



Frank, WA8WHP Is 2006 Ham Of The Year

The AARC broke with tradition this year and presented the Ham of the Year Award before the annual Christmas banquet. Mary Ann, who gets the plaque engraved, also was taking reservations for the banquet and knew that neither last year's Ham of the Year or the new Ham of the Year would be able to attend the banquet, so she suggested the presentation be made at the December meeting. The meeting was only three days before the banquet, anyway, so the presentation was timely.

Frank, WA8WHP is our newest Ham of the Year. Frank is nearly always around to help out with set up and operations at special events and Field Day, and rarely misses a meeting. He has held the office of trustee since 2004. Frank has also arranged and guided two club trips to Channel 17 where he works, and has given club members an insight into television station operations.

Frank was an excellent choice for Ham of the Year

2006 AARC Christmas Party

The AARC held another successful Christmas Banquet on December 9th, at Brandon's Iron Steak House, formerly Roadhouse Charly. Just about everyone enjoyed their food. Attendance was down a bit from last year with only 19 reservations and 1 or two walk ins, but several members were unable to attend for various reasons.

There was no formal entertainment this year but attendees managed to entertain each other with conversation. After all, isn't that

(Continued on page 2)



Dave, W8UKQ presents Ham of the Year plaque to Frank, WA8WHP

De Olde Meeting Announcement

The next meeting of the Alliance ARC will be on Wednesday, January 3rd, 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!

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Editorial

Unfortunately, the final edition of last month's Zero Beat never quite made it, but the important stuff got printed in the Early Edition. Hard copies haven't been mailed for about a year, although they have been available to those who attend the meetings. If you know anyone who doesn't have e-mail, take them a copy.

Rumor has it that our former award winning Zero Beat editor, John, KD8MQ may be returning as your new Zero Beat Editor sometime soon. I've been doing it for almost five years since my first attempt in March 2002 and continuously since October of that year with only about 3 missed issues. I need a break, so if you see John, tell him what a great job he did.

Christmas party, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

what Hams do best? There were door prizes for just about everyone. The club donated one cash prize of \$25 and 15 prizes of \$5. In addition, Gladys, KB8GIA donated several small gifts, as usual. There were also some snacks which were probably provided by Gladys. Thanks again, Gladys. We also need to thank Mary Ann, KB8IVS and Bob, K8RLS who made arrangements for the party, and last but not least, thanks to all who attended and helped make it a joyous occasion.

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.

December Minutes

ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

December 6, 2006

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on December 6, 2006 at 7:30 PM with club president Joe Young, KC8TAC, presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by introductions. There were 22 members and 1 guest present, with the club welcoming past member Larry Hillier, N8EWW.

For the Secretary's report Don, AB8KV noted that the November minutes are in the early edition newsletter. He also reported that the Foundation for Amateur Radio has 56 scholarships available for licensed radio amateurs for the academic year 2007-2008. The scholarships range from \$500 to \$3000. Contact information is available. With no further items, the secretary's report was approved on a motion by Frank, WA8WHP and seconded by Howard, K8DXR.

Mary Ann, KB8IVS gave the treasurer's report. She reminded the club that the Christmas party menu was set and the order had been submitted, but that if anyone else wanted to attend, they could and simply order from the menu. The treasurer's report

was accepted on a motion by Smitty, KC8TJQ and seconded by Jim, K8LTG.

Old business:

---Don, K8OMO reported that Sam Oliva, KC1GP had been moved into an assisted living facility in Canton (Canton Regency, room 527).

---John, KD8MQ reported that the club's website had been renewed for another year.

New Business:

---Bob, K8RLS moved that the club donate \$100 to the Firemen's annual Christmas toy drive. The motion was seconded by John, KD8MQ and passed on a voice vote.

---President Joe called Dave, W8UKQ forward to present the Ham of the Year award. This year's award went to

Frank Sanor, WA8WHP.

---Joe then presented a plaque to Dave for being Ham of the Year for 2005.

---The club was reminded about the Tusco Hamfest scheduled for January 28.

---Dave, W8UKQ noted that he had several items for sale.

Larry Hillier then presented an interesting program recounting a sailboat trip he had taken around the Caribbean.

At the conclusion of Larry's program, and with no further business, President Joe asked for a motion to adjourn. Rick, KC8SUI so moved, being seconded by John, KD8MQ. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Don, AB8KV, Secretary.



Joe, KC8TAC presents Dave, W8UKQ with his permanent Ham of the Year plaque.

THE WAYBACK MACHINE

ISSUE #34

by **Bill Continelli, W2XOY**

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NEW BANDS AT GENEVA!!!

Those were the good words at the beginning of 1980. WARC-79 was over and amateur radio came out ahead. We kept all of our major HF, VHF and UHF bands and received three new HF allocations: a 50 kHz shared band at 10 Mhz, and two new exclusive 100 kHz segments at 18 and 24 Mhz. These were the first new HF bands since 1947, when we received the 15 meter band. The only down side was the time element: it would take about two years to actually receive 10 Mhz, and up to nine years for 18 and 24 Mhz. Amateurs, however, had waited until 1952 to get 15 meters, we would gladly wait again--especially for 200 kHz of worldwide HF spectrum.

Other legal and regulatory news dominated the Amateur world at the beginning of 1980. The FCC proposed a new SSB only CB Band from 27.410 Mhz (just above CB channel 40) to 27.54 Mhz. For this new CB allocation, the FCC proposed removing the 155 mile contact limit (thus allowing DX contacts), as well as permitting VFO's. A non-technical test would be required for access to the CB-SSB band. Reaction, as you might guess, was strong and divided. HF "outbanders" (who worked the "10 1/2" meter band) were in favor--unlike the 220 Mhz "Class E CB" proposal a few years back, they could work skip on this new band. Or, should we say it would legitimize their present operations? The ARRL and the Amateur community were strongly opposed. Many letters in QST pointed out the intrusion of the illegal operators on the "10 1/2" meter band into the bottom part of our 10 meter band. In the end, the proposal was abandoned. The "Freebanders" and "Outbanders" continue to operate the 27.41 to 28 Mhz segment to this day.

In January, 1980, the FCC approved ASCII, which, at the time, was described as "an encoding system for digital transmissions that is compatible with most personal computers". Packet Radio had received the Official Government Blessing. Wayne Green, W2NSD/1, in a 73 magazine editorial, called the FCC action "asinine", because it only allowed 300 BAUD. Wayne

pointed out that 1200 BAUD was the norm in telephone operations, and speeds as fast as 9600 BAUD would soon be possible.

Novices and Technicians got good news in 1980--they could now operate in Canada. In the past, they were not allowed to operate north of the border, because Canada had no equivalent license. Since Canada now had a VHF license, they opened the RF door to all Novices and Technicians--no reciprocal permit required.

Congress is considering a Bill to allow 10 year licenses, and the authorization of Volunteer Examiners. The ARRL is watching this Bill closely, and will keep the Amateur community informed.

Hams had been looking forward to the launch of AMSAT-OSCAR Phase 3. Unfortunately, on May 23, 1980, the launch vehicle failed and dumped it into the ocean.

In 1980, the start of the "Wayback" articles was 16 years in the future. What was a history starved ham to do? Don't worry--just pick up 73 magazine. Eric Shalkhauser, W9CI, was writing the "History of Ham Radio" as a series in 73 magazine. Also, in 73 magazine, the "CB to 10 meter" series was still going strong, showing how to convert those obsolete 23 channel CB rigs to 10 meters and, in some cases, 10 meter FM.

In 1980, what rigs were on the market? In the field of 2 meter handhelds, the Tempo S-1 (the first synthesized HT) was facing some stiff competition. Kenwood introduced the TR-2400, and Yaesu brought out the FT-207R. Both were priced at "just" \$395. ICOM unveiled the IC-2A and the IC-2AT. Prices started at just \$200 (no nicads or TTP) to \$270 fully equipped. In response, Tempo dropped the price of the S-1 to \$260. If you can't afford a synthesized HT, buy a discontinued crystal controlled rig. The HY-GAIN 1 watt, 6 channel HT is just \$88. The Yaesu FT-202R, a 1 watt 6 channel unit (which looks just like the FT-207R) is only \$125. PACE is leaving the ham market and has its remaining 2 meter handhelds on closeout for less than \$120. Inflation has increased prices 250% since 1980, figure out the prices of these radios in today's dollars.

Finally, in 1980, did you get "Bashed"? Did you buy "The Final Exam"? Would you EVER admit to it? What's the controversy?

In 1980, Dick Bash, KL7IHP, published a series of books entitled "The Final Exam" and nicknamed the "Bash books". The actual test questions and multiple-choice answers were reproduced verbatim as they appeared on the FCC Technician/General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra exams. Remember, in 1980, the FCC exam question pool was not published. The FCC had a general "syllabus" of rules, regula-

(Continued on last page)

January 2007

Birthday Greetings: K8RLS, KD8BBK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 AGCW Happy New Year Contest AGCW VHF/UHF Contest Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8 pm SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	2 ARS Spartan Sprint Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 K8RLS N. Columbiana Cty. ARES Net 9 pm 147.255	3 AARC Meeting 7:30 p.m. Carroll Cty Net 0100 UTC 147.075	4 AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	5	6 ARRL RTTY Roundup EUCW 160m Contest Original QRP Contest
7 Kid's Day Contest	8 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8 pm KD8BBK	9 Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 N. Columbiana Cty. ARES Net 9 pm 147.255	10 Carroll Cty Net 0100 UTC 147.075	11 AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	12 Massillon Net 8pm 147.18	13 070 Club PSKFest MI QRP January CW Contest Midwinter Contest, CW North American QSO Party, CW Southwest Ohio Symposium, Middletown SPAR Winter Field Day
14 CUYAHOGA ARS VE, INDEPENDENCE DARC 10-Meter Contest Midwinter Contest, Phone NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB S.C.A.R.F. Hamfest, Nelsonville	15 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8 pm	16 Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 N. Columbiana Cty. ARES Net 9 pm 147.255	17 Carroll Cty Net 0100 UTC 147.075	18 AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 CUYAHOGA ARS VE, INDEPENDENCE NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint QCWA Net 7:30	19 Massillon Net 8pm 147.18	20 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes Hungarian DX Contest LZ Open Contest North American QSO Party, SSB UK DX Contest, RTTY
21	22 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8 pm Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	23 Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 N. Columbiana Cty. ARES Net 9 pm 147.255	24 Carroll Cty Net 0100 UTC 147.075	25 AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	26 Massillon Net 8pm 147.18	27 BARTG RTTY Sprint QC 160-Meter Contest, CW REF Contest, CW SARL Youth for Amateur Radio UBA DX Contest, SSB
28 Tusco ARC Hamfest, Strasburg	29 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8 pm	30 Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 Homeland Sec Net 7:30 147.51 SIMPLEX N. Columbiana Cty. ARES Net 9 pm 147.255	31 Carroll Cty Net 0100 UTC 147.075	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> December 06 S M T W T F S 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 </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> February 07 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 </div> </div>		

Amateur radio - when all else fails ...



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WAYBACK MACHINE

(Continued from page 4)

tions, and technical data covered on each exam. The ARRL License Manual discussed these topics in detail. But no one had published the actual questions and answers until Dick Bash came along. How did he get the questions? Simple--he would go down to the FCC examination site, stand outside the door, and question the applicants as they came out. Co-operative hams (or would be hams) gave him the questions and multiple choice answers that appeared on their exams. Later, as the books began to sell in numbers, applicants would mail him the questions and answers that were on the tests. The books were popular--selling at the rate of 1,000 per month in 1980.

Dick Bash claimed his operation was 100% legal. He said that since the questions were available via a FOIA request, they weren't classified and could be published. He further stated that he was justified in publishing "The Final Exam" because the syllabus and License Manuals out there did not adequately prepare applicants for the exams. Indeed, FCC records showed that the failure rate at some exam sessions was 69%--less than 1 out of 3 passed. This was before the Volunteer Exam program. FCC exams were given at the 20 field offices nationwide, and at quarterly, semi-annual, and

annual examination sites. If you failed, it might be 3 months or more before you could retake the test.

The ARRL and the FCC fought back. QST refused to run ads for "The Final Exam". The FCC began rewording and changing the questions on the exams to thwart those who had memorized the earlier questions. Dick Bash claimed that the FCC used coercion to pressure magazines and distributors not to advertise or sell "The Final Exam". This battle went on until 1984, when the Volunteer Examiner program was instituted, and the FCC released the question pool to the public. Dick Bash ceased his operation. Did he win in principle? You decide.

In our next installment, we are going to stay in 1980, and look at four unique public service activities in which Amateur Radio played an important role. Sadly, in one event, two hams lost their lives.

So, until then, turn on your TRS-80 and copy all those new packet signals.