful interference to the received signal. Henry Radio came out with a NBVM system--the VBC Model 3000. It featured a 1300 hz bandwidth, which was 1/2 that of sideband, 1/4 of AM, and 1/10 of FM. Despite the apparent advantages of NBVM, it never took off in the amateur community.

Perhaps NBVM failed because, at the end of 1978, hams were preoccupied with WARC-79. No, that's not an FM Translator callsign. It stood for the World Administrative Radio Conference which would take place in 1979. Amateurs were optimistic, yet concerned. In

our next installment, we will look at WARC-79. So, until then, tune up your amplitude and frequency compandors, and explore that 2 meter band.

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