



# Alliance Amateur Radio Club Zero Beat

Volume XXII, no 6

<http://www.w8lky.org>

June 2008

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

## Field Day 2008!

Well, the time is upon us. Field Day 2008 is just a few weeks away. Here's the rundown.

The location has remained the same. We will be at Marlinton Middle School (see map below), on Moulin Ave.

Don, K8OMO has again offered the use of his boom truck.

While George, K3GP will be out of town for this years Field Day, he has offered the use of his 20 Meter beam.

Rick, KC8SSUI is working on lining up food donations. More on this at the Next club meeting.

One rule change of note is the elimination of the demonstration mode. It has been

replaced by the Educational Activity Bonus. We still need someone to handle this one.

The complete rules are posted on line at <http://www.arrrl.org/contests/rules/2008/fd.html>.

We've decided to again run the N3FJP network software package for logging. It was a bit cumbersome when it came to the after field day log preparation, but George feels certain, he can work around that.

The final preparations will be made at the June meeting, so We hope to see everyone there (see meeting announcement at right).

[Date change for Fox Practice Run](#)  
[See Pg. 4](#)

## Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 4th, at the Alliance Community Hospital, in the cafeteria conference room.

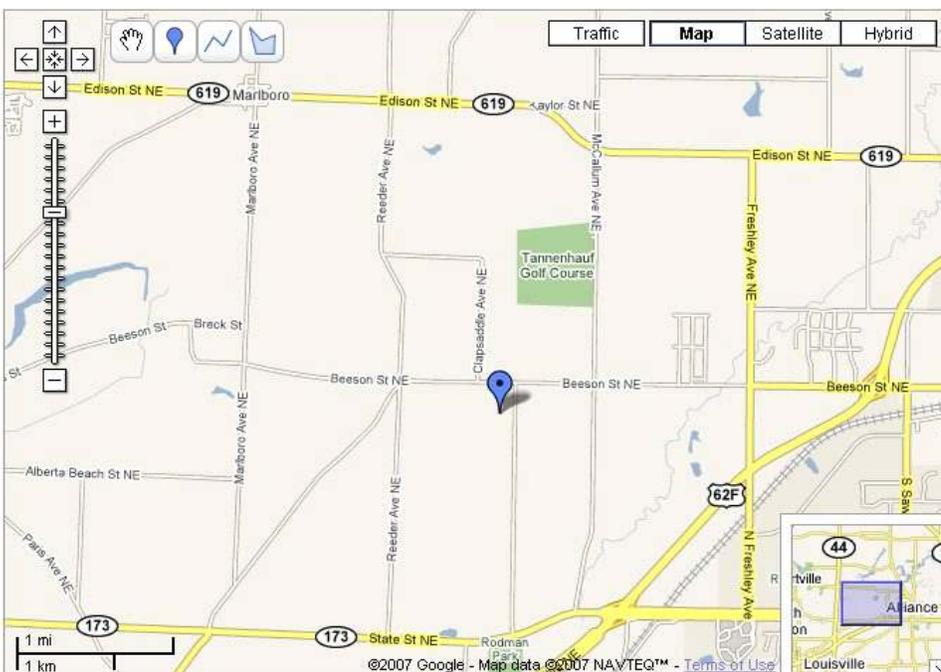
Please join us as we wrap up our planning for ARRL Field Day.

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM.  
We hope to see you there!

Before the meeting, some of us get together at 6 PM, for food, & fellowship.

We gather at 6 PM, at Don Pancho's Tex-Mex Café (2105 W. State St.).

Everyone is welcome to attend.



Map to this years Field Day site.

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### Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ  
(See above)

## Ramblings

By John, KD8MQ

Well, another Hamvention has come and gone. The Bus trip was enjoyable. Both CQ, and the ARRL were more than happy to take my money. CQ will have no classic radio calendars for 2008/2009, but it looks like they'll be back for the 2009/10 calendar year.

Field Day is only a few weeks off. Some planning has been done so far, but more needs to be done at the June meeting. Please plan to attend, to add your input as we plan this years effort.

If you e-mailed me around May 14th, and are still waiting for a reply, please e-mail me again. I seem to have missed seeing a whole day of e-mails. They finally began appearing on my desktop around the 19th. Either I missed them, or Gmail had a bit of a hiccup.

We'll be meeting with the triathlon committee next week. There's talk about a major route change coming up. I'll have more information at our June meeting.

The foxbox had it's first deployment on Mothers Day (see page 1). **The date of the June practice run has been changed to June 14th.** (again, see page 1).

Thanks go to Allen, WI8T who donated a larger battery. I'm in the process of building an on-board battery charger into the cabinet. By the time of July's hunt, we should be able to run it at high power (5 Watts), for extended periods of time.

See you at the meeting,  
73,

John, KD8MQ

## Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the First Wednesday of every month. Check the meeting announcement on page 1, for the location.

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

The Homeland security Net meets on the last Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 PM, on 147.51 simplex

## Internet

**Web:** [www.w8lky.org](http://www.w8lky.org)

**E-mail:** [W8lky@w8lky.org](mailto:W8lky@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 via e-mail to [kd8mq@neo.rr.com](mailto:kd8mq@neo.rr.com)

## Hunters are "Drilled" by the Fox!

Well, as we try to restart one tradition, another one seems to be surfacing. The first planned fox hunt for this year was cancelled due to snow. The make up date was plagued by rain, as was May's Practice run.

The equipment worked flawlessly, with the exception of a bad input line on the PIC micro-controller, and the battery pack.

The PIC controller IC it was discovered, did not like high levels of RF. (i.e. I laid the rubber duck across the IC, as it was transmitting). So, after cooking the first chip, the second one developed a condition that would not allow it to be turned off by DTMF command.

Then as the day of the practice run approached, it was discovered that 15 years was just too long for the NICADs to sit on my desk, uncharged. Even after a full charge, they lasted only a few minutes in circuit.. Another power source had to be found, mighty quick. After surfing to the web, the cost of new NiMH cells were

just too high. Especially a week before Dayton.

So, the rechargeable battery from my cordless drill was pressed into service. After passing initial tests, the drill battery was placed into the enclosure.

By the time of the next practice run on June 14th, The foxbox should be outfitted with a few modifications, including a heftier battery which will allow high power operation.

The May practice run consisted of the box running in low power mode (about 3 Watts). It was placed on the lowest branch of the maple tree in W18T's front yard, in the 800 block of Bonnieview Ave.

Unfortunately, nobody signed the log, but K8OMO appears to have come close, before the neighbors called the police on him.

The next practice run is scheduled for Saturday, June 14th. From 12 PM, to 4 PM.

## Date change for Fox Practice Run

June sure is a busy month, isn't it? Between Field Day, and graduation parties, it is a challenge to find a clear weekend!

Last months fox hunt schedule listed the date of the June practice run as June 15th, which is Fathers Day.

**That has been changed to June 14th from 12 PM, to 4 PM.** The frequency of 147.51 will remain the same.

Please pass this date change along.

### Quote o' the Month

If we all did the things we are capable of, we would astound ourselves.

**Thomas Edison**

## ARRL Introduces "Fifth Pillar" Program

On Saturday, May 17 at the [Dayton Hamvention](#), ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, plans to announce that the League will expand its identity program to include greater emphasis on technology. Harrison explained that "Ham radio operators, and particularly ARRL members, closely identify with current and emerging radio technology. Today, we are naming 'technology' as ARRL's new fifth pillar." ARRL's other four pillars, the

underpinnings of the organization, are Public Service, Advocacy, Education and Membership. "For hams, expanding the four pillars to include technology will reinforce one of the organization's guiding principles -- that ham radio is state-of-the-art, innovative and relevant," he said. "Radio amateurs have entered a new era. More than a dozen Amateur Radio satellites are presently in orbit with more to come.

Software is expanding the capabilities of their radio hardware and communication by digital voice and data is expanding rapidly among hams," Harrison said.

In addition to the new fifth pillar, the ARRL has launched a year-long ham radio recruitment campaign emphasizing the Amateur Radio Service as a scientific national resource. The campaign invites newcomers to

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Fifth Pillar—cont.

*(Continued from page 3)*

discover ham radio in the 21st Century -- where hams are using science, technology and experimentation to explore the radio spectrum. "For more than 90 years, the ARRL has been at the forefront of technology, encouraging experimentation and education through its license training resources, publications and periodicals. ARRL provides its members with top-notch technical information services, trusted product reviews and radio spectrum advocacy," Harrison said. "The ARRL Laboratory is a centerpiece of ham radio technology, contributing to radio electronics experimentation, spectrum development and advocacy, and radio frequency engineering."

Harrison also noted that many hams attribute their affinity to "Amateur" Radio as launching their professional careers in radio engineering, satellite communications, computer science and wireless communications.

"This is less about defining a new course for Amateur Radio, but simply recognizing a course that has always been a precept of radio amateurs and the ARRL," he said. Referring to the federal rules and regulations for Amateur Radio, Harrison explained that one of the defining principles of the Service's very creation by the government is the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art. Harrison remarked, "Today's technology is nothing new to ham radio!"

### Briefs

- ⇒ While some were watching the Indy 500 on Memorial Day weekend, others watched in awe, as the NASA lander Phoenix touched down on Mars. Phoenix is the first Mars lander to use tripods, since the 1970's. More information, as well as mission news, and pictures can be found at <http://www.nasa.gov/home/index.html>.
- ⇒ Dr Ronald A. Parise, PhD, WA4SIR, passed away Friday May 9, 2008 after a very long and courageous battle with cancer. He was 57. Parise flew as a payload specialist on two space shuttle missions: STS-35 on Columbia in December 1990 and STS-67 on the Endeavour in March 1995. These two missions, ASTRO-1 and ASTRO-2 respectively, carried out ultraviolet and x-ray astronomical observations, logging more than 614 hours and 10.6 million miles in space. (Read the full article at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/05/10/10092/>)
- ⇒ OK, so you were at Dayton, but you couldn't have seen everything. Here, thanks to YouTube, are some videos of people, and events, you may have missed: [http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=hamvention+2008&search\\_type=](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=hamvention+2008&search_type=)
- ⇒ While we're on the subject, How about a YouTube search on Field day 2007? [http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=radio+field+day&search\\_type=](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=radio+field+day&search_type=)

### Wayback Machine—cont.

*(Continued from page 6)*

- two banana splits per operator were at stake.
  - ⇒ Our program for the month was on Skywarn, and was presented by Steve Apfel, and Nick Miller, from the Youngstown office of the National Weather Service.
  - ⇒ It was reported of the three teams who participated in the April 13th Fox hunt, none were able to find the fox.
  - ⇒ The Zero Beat was awarded an excellent rating in the newsletter contest which was run by the Amateur Radio News Service.
  - ⇒ It was announced that Ed McNabb, director of the Alliance chapter of the Red cross was retiring. Ed later became N8FCL.
- (There was no June, 1998 Zero Beat)**

#### **June, 2003, (editor KE8VE)**

- ⇒ Planning for our 2003 Field Day effort was well underway, as Larry addressed some of the finer points of the rules.
- ⇒ In the editorial, Larry lamented that another National Fox Hunting month had come and gone without an AARC fox hunt.
- ⇒ Harry Pownell, W8PXX had become a silent Key.
- ⇒ Four former, and current Zero Beat editors, KC3CL, KE8VE, N8SH, KD8MQ were pictured together at the 2003 Breezeshooters hamfest.

# June 2008

*Happy Birthday to: Mrs. KE8VE, KG8RN, N8XTJ.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																												
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Breeshooters ARC Hamfest and Computer Show, Butler PA</b></p> <p>KD8AMX Carroll Cty. Nets 8pm &amp; 9pm</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm</p> <p>RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12</p> <p><b>CUYAHOGA FALLS ARC VE, STOW</b></p> <p>N. Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>AARC Meeting 7:30pm</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Digital Pentathlon</p> <p>NCCC Sprint Ladder</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>SILVERCREEK ARA VE, RITTMAN</b></p> <p>Alabama QSO Party DigiFest</p> <p>Fulton County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Tedrow, OH</p> <p><b>LAKE COUNTY ARA VE, KIRTLAND</b></p> <p><b>PORTAGE COUNTY ARS, INC VE, RAVENNA</b></p> <p>Wake-Up! QRP Sprint</p>																																																																												
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>KD8AMX Carroll Cty. Nets 8pm &amp; 9pm</p> <p>SKCC Weekend Sprintathon</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12</p> <p>N. Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint</p> <p>RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00</b></p> <p>Massilon Net 147.18 8pm</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Digital Pentathlon</p> <p>NCCC Sprint Ladder</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>AARC FoxHunt Practice 12PM to 4PM</b></p> <p>ANARTS WW RTTY Contest</p> <p>ARRL June VHF QSO Party</p> <p>Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB</p> <p>GACW WWSA CW DX Contest</p> <p>Portugal Day Contest</p> <p>REF DDFM 6m Contest</p> <p>West Virginia QSO Party</p>																																																																												
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>KD8AMX Carroll Cty. Nets 8pm &amp; 9pm</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm</p> <p>Run for the Bacon QRP Contest</p> <p>SARL Youth for Amateur Radio</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12</p> <p><b>Mrs KE8VE Diana</b></p> <p>N. Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00</b></p> <p>Digital Pentathlon</p> <p><b>KG8RN-JERRY</b></p> <p>Massilon Net 147.18 8pm</p> <p>RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Digital Pentathlon</p> <p>NCCC Sprint Ladder</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>AGCW VHF/UHF Contest</p> <p>All Asian DX Contest, CW</p> <p>Feld Hell Sprint</p> <p><b>Milford Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Milford, OH</b></p> <p>SMIRK Contest</p>																																																																												
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>KD8AMX Carroll Cty. Nets 8pm &amp; 9pm</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12</p> <p><b>Homeland Security Net 7:30pm 147.51 SIMPLEX</b></p> <p>N. Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>BCC QSO Party</p> <p>SKCC Sprint</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00</b></p> <p>Massilon Net 147.18 8pm</p> <p><b>N8XTJ - JIM</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Digital Pentathlon</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>20 OVER 9 ARC VE, N. JACKSON</b></p> <p>ARCI Milliwatt Field Day</p> <p>ARRL Field Day</p> <p>His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB</p> <p>Marconi Memorial HF Contest</p> <p>Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest</p>																																																																												
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>KD8AMX Carroll Cty. Nets 8pm &amp; 9pm</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm</p>	<p><b>May</b></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>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	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	<p><b>July</b></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></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		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.*

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## The AARC Wayback Machine

Here again are some of the highlights from the last 20 years of the Zero Beat. you can read them at <http://www.w8lky.org/newsltrs/>.

### June, 1988, (editor N8IAK)

⇒ June 1988's Ham of the Month was Hal Kelley, KE8II.

⇒ The 1988 annual meeting had been held in May. The new officers were:

- ⇒ John Myers, KD8MQ - Pres.
- ⇒ Allen Dicks, KA8CIY - VP
- ⇒ Pam Myers, N8IAK - Secretary
- ⇒ Patti Hillier, KE8KH - Treasurer

Incoming Trustee was Jim Ferguson, K8LTG, who replaced Frank Robison, KA8FUZ.

- ⇒ Salem Area ARA had completed their first licensing classes. Ten students had passed the Novice test as a result.
- ⇒ Plans were being made for the 1988 Field day at "Hillier's Hill".
- ⇒ Due to a merging of offices, we lost our meeting room at the First American Savings Bank. The Hospital

graciously offered their 2nd floor conference room for our meetings, and license classes.

- ⇒ Our guest editorial came from Jim, N8DZA (K8LTG). He was encouraging us to finish the job, by volunteering to Elmer some of our new hams coming from the Novice classes.
- ⇒ We welcomed new members Larry Ashburn, KB8DWP, and Associate member Grant Kelley.
- ⇒ Upgrades reported included
  - ⇒ Pam, N8IAK to General class
  - ⇒ Allen, KA8CIY to Advanced
  - ⇒ Bobby, KB8AVM to Tech
  - ⇒ Ann, KB8BYN to Tech

### June, 1993, (editor N8LVO)

- ⇒ Final plans were being made for Field Day 1993. It was to be held behind Marlinton Middle School.
- ⇒ Brian Dicks had received the callsign, N8YMQ. No mention was made of the license class.
- ⇒ The Alliance Youth Amateur Radio Club challenged us to a friendly competition to see who could amass the most points at Field Day. Our honor, as well as

*(Continued on page 4)*