



### Table of Contents

AARC Christmas Party	6
AARC New Meeting Night	1
Cabinet Openings filled	5
Calendar	9
Homebrew Night	1
K8LTG Wins Again	8
K8RLS SK!	1
KD8BBK Builds Rig	6
Meeting Announcement	1
November Minutes	3
Rambling by KD8MQ	2
Stark County VE Liaison	7
Stomp The Grapes Half	7
Swap & Shop	13
Sweepstakes Party	1
Wayback Machine	10
Zen & The Art of Radiotelegraphy	4

## K8RLS SK!

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of Bob Steele, K8RLS on Monday, November 15th.

Bob was retired from the Alliance Post Office. He became licensed after retirement, and was active with the club for several years afterward. He held the office of club president from 2001-2005. In addition, he acted as net control for the OSSBN.

Our condolences go out to his Family.

## AARC Has New Meeting Night

Beginning in January, 2011, our monthly meeting will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, changing from the first Wednesday, as it is now.

This change was approved by the membership at the November meeting, and was done due to a scheduling conflict with the Cuyahoga Falls Fox hunts. Don, K8OMO, and myself attend these hunts pretty regularly.

## Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 at the Alliance Community Hospital, in the Cafe conference room.

This months speaker will be Mark Perna, who will be telling us about fuel cells. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM.

Before the meeting, you're invited to join us at 6pm for dinner

**Don Panchos**  
**2105 W. State St.**

## AARC Sweepstakes Party

On Saturday, November 20th, a few hardy souls ventured out for an evening of food, fun, fellowship, and contesting (not necessarily in that order!).

As you can see from the pictures, the fire was the most popular place after the food table. We had a variety of food, and it's a sure bet that no one went away hungry.

Oh yes, we worked a few Sweepstakes contacts, as well. Here, you see Steve, K8SRR banging out contacts on 80 Meters. We wound up



## Officers

### President

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### Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ  
(See above)

## Rambling

By John, KD8MQ

I'm hoping that this issue does not appear rushed. Time got the better of me this month.

This month, we said goodbye to a good Friend, Bob, K8RLS. I won't repeat myself here. The story is on page 1.

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, several Hams braved the cold to enjoy the warmth of the fire, and each others friendship at the Sebring Campgrounds. Look for the AARC Sweepstakes wrap-up elsewhere in this issue.

The Sebring campground location appears to be a hit for those who have visited the site. So much so, that it is a serious contender as a site for Field Day, 2011.

If you have not yet checked out the site, I implore you to do so before our next meeting. If you need directions, call me! If you want me to go out to the site with you, call me! I'm sure we can find a time that works for both of us. We will be voting on a Field Day site at the next meeting.

The speaker for our December meeting will be Mark Perna, who will speak on Fuel Cells. Mark is manager of Fuel Processor Development with Rolls Royce Fuel Cell Systems, in N. Canton.

I hope to see a lot of you at the AARC Christmas party on December 11<sup>th</sup>. More information is elsewhere in the newsletter. Along with the sparkling

*(Continued on page 5)*

## 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 held:

### 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 8:00 PM, on 147.51 simplex

## Internet

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

**E-mail:** [W8lky@w8lky.org](mailto:W8lky@w8lky.org)

**We are also on Facebook!**

## Newsletter Information

The Zero Beat is a publication of the  
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Unless otherwise noted, permission is granted to reprint portions of the Zero Beat, as long as credit is given to the author & source.

You can submit material to the Zero Beat via e-mail to [kd8mq1@gmail.com](mailto:kd8mq1@gmail.com)

## November Minutes

November 3, 2010

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on November 3, 2010 at 7:30 PM at Alliance Community Hospital with club President John Myers (KD8MQ) presiding. The pledge of allegiance was recited followed by introductions. There were 18 members present along with Miriam Sanor and Jeremy Graber ((KB8VNL)

President John announced birthdays for the month:

George (K3GP)  
Sherry Whitaker  
Rich (WA8TPG)  
Ben (KD8KMQ)  
Larry (AA8NV)  
Rick (KC8SUI).

For the Secretary's report Don, (AB8KV) noted that the minutes for October were in the newsletter, but had nothing else to report. The report was then approved on a motion by Frank (WA8WHP) and seconded by Tom (KD8JRK).

Treasurer Mary Ann (KB8IVS) then gave the Treasurer's report. She asked John if it was desired to provide \$100 for prizes at the club Christmas party. A motion to do so was promptly made by Tom, seconded by Tomas (KC8ZEH), and approved on a voice vote. She noted that three

additional applications had been received: Bob Steele (K8RLS), Tom Steele (KD8JRK) and Jerry Steele (K8CMI). With nothing further, the Treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Joe (KC8TAC) and seconded by Frank.

### Old business & committee reports:

- John noted that the Fox Hunt season was now over. Plans for next year will be announced in the near future.

- For ARES, Don (K8OMO) discussed the previous end-of-month operation of the Homeland Security net.

- John then noted that the club had been asked to assist the Massillon club with the "Stomp the Grapes" half-marathon on November 6. He requested volunteers and several members indicated they could help.

- Regarding other upcoming activities, John announced the following:

- ◊ On November 20, the club will have a Sweepstakes party at the Sebring campground pavilion, with the contest starting at 4 PM. He mentioned that extra food and beverages would be appreciated and it was open to all. The N1MM logging program will be used.

- ◊ At the December 1<sup>st</sup> club meeting, there will be a program about fuel cells.

- ◊The club Christmas

party will be on December 11, starting at 6 PM at Pancho's.

- Frank then reported that three cell phones had been sold for the club under the used cell phone fundraiser program. He noted that more publicity was needed and urged the members to get the word out.

- John announced that the club newsletter again placed in the newsletter contest (3<sup>rd</sup> place).

He further noted that the club placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Portage County 2-meter Sprint contest.

He also reported that Field Day results were now on-line and in its classification, the club took 5<sup>th</sup> place in Ohio, 11<sup>th</sup> in the Great Lakes Division and 56<sup>th</sup> out of 258 over-all.

- John then raised the issue of Field Day for 2011. He reported that the use of the First Christian Church pavilion was a no-go due to their concerns about having the activity during their Sunday services.

However, he then noted that the Sebring campground pavilion was available and the club had been approved to operate there. The cost would be \$50 to \$100 but no port-a-pot would be needed. The member response was generally favorable, but on a motion from Don (K8OMO) and seconded by Tom, further discussion

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

One thing that I find amusing about Morse Code is that the more people claim that it's dead, the more people there are that rise up to defend and promote it. Note that I said "defend and promote it," not actually use it, but that topic is for another column.

Having said that, let me direct you to a new tome on our ancient art, Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy by Carlo Consoli, IK0YGJ. This book is available as a free download in the original Italian ([http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygj/enu/ZART\\_ita\\_v20100826.pdf](http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygj/enu/ZART_ita_v20100826.pdf)) and in an English translation ([http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygj/enu/ZART\\_r20101008m.pdf](http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygj/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf)).

What makes this book different from others is that instead of concentrating on the mechanics of learning and using Morse Code, the author spends a good deal of time talking about the psychology of learning this skill. To succeed in learning Morse Code, Consoli advises that we need to change our approach to learning:

"When learning CW, therefore, we must establish a new component in our self-image and, when doing so, we need to be relaxed. Always practice during the same time of day and in a place where you can experience positive feelings of comfort and

pleasure. When we make a mistake we are always ready to blame ourselves. This is the way we learnt from our environment during childhood, often accepting any fault as our own error or weakness.

This potentially destructive mechanism can be used to build a positive self-image, rather than demolish it. A mistake must be considered a signal, pointing us in the right direction. If you fail, let your mistake pass away, with no blame or irritation. Learn CW in a relaxed mood, enjoy the pleasure of learning something new, repeat your exercises every day and be confident in the self-programming abilities of your self-image. Just a few minutes a day: you can take care of your 'more serious' stuff later on."

Consoli also has some interesting things to say about getting faster. He agrees with me that it's essential to abandon pencil and paper and start copying in one's head. We also agree that at this point, you need to start using a paddle instead of a straight key.

He has analyzed the situation a lot more than I have, though. When hams

ask me how I learned to copy in my head, all I can do is to relate my own experience, which is that one day, I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter ever again.

Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to work for a lot of operators. If that doesn't work for you, Consoli says that what you need to do is to program yourself to copy in your head. You do this, he says, by relaxing and visualizing. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and one day, you will be one.

That seems to have worked for him. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm.

Will it work for you? I'm not sure, but if you haven't been successful with other methods to improve your code speed, then Consoli's methods are certainly worth a try.

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When not pondering the psychology of operating CW, Dan actually operates CW. You'll find him almost every day on either 40m, 30m, and as we transition to winter here in North America, 80m. You can e-mail him with comments or questions at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## Ohio Section Cabinet Openings Filled

The cabinet openings we told you about last month have now been filled.

E. Mike McCardel, KC8YLD has been appointed to the position of Affiliated Club Coordinator (ACC), previously held by Joanne Solak, KJ30.

In the post of Technical Coordinator, Jim Yoder, W8ERW, of Tiffin replaces Tom Holmes, NZ8M.

Fritz Tender, WD8E has been appointed Asst. Section Manager (ASM), replacing Steve Katz, N8WL.

## Tony, KD8BBK builds QRP Rig

*This is a reprint of an email Tony sent out recently. Very impressive!*

Well, finally got the Rock Mite 40 meter QRP kit finished. Took me most of the day Saturday and the first time I fired it up it worked, How about that.

This a great kit but lot of small parts to solder in and even a surface mount ic chip which had to use the magnifying glass, getting older HI HI.

Anyways this is a great kit and works well. It does a whopping .5 watts or 1/2 watt. My first contact was Jimmy K8LTG in alliance via ground waves and gave me a 519 report. My second contact was to KC7PFR in Arizona and he gave me a 549. Pretty awesome from a transceiver the size of a pack of smokes, HI HI.

Having lots of fun in this hobby and it just keeps on impressing me.  
(KD8BBK)



## Rambling—cont.

company, you'll also be among the first to know the identity of Ham of the Year.

My car troubles finally got resolved with the purchase of a new (to me) truck. Now comes the fun of picking out a new radio system. I've chosen the Kenwood TM-D710 dual-bander mainly for it's APRS capabilities.

For power, I'm pulling power directly from the battery (fused) through a power splitter, then to the various radios, chargers, and accessories.

This brought to mind a question which asserted itself in the middle of the night. Why should the negative cable to the radio be fused? I pondered this until I was wide awake, and then got out of bed to ask Google. Here's the answer:

In the event that the ground strap on the vehicle should fail, the negative current path for the starter will then be, at least, partially through the negative line to the radio, and then the coax. That could make for a nice amount of smoke when you go to start the car! So, to be better safe than sorry, I now fuse both sides of the circuit to the radio.

Well, that's enough rambling for tonight. Hope to see you at the meeting.

73 de John, KD8MQ



Who will be the Alliance Amateur Radio Club's 2010 Ham of the Year?

This honor will be awarded at our annual Christmas party

Alliance Amateur Radio Club  
Christmas Party

December 11, 2010 @ 6 PM

at

Don Pancho's  
Tex-Mex café  
2105 W. State St,  
Alliance

We will be ordering from Don Pancho's regular menu. Meals will be at regular prices plus \$4.00.

**No reservations required!**

## Stomp The Grapes Half Marathon

By terry, N8ATZ

Members of both the Alliance Amateur Radio Club and Stark Co ARES provided communications support for the annual Stomp the Grapes Half Marathon held this year on Saturday, November 6th at Quail Hollow State Park near Hartville.

Race Director Terry Lewis was very concerned with part of the course where bus traffic, marathon runners and park guests would be sharing a narrow access road and needed communications coordination to maintain runner safety. His first thought to handle the job was amateur radio operators.

Although communications is our specialty, amateurs could provide exactly what Terry needed by monitoring runner movement, bus flow that was used to ferry marathoners back to the start line, and full logistical support for race officials. A tall order that we were able to fill. Operators were posted at dangerous intersections along the main access road with others handling the re-

turn route bus coordination.

Although the weather was cold and damp, over 1,000 participants took part in the Half Marathon and radio operators made for a safe & successful event. Race Director Terry Lewis was extremely impressed and commented several times on the professionalism he observed from our operators and he fully intends to include Amateur Radio in all future marathons he directs. After the event all volunteers were treated to light snacks and beverages provided by Maize Valley Winery.

A special thanks from the Stomp the Grapes Half Marathon staff and Assistant EC Terry Russ, N8ATZ for the assistance provided by area Amateur Radio Operators. The following amateurs participated communications support for this year event: Tony - KD8BBK, Ben - KD8KMQ, Tom - KD8JRK, Tom - KC8QOD, Dale - KB8LWP, Cathy - KC8EUC and Terry - N8ATZ as Communications Coordinator.



The Crew (l-r): Dale, KB8LWP, Kathy, KC8EUC, Tom, KD8JRK, Tom, KC8QOD, Ben, KD8KMQ(back), Tony, KD8BBK (front), Terry, N8ATZ

December 2010

## New Stark County VE Liaison is Named

The Stark County Volunteer Examiner Group wishes to announce the new VE Liaison will be Mr. John Kalafice, W0OZZ who is replacing Mr Gary Kline WC8W who will "retire" after serving Stark County Hams for the past 14 years as the ARRL VE Liaison. John is both a Canton and Massillon Amateur Radio Club member. John will assume duties beginning in January next year . Please refer any inquires to : [john@w0ozz.org](mailto:john@w0ozz.org)

## Wayback Machine - cont.

Callsign restoration project run by Mike Carrol, N4MC, the website is different, but still an interesting site. It is now at [www.vanityhq.com](http://www.vanityhq.com).

- There was a reprint from Electronic Design Magazine, praising Amateur Radios response to Hurricane Katrina.

- The Canton ARC was sponsoring the 3rd annual Worked All Stark County Contest, in December 2005.

- The October elections were reported in this issue. The results for the 2005 elections were:

- ⇒President: Bob, K8RLS

- ⇒VP: Joe, KC8TAC

- ⇒Secretary: Don, AB8KV

- ⇒Treasurer: Mary Ann, KB8IVS

- ⇒Trustee: Frank, WA8WHP

PAGE 7

## Minutes—cont.

*(Continued from page 3)*

was tabled until the next meeting.

### New business:

- John announced a proposal to move the club meeting from the first Wednesday of each month to the second Wednesday of each month, starting in January, 2011. Part of the reason for moving the meeting is that the Cuyahoga Falls fox hunts are often held on the first Wednesday of the month. John then made a motion to do so, with a second provided by Don (K8OMO). The motion was then approved on a voice vote.

- John noted that Tomas and Tony (KD8BBK) had won prizes at the Massillon hamfest, and that the Fort Wayne hamfest was coming up on November 13 and 14.

- Tony announced that Perry Bollinger from the Massillon club would be holding CW classes at the Massillon Senior Citizens center.

With no further new



business, the meeting was paused for the break. After the break, the club annual homebrew night was held.

Participants in the homebrew night included:

- Jerry shore (N8SH) with a 1940's/50's vintage transmitter he had restored (with additional comments by K8OMO).

- Peter Lucke (N8IGZ) showing the software he had developed for controlling his Icom 756 Pro II.

- Jim Ferguson (K8LTG) with a homebrew air balun, a 4-part power divider and traps for a wire antenna.

- Smitty (KC8TJQ) with a Clegg transmitter.

After a close vote, the winner was K8LTG.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM on a motion by Frank, seconded by Ben.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don (AB8KV), Secretary.

## Sweepstakes Party - cont.

*(Continued from page 1)*

with a score of 2,160 points, due mostly to Steve's work at the rig.

The score might have been higher, if it had not been for KD8MQ's \$3 computer power supply purchased from Amazon. It produced More RF Hash than Marconi's transmitter on a bad night! We managed to keep going by jury-rigging a charging cable for the Laptop, but lost valuable time in the process.

We packed up & went home around 9 PM. Are we going to do it again? I sure hope so!

## K8LTG Wins Again!

November 3<sup>rd</sup> marked the date of our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual homebrew night. Four people brought entries. When the votes were counted, the winner by a narrow margin, was Jim, K8LTG (pictured at Left), who brought a Homebrew Air balun, 4 - part power divider, and traps for a wire antenna.

As the winner, Jim won a \$10 gift certificate from M & K Engraving.

Other participants were:

- Jerry shore (N8SH) with a 1940's/50's vintage transmitter

- Peter Lucke (N8IGZ) showing the software he had developed for controlling his Icom 756 Pro II.

- Smitty (KC8TJQ) with a Clegg transmitter

# December 2010

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<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Stark City ARES Net (147.12)             8:00 PM Homeland Security Net (147.51)            9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)             9:00 PM SAARA Net (146.805)</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895)  <b>8:01 PM AARC CW (28.400 MHz)</b>  <b>8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz)</b>  <b>9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18)</p>																																																																																																										

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## The AARC Wayback Machine

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

### **There was no December 2005 Zero Beat**

#### **December, 1990 (Editor, KC3CL)**

- The 1990 AARC Christmas party was being held at RoadHouse Charlies.
- Pam, N8IAK was looking for a couple of stand-by net control operators.
- Three students had passed their Novice exams in our latest classes. They were:
  - Richard Harren
  - Dave Mangus
  - Stacy Yendrich
- Frank, KA8FUZ had passed away in the previous month.

#### **December, 1995 (Editor, WX8G)**

- To celebrate the 1000 year anniversary of the Republic of Austria, the Austrian Communication authorities allowed Austrian Hams to use the prefix "OEM" for the entire year of 1996.
- The Alliance ARC was preparing for it's 3rd annual "Santa Net". Santa was played by Jim, KB8GHZ.

•Your editor was lamenting the Hamfest trend of vendors closing down early. ( This was pre-Ebay, so we can't blame it on the internet.)

•Janice Barber, KB8GCE had returned from England.

•The ARRL Northern New York (NNY) section was to become active on January 1, 1996.

•The AARC's 1995 Christmas Party was to be held at Roadhouse Charly's.

•Bob Bruninga, WB4APR was preparing to be the first private Ham to have a satellite in orbit. The 1 Watt 2 Meter FM packet transponder was to operate on 1200 baud, and would be used for digipeating position reports. In case you don't recognize the callsign, Bob was the inventor of APRS. We're not sure if the satellite ever launched, though.

•Bill Parks, K8JZN had passed away on December 2, 1995.

#### **December, 2000, (Editor, KD8MQ)**

•The Russians had set a date of February to dump MIR into the ocean. It was no longer needed, since the ISS was now functional.

•The 2000 AARC Christmas party was to be held at Texas Roadhouse.

•There was a story about Operation CQ, the