



Alliance Amateur Radio Club AARC Zero Beat

Volume XXII, no 8

<http://www.w8lky.org>

august 2008

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

Special Event station!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 16th. We've reserved the Jaycees Pavilion at Silver Park, for our Carnation Festival special event station. The station should be on the air by mid-morning, and be operating till late afternoon. More details are in the August issue of QST.

We'll need help with setup, operation, and teardown. As you know, workers always work better when properly fed, so if someone was to show up with donuts, pizza, or other goodies, I promise no one will complain.

Field Day Results

Well, Field Day 2008 is history. Hopefully, everyone had a good time. Here's the results as reported to the ARRL. Thanks to George, K3GP for putting the entry together for us.

This year, operating class 3A, we made 914 QSO's during Field Day weekend. They were split 533/381 between phone & CW, resulting in claimed score of 4,090 points, after bonuses. I've posted the last few years scores below, for comparison.

- Year (QSOs) total
- 2007 (881) 3,800
- 2006 (1381) 5,010
- 2005 (767) 3,554
- 2004 (968) 3,644

Division Director to Speak at Next MARC Meeting

Jim Weaver, K8JE, the Great Lakes Division Director, is scheduled to speak at the August 1st meeting of the Massillon ARC. He will be first on the agenda, so it is advisable to be on time.

(Continued on page 5)

Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 6th, at the Alliance Community Hospital, in the cafeteria conference room.

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.

The Fox is Found & Bagged!

Fox Box Functions Well as a Rain-Maker

The AARC Summer Fox Hunt was held on Sunday, July 20th. This is the second hunt of the year. The first one was on a rainy Sunday in March.

I had planned on turning over the fox duties to someone else, but a combination of time pressures, and a last-minute problem with the Fox Box, dictated that I would again be the fox.

The fox box was hidden at Beechwood Playground, and was started promptly at 2:15 PM, with 4 teams in hot pursuit.

The weather preceding the hunt, true to form, was rainy. But, the rain moved out, and we were able to squeeze in the hunt before the rain started again.

The hunters were:

- Ron, WC8F, using just his S-meter.
- Dave, KC8WY, using his tried & true "H" beam.
- Tom, KC8QOD, the winner of our Spring Foxhunt, using a tape measure beam, and offset attenuator combo. Tom rode shotgun this time, leaving the driving duties to

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Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ
(See above)

Ramblings

By John, KD8MQ

We're running late again this month, so that the W8LKY Field Day results could be included.

Life here at the KD8MQ QTH is slowly returning to normal. The remodel on our home is complete, and there's a **For Sale** sign in our front yard. Now we sit back, and wait for the offers to pour in.

If you or someone you know is looking for a small 2 Bedroom ranch in a quiet neighborhood, Here's the URL: <http://tinyurl.com/6exw3r>

The hardest part of all this has been cleaning out, and deciding what to keep, and what to toss. It truly is tough to imagine how much we can collect in only 23 years.

Hopefully, everyone survived Field Day weekend. We had a blast, operating the 40/80 meter station this year. In years past, I've set up in a screen room about 75 foot away from the pavilion, but this years weather report suggested that inside the pavilion would be a better place.

We had some storms roll through late Saturday Afternoon, but the rest of the weekend was A-OK. The computer network performed flawlessly, allowing operations to be spread out among several stations.

Subway donated 2 trays of subs this year, which were excellent, as usual. Miriam Sanor brought cookies, and Tony, KD8BBK's XYL kept us well fed at dinner, with pasta salad, and brownies. If there were any other donations, I apologize that

(Continued on page 4)

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

E-mail: W8lky@w8lky.org

Newsletter Information

The Zero Beat is a publication of the

Alliance Amateur Radio Club

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You can submit material to the Zero Beat via e-mail to kd8mq@neo.rr.com

July Minutes

July 2, 2008

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on July 2, 2008 at 7:30 PM with club President Jim Ferguson, K8LTG presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by introductions. There were 12 members present, along with Miriam Sanor and Tom Steele.

Club Secretary Don, AB8KV gave the Secretary's report, noting that the June minutes were in the newsletter. He mentioned that all the usual publicity for Field Day was generated and inquired as to whether any public officials attended. The response was that only a Sheriff's deputy had stopped by. With no other items to announce, the Secretary's report was approved on a motion by Joe, KC8TAC and seconded by Frank, WA8WHP.

Mary Ann, KB8IVS then gave the Treasurer's report. The report was accepted on a motion by John, KD8MQ and seconded by Joe, KC8TAC.

Old business:

--Vice-President John, KD8MQ gave a preliminary report on the results from Field Day. Among a number of items mentioned, there were 534 phone contacts and 380 CW contacts, with Alaska and Nevada the only states not worked. The 40 meter band was the most productive, followed by 20 then 80 meters. He noted that the networking software worked well and

facilitated moving from one station to another.

--President Jim inquired about which Subway had donated subs for Field Day. No one in attendance knew for sure but it was noted that Rick, KC8SUI would know as he had arranged the donation. A thank-you letter is to be sent to the donating Subway.

--Regarding previous discussions about prospective special events stations Jerry, KG8RN suggested skipping, at least for this year, the Mile Branch Grange fair due to the club's lack of any current set-up plans and the fair's proximity in time to Carnation Days. He proposed instead to have the club participate in the Knox Safety Day in September. President Jim agreed and there was a general consensus that the proposal made sense.

--The club is going ahead with the previously discussed plans to have a special events station on the last Saturday of Carnation Days (August 16). The plan is to set up around 9-10 AM and operate until 5 PM. The specific frequencies to be used were still to be determined at the time of the meeting.

--The subject of accepting donations during the Carnation Days special event station operation was brought up and discussed. Some club members were in favor of the idea with some opposed. After further discussion, the consensus appeared to be to accept donations. A motion to place a donation jar at the special event

station was made by Don, K8OMO and seconded by Larry, AA8NV with the motion approved by a voice vote.

--Don, K8OMO reported that the club was represented by himself and Rick, KC8SUI along with another ham at the Great Lakes Search & Rescue Expo at Berlin Center.

--VP John reported on the recent fox hunt practice run, noting that the fox had been found. The next fox hunt is scheduled for Sunday, July 20 starting at 2 PM at the Castle. The frequency will be 147.51. John also mentioned that he would like to try some fox hunting on the 440 band. Further discussion on that proposal is to follow.

New business:

--The Randolph hamfest is scheduled for July 27.

--Tom Steele mentioned that a friend of his wants to create a wireless internet hub to serve the immediate area around his home and wondered what the possible legal or licensing requirements might be. It was suggested that he consult the FCC website for information about such installations. A few members also noted that this had been done by others in the area with mixed success.

After the break, with no other new business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM on a motion by Joe, KC8TAC and seconded by Jerry, KG8RN.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don Kingan, AB8KV, Secretary.

Ramblings—cont.

(Continued from page 2)

they've slipped my mind.

So, in August, we'll be on the air with our special event station to commemorate Alliance as the home of the Scarlet Carnation.

The following day, we have the running of the Carnation Triathlon. As usual, we will need operators for a few hours on Sunday morning. The date is August 17th, which is the same Sunday as the Warren Hamfest.

In last month's Zero Beat, I suggested that this club needs to begin holding licensing classes. We have a couple of options for a meeting room, and a few names, garnered from the visitors log at Field Day. All we need at this point, is someone willing to instruct. Ordinarily, I would be willing to take this on, however for the time being, my available time is limited.

If you can spare some time to give something back to Amateur Radio, please contact me.

That's it for this month. See you at the next meeting.

73 de KD8MQ

Kansas Ham, Son, Electrocuted While Erecting Antennas

While putting up backyard antennas on the afternoon of Sunday, July 13, Edward Thomas, KC0TIG, of Kansas City, Kansas, and his son were electrocuted. The elder Thomas, 65, was pronounced dead at the scene. His son, 27, was rushed to the hospital but died later that day. Initial reports suggest that the antenna they were installing came in contact with 7620 V power lines. Neighbors reported a "loud popping sound" and the electricity went out on the block.

Jacob's 7 year old daughter witnessed the tragedy and ran to the neighbor's yard, calling for help. Byron Kirkwood and another neighbor attempted to perform CPR on the men; the neighbor also called 911.

Robert Mullendore, a spokesman for the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (KCBPU), was quoted by Kansas City television station KSBH as saying it is rare to survive a shock as strong as the two men received: "There are people who will survive -- they're lucky by the grace of God, it's high energy, it's dangerous, that's why

it's up in the air -- you just have to be careful. Even those who survive have pretty wicked wounds and they are lifelong wounds." In the power business for more than 30 years, the spokesman said these accidents are "really rare," saying that he only sees something like this "every two or three years. If you're doing any kind of work like this, you just really, really need to be aware of your surroundings."

Chuck Kraly, K0XM, used to work for KCBPU; he built and maintained the substation that fed the circuit going to the Thomas home: "This is nothing to take chances with. In my almost 30 years as a ham -- and 27 years in the power utility field -- I have seen way too many 'accidents.' Stop and look. If it is close or seems that way -- *don't*. Find another place. High voltage lines are not forgiving. Your life depends on it. Please follow the warnings. *Anywhere* close is too close." -- *Thanks to Larry Staples, W0AIB, and others who contributed to this story (ed. Note: This was lifted from the ARRL home page.*

Power Supply Recall

(Jul 3, 2008) — On July 2, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in cooperation with RadioShack, announced a voluntary recall of 13.8 V dc power supplies. The CPSC said that consumers should stop using these power supplies

immediately, as the "power supplies are wired incorrectly, posing electrocution and fire hazards." No injuries have been reported in conjunction with the power supplies that were sold in RadioShack stores nationwide from

October 2004-January 2008 for between \$50 and \$85. Manufactured in China, the CPSC said that the recall involves RadioShack 13.8 V DC Power Supplies, catalog numbers 22-507 and 22-508 with date codes

(Continued on page 6)

The Fox is Found & Bagged! - cont.

(Continued from page 1)

his XYL, won our Spring foxhunt. His Daughter rode along to keep them on course.

- Jim, N8PXW, from Uniontown, accompanied by Sebastian, who is a French exchange student. Jim was armed with a tape measure beam, and attenuator, but he also used a Roanoke Doppler unit which displayed the received signal direction on a circular readout of LEDs.

To the best of my knowledge, I have never seen a hunter drive straight to the fox. This time, it happened not once, but twice!

I left the starting line, intending to drive straight to the finish line to wait for the hunters to wander in. I picked up a soda on the way, and arrived at the

playground in time to see Tom, KC8QOD turning into the drive. A quick glance towards the back of the park, where the Fox Box was hidden, revealed that Jim, N8PXW had already arrived. It took hi all of 11 minutes to find the fox!

Tom came in a close second, with Dave, then Ron coming in. All hunters had found the fox in 30 minutes, or less.

The AARC fox hunt is one of a rotating schedule of Radio Direction Finding exercises. In the months where no hunt is scheduled, we just turn on the fox box for a couple hours, for practice. The hunt frequency is usually 147.51 MHz, although we are planning to do something on 440 MHz in September, and October.

K8JE—cont.

(Continued from page 1)

The Massillon Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Friday of every month at the Massillon Senior Citizens Center located at 39 Lincoln Way West in downtown Massillon at 8:00 PM.

The Senior Citizens Center is located in downtown Massillon directly North of the Hampton Inn Hotel. Take State Route 21 North or South to Massillon. Exit at the State Route 172 (Lincoln Way Exit). Turn right onto Lincoln Way heading East for about 1/8th of a mile. The Senior Citizens Center is on your right. Parking is available either in the Senior Center parking lot or in the shopping plaza just West of the Senior Center. Doors are usually open by 7:30 PM. Just come on in !

No subject was mentioned, but it should be interesting. The Massillon group would like to see the meeting room packed Friday night.

Fox Practice Run scheduled for August 30th

Scheduling a Saturday for this months fox hunt practice run proved to be challenging. Between personal schedules, and other club activities, just about every weekend was taken. So, we chose August 30th, from 1 PM - 3 PM. As usual, the fox will be hidden somewhere in the greater Alliance area, and allow you a chance to do adjustments to your techniques, and equipment.

For this month, we will be on 147.51 MHz, but look for a change to 440 MHz in

September, and October.

I was asked about plans for the tape measure beam which a lot of guys are using. Space limitations preclude me from printing them here, but Here's the link to a plethora of RDF plans, including the tape measure beam: <http://tinyurl.com/57nofx>

The plans are simple enough that even your editor was able to build the beam. It is a strong performer, and most important, it is small-car-friendly. See you on the 30th!

Quote o' the Month

Before I refuse to take your questions, I have an opening statement.

[Ronald Reagan](#)

Power Supply Recall—cont.

from 08A04 through 01A08. Date code format is MMYY where MM is the month and YY is the year. The catalog number and date code are located on the back of the power supply. Power supplies with a green dot on the product and the product's packaging have already been repaired and are not included in the recall. The CPSC recommends for consumers to unplug the recalled power supply immediately and take it to any Radio Shack store for a free repair. Registered owners of the recalled power supplies will be mailed a notice. For additional information, contact RadioShack at 800-843-7422 anytime, or visit their Web site.

Operators Needed For Carnation Triathlon

This years Carnation Triathlon is coming up on August 17th. As usual, we need operators for 2 - 3 hours work.

If you are interested, Please show up at the at the Glamorgan Castle parking lot, at 7:45 AM, and disperse from there. Glamorgan Castle is at the corner of Glamorgan, and Union Ave (S.R. 183).

We'll need volunteers to watch over critical intersections as the bike riders come through.

Hope to see you there.

Ohio QSO Party coming up August 23rd

The OQP is coming up. It runs from 12 Noon to midnight on Saturday, August 23rd.

Frequencies are as follows:

CW: 3545, 7045, 14,045, 21,045, 28,045 kHz;

SSB 3825, 7200, 14,250, 21,300, and 28,450 kHz.

The exchange is :

Serial Number and state or province, DX stations send "DX." (Ohio stations exchange serial number and county.)

QSO Points: CW--2 pts, SSB--1 pt.

Full information can be found at <http://www.oqp.us/>

Ohio State Parks On-The-Air contest is September 6th

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) announces the first Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest to be held on Saturday, September 6, 2008, from the hours of noon to eight p.m. EDT (1600Z to 2400Z). For hams throughout the State of Ohio this contest presents an opportunity to visit and enjoy the amenities offered by the seventy-three beautiful State Parks here in Ohio. You can spend the day or even spend the weekend at the park of your choice. No matter whether you are camping or staying at one of the outstanding lodges or resorts you will find that the parks are one of Ohio's greatest assets. Find out more about the parks and all that they have to offer at <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/default/tabid/80/Default.aspx>.

This contest places a premium on working stations at the State Parks. That means that it is critical to have as many

parks activated as possible. The challenge for Ohio stations will be to work HF in the 50 to 300 mile range. Contacts can be made with any mode on the HF and VHF bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters and all contacts have the same point value. This is a great chance to try something new, like an NVIS antenna or two meter SSB. Individuals and clubs can operate high or low power park stations and there is a special award for the club that activates the greatest number of parks! Non-park stations in Ohio as well as outside of Ohio can also compete with each other. So get to an Ohio State Park and get On The Air in September. Have some fun with this contest! You can get complete information, including rules, forms and FAQ's, at <http://parks.portcars.org>, or contact the contest chairman, Chuck, K8CMP, at k8cmp@portcars.org. Check back at the web site for future announcements about additional prizes.

August 2008

Happy Birthday to: N8IGZ, N8NLZ, K8DXR

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24 Cambridge Hamfest and Computer Show Hawaii QSO Party KD8AMX Carroll Cty. Nets 8pm & 9pm	25 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm	26 Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 Homeland Security Net 8pm 147.51 SIMPLEX N. Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255	27 SKCC Sprint	28 AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 Massillon Net 147.18 8pm	29	30 ALARA Contest CANTON & MASSILLON ARC'S VE, MASSILLON Ohio QSO Party SCC RTTY Championship YO DX HF Contest																																																																																			
31 ALARA Contest KD8AMX Carroll Cty. Nets 8pm & 9pm Ohio QSO Party SARL HF Contest SCC RTTY Championship YO DX HF Contest	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1"> <caption>July</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</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> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <caption>September</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</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></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> </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	31			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			
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Amateur Radio... When all else fails.

Alliance Amateur Radio Club
 P.O. Box 3344
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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/>.

August, 1988, (editor N8IAK)

- ⇒ The Zero Beat spotlight shone this month on Larry, KB8DWP (now KE8VE).
- ⇒ John, KD8MQ, and Pam, N8IAK both resigned their offices in the club, citing time pressures as the reason. Additionally, John resigned as ARES coordinator, and net manager, effective after the triathlon.
- ⇒ The next fox hunt was scheduled for Sunday, July 31. Ron, WC8F was to be the fox.
- ⇒ Dave, KC3CL was scheduled to spend two weeks in KG4 land. Ten, & Six Meter operations were planned.
- ⇒ Novice classes were coming up. John, Kd8MQ, and Jim, N8DZA (now K8LTG) were the scheduled instructors.
- ⇒ Field Day 1988 had been held at Hilliers Hill. We operated class 4A, and made 952 Q's (86% Phone / 14% CW).

August, 1993, (editor N8LVO)

- ⇒ The Columbiana County Area Ham Radio Clubs Picnic was coming up, with as many as 5 clubs to be

represented.

- ⇒ The fox (Dan, N8LVO) was bagged, and skinned by the team of Don, K8OMO, and Paul, NW8C. Dan was hiding on a hill just outside of Pekin.
- ⇒ Plans were being made for the 1993 AARC Mall Show.
- ⇒ Speaker at the August meeting was Chuck, N8LIV
- ⇒ Don, K8OMO, Jack, W8WEN, and Jim, N8DZA (now K8LTG) were planning to do a show on keys, at Mount Union College, in August
- ⇒ Club membership stood at 46 members
- ⇒ Our club picnic was coming up on August 7th.

(There was no August, 1998 Zero Beat)

August, 2003, (editor KE8VE)

- ⇒ Frank, WA8WHP was to take the club membership on a tour of WDLI, Ch. 17.
- ⇒ The club had set up a display, and information table at the Mile Branch Grange Fair.
- ⇒ The 2003 Field Day totals reflected 576 Q's (41% CW / 59% Phone).